

# Missing person at sea responsibilities

## Officials' response and responsibilities:

The continuous sounding of air horns & whistles, and waving of flags to competitors, **confirms** that a **competitor is missing at sea**.

1. Immediately close and clear the water arena of competitors and craft, the continuous sounding of air horns & whistles, and waving of flags to competitors, until all competitors are out the water.
2. With the assistance of supporters immediately clear competitor's equipment from the beach within the affected arena/s then keep supporters and all competitors, who are **not** part of the competitor search party (CSP), out of the affected arena/s.
3. Arena Referees (AR) with assistance of officials and team managers/coaches, assemble the designated CSP into orderly lines, with fins & goggles/masks, ensuring each are "buddied up," and with lifeguard (LG) support, (preferably 1X10). LGs must have fins and a tube.
4. Arena Referees (AR) to 'standby' on their allocated radio channels for instructions from the Event Safety Officer (ESO) who will confirm the location and timing for the deployment of the CSPs.
5. When requested, deploy the CSP to sea, then observe and monitor progress of the CSP and their safety. AR to provide feedback to ESO only where necessary and only as radio traffic permits. AR should continue to 'standby' their radios for further information and instructions.
6. Officials may be called upon by the ESO to call for volunteers, (qualified LGs, whom are competent swimmers, and whom have fins, goggles/mask, and preferably a wetsuit vest) from supporters, who are able and willing to take part in the search upon completion of a suitable briefing, to form supporters search parties (SSP). Officials may only deploy SSP after cleared to do so by the ESO or their delegate, and only when the ESO or their delegate is satisfied that the SSP have been adequately briefed of their roles, safety procedures, and the potential hazards and risks.

## Team Managers/Coaches response and responsibilities.

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1. Team managers to check that their competitors are all accounted for.
2. Assign only competent lifeguards (LG) to the competitor search party (CSP) with fins and goggles/masks, and direct them to their Coach or Arena Referees (AR) in the affected arena/s.
3. Coaches to report immediately to the AR in their assigned arena and organise their CSP in line/s, ensuring that they are 'paired up' while awaiting instructions from the AR.
4. CSP should be sorted into lines with the most capable athletes closest to the water and least capable furthest from to the water. Coaches to remind CSP that when in the water, searchers will take turns at diving under water to search, while their buddy makes sure they are safe and that their buddy returns to the surface.
5. Coaches/Team managers must should know the number and names of their CSP prior to entering the water and ensure that they are all accounted for prior to leaving the water and or search party.
6. Team Managers/Coaches and the CSP must follow the instructions of the AR and officials at all times to ensure that the search is implemented in a coordinated manner. If competitors do not feel confident or capable of

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implementing a search they must withdraw from the CSP, ensuring that they notify their buddy and coach/team manager before leaving the water and or CSP.

## **SUPPORTERS'** response and responsibilities.

The continuous sounding of air horns & whistles, and waving of flags to competitors, **confirms** that a **competitor is missing at sea**.

1. Immediately leave the beach area closest to the water, taking all equipment that you can, to provide clear open access to the water arena by officials and search parties.
2. Only re-enter the arena area, if required, to continue to remove craft and equipment from the arena.
3. Then please remain outside the arena and the designated search zone until instructed or permitted to do so by Officials or an announcement by the event management group over the public address system.

If you are a qualified and refreshed lifeguard, a competent swimmer, and have fins and goggles/mask with you, and preferably a wetsuit vest, you may wish to consider making yourself available, to join a support search party. If you meet all these requirements, please report to an official in the affected arena/s with the equipment detailed above, and follow their instructions as directed.