



CELEBRATING OUR EVERYDAY HEROES



About the Awards

Do you want to recognise an outstanding teacher or swim school in your state or territory?

You can celebrate their achievements by nominating them for an AUSTSWIM Award!

What started as three national award categories in 2004 has now grown to 20 covering the AUSTSWIM community on a state, national and international level. The Awards acknowledge individuals and swim schools for their contribution to aquatic education and water safety through leadership, innovation, and community spirit – helping teachers and communities to save lives.

This year, the nomination process has never been easier. It is an opportunity to reflect on an individual or organisation's achievements and praise those who go above and beyond for students and their community every day.

This guide provides information on how to nominate, the judging process, and each award category.

Award Categories

- AUSTSWIM Teacher of the Year
- AUSTSWIM New Teacher of the Year
- AUSTSWIM Specialist Teacher of the Year
- AUSTSWIM Swim School of the Year
- AUSTSWIM Trainer of the Year



Key Dates

Nominations open	Monday 12 May
Nominations close	Midday AEST Monday 9 June
Selection of Finalists & Judging	June to August
Announcement	September

Why nominate?

The AUSTSWIM Awards are an exciting opportunity to celebrate the contributions of teachers, Trainers and swim schools.

AUSTSWIM teachers are the backbone of the aquatic and recreation industry and teach thousands of people across Australia and beyond each week. The impact and influence of our AUSTSWIM licensed teachers go beyond the 30-minute lesson each week.

Recipients and nominees have often been inspired by their own role models in swim schools or the industry. Now, these recipients are inspiring their own students, colleagues, and communities – sharing their motivation and passion while guiding and assisting those around them to achieve their best.

Nominating for an AUSTSWIM Award provides a real boost for individuals and organisations. Help make a difference by nominating an outstanding teacher, Trainer or swim school in the AUSTSWIM Awards.

Who can nominate?

The good news is that anyone who is an AUSTSWIM licensed teacher or is connected to AUSTSWIM through their swim school can nominate AUSTSWIM licensed teachers or a swim school who make valuable contributions to the wider community and/or industry.



Who is eligible for an Award?

The Awards are open to teachers, Trainers and swim schools who meet the criteria of the award categories. Recipients and nominees from previous years are eligible for nomination.

Individual Award Categories

- To be eligible for an award the nominee must be able to demonstrate considerable experience and/or knowledge in all areas of the selection criteria. It is recommended that nominators seek information from the nominee regarding the accuracy of the claims.
- Nominees must hold a current and appropriate AUSTSWIM licence to be eligible for consideration for an award.

Swim School Award Categories

- To be eligible for an award, the nominee must be able to demonstrate considerable experience and/or knowledge in all areas of the selection criteria. It is recommended that nominators seek information from the nominee regarding the accuracy of the claims.



How to Nominate

AUSTSWIM wants to engage the community by making it easier than ever to nominate.

We've simplified the nomination process to make sure that no one misses out on the chance to nominate.

- 1 Scan the QR Code.
- 2 Choose the award category.
- 3 Nominate and list your Teacher or Swim School.
- 4 List the name of the Swim School where they are currently employed.



The first round of nominations will be taken on a community level and you are welcome to nominate more than one individual per category by submitting additional nominations on a separate form.

Need some help? If you have any questions about the process or need help, please email: awards@austswim.com.au

What happens next?

Selection process

Once nominations are submitted, they will be assessed to confirm they are eligible to proceed.

Nominations Panel

Nominees will be reviewed by our internal nominations panel with each nomination's responses being evaluated with a weighted system. A select number of finalists will then be agreed upon for each award before proceeding to the next round.

Finalists

After the conclusion of the nomination process, finalists will be contacted to confirm their participation.

Further supporting information will be required including responses to additional questions and the submission of a short video.

Judging process

Once all finalist applications have been received, a judging panel will be convened. The panel of independent assessors will use a weighted criteria to review all finalists submissions.

Award selection criteria



AUSTSWIM Teacher of the Year

The AUSTSWIM Teacher of the Year Award is an opportunity to acknowledge the commitment, contribution and professionalism to the education and safety of individual teachers. Teachers in this category must be accredited in teaching swimming and water safety to students. They may also hold additional AUSTSWIM teacher accreditations.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must hold a current AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety accreditation.
- Must reside inside the region they are nominated in.
- Must be able to demonstrate considerable experience and/or knowledge in all areas of the selection criteria.

