

2007 USAS Convention (Anaheim, CA)

Coaches Safety Training will be part of the coach certifications again beginning July or September, 2008. Historically this class has been difficult to attain due to a lack of instructors and available classes. Coaches and registration chairs were pleased when Lifeguarding could be substituted for Coaches Safety Training several years ago. I attended multiple registration and safety sessions and the information presented changed for each one. Similar to the background screen process that took many months to clarify exactly how it would be implemented by registration chairs, safety training has been mandated but details have not been specified, except that it will be required for the 2009 registration year. I will send out the official FAQ sheet when USA publishes it. I am hoping that Lifeguarding classes taken prior to July 15, 2008 will be grandfathered; this would be the logical solution because it would require no SWIMS program changes. Coaches will have to present original certifications with their applications because the program does not record which cert was presented originally.

The Red Cross instituted a new online program on September 28. Any current Lifeguard Instructor or Water Safety Instructor or Coaches Safety Instructor can teach the class. Multiple options for taking the class are available:

- Full class

- Review class (within 1 year of expire date)

- Challenge

- Fast track The fast track is new; you will need a manual (\$24.95) and a Safety Training supplement (free download from Red Cross web site). A 25 question online test is required, and then you must arrange a skills test at a local chapter for the water skills within 30 days of the online test.

- If you have a current Lifeguard credential, you can do the online test, then take it to your Red Cross office and get a Coaches Safety Training card (your Coaches Safety Training will expire the same day as your LG card.)

Be prepared to find instructors or have club members train to teach the class.

You will need this class. If you take it early enough you should have a card when you need it. Red Cross course records and addendums are still acceptable; if you have any doubt that you will have the card when you need it, ask for this documentation to take with you.

Nothing has changed for the 2008 registration year!

Meet marshals no longer have to be USA registered. This was recommended by the safety committee in an effort to have more marshals on deck. Meet managers are still required to have a current USA non athlete membership.

Top 16 is being replaced with Top 10 single age.

Hy-Tek has produced an e-lesson on their web site for registration via Team Manager. Clubs should be using TM ver 4.0Rc. Keep your software current. The upgrades to 4.0 are free.

Athlete cards should be given to the athletes if at all possible. The days of having to physically produce a card for a meet director have passed.

R29 passed and requires athlete representation on review boards, 20% of its membership and 20% of the hearing panel. This takes effect immediately and our bylaws may need to be amended. This has been in practice at the National level review hearings (including those for failed background screens). The athletes used at that level are adult career people who competed as long as 10 years ago. R28 failed (but will probably return next year); it required 20% athlete representation on all LSC committees (representation, attendance not mandatory) so we need to be ready for that.

Disability rebates have new funding available. Form is on the USA web site.

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