

AGE POLICY

The minimum age requirement to gain any Swim Australia™ Teacher accreditations (this includes any specialist accreditation courses) is 17 years of age. This is based upon:

1. accepted industry practise
2. insurance requirements with regards minors supervising minors
3. the course requirements including –
 - i. content
 - ii. underpinning theory knowledge
 - iii. the level of literacy and numeracy required in some subjects
 - iv. the practical skills to be demonstrated
 - v. judgements to be made in the initiative rescue, and
 - vi. the maturity level expected of swimming and water safety teachers

As Course Students have 12 months in which to meet all Swim Australia™ Teacher course requirements, this effectively means a Student can commence at 16 years of age and receive their accreditation at 17 years of age.

Should a potential Course Student be under 16 years of age, Course Administrators need to examine closely the individuals:

- a. mental and physical capacity to undertake the theory and practical components of the relevant Swim Australia™ Teacher course
- b. prior and current theory learning
- c. prior and current activities such as swimming training, leadership roles, instructional activities etc.
- d. maturity in their manner and outlook
- e. actual age - can they legally work in their state/territory of residence

Course Administrators should then make a recommendation providing a statement and supporting evidence (addressing the above points a - e) as to whether the individual is capable of meeting the relevant Swim Australia™ Teacher accreditation requirements. Based on the evidence, within 7 days ASCTA will make a determination and advise as to whether the potential course Student is permitted to undertake the course.

In all cases, it must be clear to the Student and their parents/carers that the Student:

1. will not gain accreditation until they attain 17 years of age
2. must still satisfy all usual accreditation requirements
3. has insurance only whilst undertaking course components up until 12 months has lapsed from the date of the relevant Swim Australia™ Teacher Practical Induction (if they are deemed competent insurance ceases 28 days after that point in time) and
4. prior to 17 years of age and if all other accreditation requirements are met may work as a Teacher's assistant, at the choice of the employer, but this must be under the close and direct supervision of a qualified Teacher at all times; that is, a Teacher and a Teacher's assistant with one class only (this could be nearly double the usual sized class). Course insurance does not extend to this situation