

SCOTTISH *swimming* everyone can swim!

A GUIDE TO TEACHER AND COACH LICENSING IN SCOTLAND

Scottish Swimming introduced licensing for swimming teachers and aquatic coaches on 1 March 2006. The purpose of this guide is to outline the key features of teacher and coach licensing in Scotland.

The Process

Licensing is not mandatory – it is something that Scottish Swimming recommends employers, including clubs, adopt. It is the best way that swimming teachers and coaches can demonstrate that they are competent, up to date and committed to continuous improvement.

- 1 If you are an existing qualified teacher/coach, you will be invited by SASA to apply for a license at the level at which you are currently certificated.
- 2 If you pass a qualification, SASA will invite you, by sending you an application form, to apply for a license at the level at which you have just gained your certificate.
- 3 Upon receipt of the application, SASA will process your information and it is expected we will be able to respond with feedback within 3 weeks.
- 4 If a licence is granted, it will either be a probationary licence i.e. you have achieved the mandatory requirements only, or a full licence i.e. you have achieved both the mandatory and elective requirements.
- 5 A licence lasts for three years.
- 6 You will be sent a reminder to renew your licence by Scottish Swimming six months before the end of your current licence period.
- 7 If a license is not granted, you will receive a letter explaining why it has not been granted and what needs to be done to achieve a license at the level at which you are certificated.
- 8 Once licenced, you will be able to demonstrate to your current and future employers the following benefits:

The Benefits

The benefits of licensing are that it:

- ✓ Provides proof of competence.
- ✓ A summary statement of qualifications and experience.
- ✓ Provides some protection for children through Disclosure Scotland checks.
- ✓ Helps to promote high standards for teaching and coaching.
- ✓ Provides a framework for continuous improvement and CPD.
- ✓ Assists employers and clubs in the selection of teachers and coaches.
- ✓ Provides for a separation of qualified and unqualified staff.
- ✓ Acts as a catalyst for implementing change.
- ✓ Commits the holder to uphold the code of ethics in swimming
- ✓ Provides external credibility for the profession and for the governing bodies of swimming.
- ✓ Is part of a regulated and developing career structure.

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The Cost

Teacher and Coach licensing will be free to those teachers and coaches in membership of SASA, Institute of Swimming (IOS) and the British Swimming Coaches and Teachers Association (BSCTA), otherwise the cost will be £45.

ASA vs SASA Licence

There are only two differences between the licences issued by the ASA and Scottish Swimming:

- 1 Police checks in relation to child protection procedures are slightly different in England and Wales compared to Scotland. Currently a check processed by the Criminal Records Bureau in England does not satisfy the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003.
- 2 The judicial processes are different in England and Wales compared to Scotland.

Provisional Licence

On the first occasion, Teachers or Coaches will be able to gain either a Provisional Licence (i.e. meet all the mandatory criteria) with three years to upgrade to a full licence (i.e. meet all the mandatory criteria and required electives). A provisional licence will only be granted for one three year period, after which only a full licence must be applied for.

Communication

Information on licensing was sent by Scottish Swimming to current SASA, IOS members in Scotland, BSCTA members in Scotland, all SASA affiliated clubs and all local authorities in Scotland at the beginning of March. Information can also be downloaded from the Scottish Swimming website (www.scottishswimming.com). If you have any questions, please contact:

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