

Important Notice to Swim Coaches – April 12, 2007

As you are likely well aware, the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) has undergone many changes over the past several years, moving towards a Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) model. So far, for swimming this has impacted our first level of certification. What used to be known as Level 1 is now called Skills Coach.

The Canadian Swim Coaches and Teachers Association (CSCTA) have imposed a deadline of December 31, 2007 when all Level 1 certified coaches must be replaced by a Skills Coach Certification, which includes a Skills Coach Assessment and the Coaching Assoc. of Canada (CAC) Making Ethical Decisions (MED) on-line evaluation. Level 1 will cease to exist after December 31, 2007. This upgrade is not necessary for Level 2 certified coaches and above. Coaches that this pertained to were recently notified by Swim Saskatchewan via email on March 29 and April 4, 2007.

In addition, any coach that had taken the Skills coach course by April 2006, had until December 31, 2006 to take the Making Ethical Decisions (MED) On-Line Evaluation. If a coach did not complete the MED by December 31, 2006 then his/her Skills Coach certification has been rendered inactive. They will not become active again until successfully taking the MED. Coaches that this pertained to were notified on October 31, 2006.

Any coach that has taken the Skills Coach Course since May 2006 and into the future also has to take the MED On-Line evaluation and have an Assessment done before becoming a fully certified Skills Coach course.

See the next page on how to take the MED On-Line course and how to request a Skill Coach assessment.

In addition, all certified Swim Coaches will now have an expiry date attached to their certification with the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC). A certification is valid for 2 years and will then expire if the professional development requirement is not met. This 2 year expiry date comes into effect upon any new certification level. I.e. if a coach is currently Level 1 certified and has taken the Level 2 technical course and has his/her Level 2 Practical Learning Guide successfully marked on May 15, 2007 then the Level 2 certification will expire on May 15, 2009.

ALL coaches need to remember that all swim coaches at any level and at any point in the coaching certification ladder, require **annual** professional development as per the information from the CSCTA below. Coaches **MUST** log onto the CSCTA website and log their various professional development activities. Examples of professional development are: Clinic Presentation, Coaching Retreats and/or Conferences, Course Conducting, Distance Education, Independent Study, Mentoring, NCCP Level Upgrade, Performance Camp, Stroke Camp, Visitation. Just keep in mind that **YOU** have to log it. So if you are a Skills coach and have taken a Level 2 Technical course, **you still have to log that technical course as Professional Development. Any NCCP courses that you take are not automatically loaded into the Professional Development site. Instructions on how to log professional development is on the next page.**

The CSCTA and Swimming/Natation Canada (SNC) support ongoing professional development as a cornerstone to maintaining competency in coaching. The following policy was passed by the CSCTA Education/Certification Committee in January 2001, and took effect September 1, 2001: To maintain the current level of certification the coach is required to participate in annual professional development activity.

The Rationale for this is to recognize on-going professional development at all levels of coaching, to meet the needs of long term coaching development and to fulfill the CAC NCCP policy requirement for ongoing professional development.

Reporting professional development activities can be done as follows:

- go to <http://CSCA.org/pdactivities>
- complete the page as presented
- click on the 'submit' button

For information on the Skills Coach program, please see www.cscsa.org/skillscoach. To sign up for a skills coach assessment, when ready, please go to www.cscsa.org and click on the link under 'Quick Links' for Register for a Skills Coach Assessment.

The CSCTA has launched a MED Preparation/Study Area at <http://www.cscsa.org/MED>. The area includes a number of documents which will allow coaches to understand the use of the CAC's MED framework. The area requires a CSCTA login and password. If you are a current member of the CSCTA and are not sure of your login or password, please go to <http://cscsa.org/mms/forgotpassword.asp>.

The link to the MED on-line evaluation is as follows: <http://nccpeval.coach.ca/production/med/e/>. The on-line evaluation is required and it is free of charge. You will require your assigned NCCP number for this area. This number can be found on your coaching card, received from the Coaching Association of Canada or you can contact Carol Vadeika at the CSCTA at: carol.vadeika@cscsa.org to search for it.

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation in getting this work completed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mike Finch or Carol Vadeika at the CSCTA.