Selection Criteria

- How does the nominee engage, influence, motivate and inspire their students?
- What activities and strategies do the nominee use to share vital swimming and water safety knowledge and skills?
- How does the nominee ensure every student has the opportunity and is able to participate in activities at their own level of knowledge, skill and understanding?
- Please outline any relevant professional development the nominee has undertaken in the past 12 months and share examples of how they have applied this to their teaching.



New AUSTSWIM Teacher of the Year

The New AUSTSWIM Teacher Award is an opportunity to acknowledge the commitment, contribution and professionalism to the education and safety, of individual teachers.

Eligibility Criteria

- The AUSTSWIM Teacher must be newly accredited and licensed within the last 12 months (prior to the current award nomination closing date).
- Must reside inside the region they are nominated in.
- Must be able to demonstrate considerable experience and/or knowledge in all areas of the selection criteria.

Selection Criteria

- How does the nominee engage, influence, motivate and inspire their students?
- On the AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety course, candidates learn about inclusive teaching practices. Please share examples of how the nominee has applied this to their lessons.
- On the AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety course, candidates learn about using problem-solving and discovery. Can you share how the nominee, in their lessons, encourages students to problem solve and make decisions to stay safer in, on and around water?



AUSTSWIM Specialist teacher of the Year

The AUSTSWIM Specialist Teacher of the Year Award is an opportunity to acknowledge the commitment, contribution and professionalism to the education and safety, of individual teachers who hold one of the AUSTSWIM extension accreditations.



Eligibility Criteria

- The AUSTSWIM Teacher must be accredited as one or more of the following AUSTSWIM Teacher of Infant and Preschool Aquatics, Teacher of Aquatics – Access and Inclusion, Teacher of Towards Competitive Strokes and/or Teacher of Adults
- Must reside inside the region they are nominated in.
- Must be able to demonstrate considerable experience and/or knowledge in all areas of the selection criteria.

Selection Criteria

- How does the nominee engage, influence, motivate and inspire their students?
- On the AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety course, candidates learn about inclusive teaching practices. Please share examples of how the nominee has applied this to their lessons.
- On the AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety course, candidates learn about using problem-solving and discovery. Can you share how the nominee, in their lessons, encourages students to problem solve and make decisions to stay safer in, on and around water?



AUSTSWIM Swim School of the Year

(Australia only)

The AUSTSWIM Swim School of the Year award is an opportunity to identify and honour a swim school for its contribution to aquatic education and water safety.

Does the swim school want more information on the AUSTSWIM Swim School Network? [Click here to register your interest](#)

Eligibility Criteria

- Must reside inside the region they are nominated in.
- Must employ AUSTSWIM licensed Teachers.
- Must be able to demonstrate considerable experience and/or knowledge in all areas of the selection criteria.

Selection Criteria

- Please detail what being nominated for this award means to the swim school.
- Please provide an overview and share examples of how the school mentors, supports and assesses AUSTSWIM trainees. How does this improve the student learning experience?
- Please indicate the range of population groups the school provides programs for. Please give examples of these programs.
- Please detail any initiatives the school implements to engage and interact with their community for safer aquatic participation in recreational, vocational, sporting, leisure, wellness and educational activities.



AUSTSWIM Trainer of the Year

AUSTSWIM Trainers are trained and committed personnel; inspiring, guiding and educating future and current teachers of swimming and water safety and aqua instructors. **Finalists for this category will be chosen internally by the AUSTSWIM State Management team and community nominations cannot be submitted.**

AUSTSWIM Trainers:

- Must reside inside the region they are nominated in.
- Instill in students a desire to learn and achieve; they recognise and understand the needs of individual students; they encourage talent and foster self-esteem.
- Demonstrate thorough knowledge of the subject matter and have the ability to share it effectively with students.
- Foster cooperative relationships with their colleagues and the aquatic community
- Demonstrate outstanding leadership.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a current and active AUSTSWIM Trainer.
- Must have delivered AUSTSWIM courses within the last 12 months, prior to the current award nomination closing date.
- Must be able to demonstrate considerable experience and/or knowledge in all areas of the selection criteria.

Selection Criteria:

- What techniques does the AUSTSWIM Trainer use to maximise the quality of learning for each student?
- Feedback from candidates who were trained and/or mentored by the nominated AUSTSWIM Trainer will be considered.
- Trainers that have undertaken professional development and applied these learnings to improve the experience for AUSTSWIM candidates will be considered favourably.



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