

NVRC offers swimming lessons for all ages and abilities at our four aquatic facilities at Delbrook, Harry Jerome, Karen Magnussen and Ron Andrews Community Recreation Centres.

Starting in September 2024, we are shifting to offer the Lifesaving Society's 'Swim for Life' program for our school-age lessons.

Why is NVRC moving to the Lifesaving Society's swim program for school-age lessons?

The Lifesaving Society is a respected, accomplished organization with a passion to reduce drowning and aquatic-related injuries. Swim for Life is a well-recognized national program with a proven track record.

This program focuses on teaching participants to be safe in and around the water. It is offered in almost all communities in the Metro Vancouver providing residents who have taken lessons elsewhere with a seamless lesson experience.

When is this transition happening?

The Swim Stages program will end on August 31, 2024 and we will start using the Swim for Life program on September 1, 2024 for fall swim lessons. Registration for fall swim lessons opens August 14.

What will be different?

As of September 2024, NVRC will no longer be offering the Swim Stages or Swim Academy programs.

Will the cost for swim lessons be changing because of this?

The cost is not changing for our school-age swim lesson.

What level should I register my child in going forward?

If your child was in spring or summer lessons with us, instructors are sharing recommended levels in report cards. You can also see an equivalency chart at nvrc.ca/swimming.

If you're not sure what level is appropriate, we are offering swim assessments during public swim sessions. Assessments are not available during \$2 swims or on weekday afternoons, and Karen Magnussen pool can only provide assessments for Swim Stage 1A/1B.

To get an assessment, let the front desk know you would like one when you pay or check-in and they will connect you with a lifeguard.

Will there still be badges and report cards?

Yes! There are still badges and report cards. Participants will receive report cards on the last day of lessons.

Will NVRC swim instructors receive training in the Lifesaving Society's Swim for Life program?

All NVRC swim instructors already hold the Lifesaving Society's Swim Instructor certification. Additional training has been provided to ensure a smooth transition between programs.

Does this change the training to become a lifeguard and/or swim instructor?

Swim for Life leads seamlessly into the Lifesaving Society's lifesaving and lifeguard training programs – all of which are supported by a comprehensive leadership training system.

The Lifesaving Society program reduces the certification requirements and costs for staff which will help with recruitment and retention of swim instructors.

Also, Lifesaving Society Canada lifeguard and leadership certifications are recognized in provincial/territorial jurisdictions across the country.

Why is it so difficult to register in swim lessons?

There is currently a regional shortage of lifeguarding and swim instruction staff. We are working hard to hire and train lifeguards and swim instructors so there are more aquatic offerings available.

We recognize the importance of swim lessons and increasing the availability of lessons to meet the needs of our community is a top priority.

Does this change affect adapted lessons?

No, adapted lessons will not be changing.

Where can I get more information about this?

Visit nvrc.ca/swimming for more information on the move to Lifesaving Society for school-age swim lessons.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the program transition?

You can email swim@nvrc.ca or call 604-987-7259. The Aquatic Supervisor at each NVRC pool can also assist you with questions.