APPENDIX W

COACHES CERTIFICATION POLICY

Amendments to this Appendix W are the responsibility of the Coaches’ Board. The Coaches’ Board can modify this Appendix by recommending changes to the Board of Directors for approval.

Any coach participating in a USSS sanctioned event must be current in all credentials and must have a minimum of Coaches Certification Program (CCP) Level 1.

Effective January 1, 2017: Any coach participating or serving in a coaching capacity, with a desire to be permitted on the pool deck, must have obtained a minimum of the following requirements:

1. CCP Level 1 – Required for all coaches to be on deck at any sanctioned competition.
2. CCP Level 2 – Required for all coaches to be on deck at any Regional, Zone or National Championship (including the U.S. Collegiate Championship and the U.S. Masters Championship), unless the coach was certified at CCP Level 1 less than one year prior to the relevant Regional, Zone or National Championship.
3. CCP Level 3 – Required for all coaches to be on deck at any Zone or National Championship.
4. Properly submitted safety credentials (Current CPR/First Aid).
5. National Center for Safety Initiatives (“NCSI”) Background Check (parental consent required for minors under 18 years of age) and SafeSport – Required for all coaches to be on deck at any sanctioned competition.

ARTICLE 1

1.01 All Coaches must be members of USSS at the appropriate level. See Appendix C.

Levels of Coaches Certification:

A. CCP Level 1: The Level 1 course is intended as a starting point for coaches. It confirms to the organization, other coaches, judges and athletes that all coaches have had exposure to a general coaching curriculum. It covers specific synchronized swimming fundamentals, safety/risk management, ethics and general training. The Level 1 course creates a common base for all coaches including a new coach just starting out up to the most experienced national level coach.

B. CCP Level 2: The Level 2 course is intended to give coaches an overall exposure to the sport of synchronized swimming. The coach will be able to instruct basic fundamentals, provide teaching progressions, create daily lesson plans, write and teach routines and establish an initial coaching philosophy. In addition to this synchro specific information, general coaching and coaching duties that are less prevalent will be covered. The Level 2 course provides valuable information that will continue the coach’s development and allow the coach to manage a team.

C. CCP Level 3: The Level 3 course is intended to give coaches the opportunity to learn about very specific topics that will continue to develop the knowledge of the coach in the sport of synchronized swimming.

1.02 Testing Policies: In order to obtain the specified levels, the following procedures are required. Candidates who fail written tests must retest. Each certification is good for four (4) years. Certification expires on December 31

A. CCP Level 1 Requirements:
1. Minimum: 16 years of age.
2. Fees: Training Course and Test fees are set by and payable to USSS.
3. Membership: USSS Instructor, Professional, Competitive Athlete, Athlete or Life Membership required.
4. Training Materials: USSS Rulebook in addition to online course materials.
5. Current CPR, First Aid Certification, NCSI Background Check (parental consent required for minors under 18 years of age) and SafeSport.

B. CCP Level 2 Requirements:
   1. Minimum: 16 years of age.
   2. Fees: Training Course and Test fees are set by and payable to USSS.
   3. Membership: USSS Professional or Life Membership required.
   4. Training Materials: USSS Rulebook in addition to online course materials.
      Current CPR, First Aid Certification, NCSI Background Check (parental consent required for minors under 18 years of age) and SafeSport.

C. CCP Level 3 Requirements:
   1. Minimum: 18 years of age.
   2. Fees: Training Course and Test fees are set by and payable to USSS.
   3. Membership: USSS Professional or Life Membership required.
      Current CPR, First Aid Certification, NCSI Background Check and SafeSport.

1.03 Administration of Tests: Levels 1, 2 & 3 will be offered online and supported by the USSS National Office.

1.04 Maintenance of Specific Rating: To maintain the CCP certification, the coach must complete at least one CCP course (current level or higher) or attend a Coaches College every four (4) years. This includes any “grandfathered” coaches. If the coach fails to complete this, the certification will become invalid and the coach will have 1 year to complete the requirements and maintain their level. If the coach fails to complete their renewal by this date, their certification will lapse. If that occurs, and the individual wishes to be an active coach again, they will need to start from the beginning.
   A. All coaches must be current in NCSI Background Checks (parental consent required for minors under 18 years of age) and SafeSport.
   B. All coaches must be current in CPR and First Aid Certification.

1.05 Certified Coaches from Other Federations: International coaches wishing to coach in the United States may present their credentials to the Coaches’ Board to apply for a waiver. Such coaches must have current CPR, First Aid Certification, NCSI Background Check (parental consent required for minors under 18 years of age) and SafeSport.

1.06 Athlete Safety Policy (Appendix O): USSS requires training concerning the key elements of the Athlete Safety Policy for members who USSS formally authorizes, approves or appoints to a position of authority over athletes or who has frequent contact with athletes and USSS staff.
   A. USSS recommends Athlete Safety Policy training to be completed before contact with athletes begins, and in any event, must be completed within 60 days of initial contact.
   B. USSS tracks compliance and implements periodic checks for compliance to its Athlete Safety Policy.

1.07 SafeSport: SafeSport is a course that has been designed by the Center for SafeSport in order to raise awareness about prevention of abuse in sports. The initial course must be completed for an individual to be considered certified. Registration information for SafeSport training is forwarded to individuals upon registration with USSS and can also be found on the USA Synchro website (www.usasyachts.org).
   A. SafeSport training is valid for one (1) year from completion of the course.
   B. A full initial course is required one (1) time and a refresher course will be required each year.
   C. SafeSport training is required for the following individuals:
      1. USSS employees, all members of the Board of Directors, support staff and consultants;
2. All National Team Coaches, consultants (working more than one day), volunteers who have constant and consistent interaction and/or authority over athletes and chaperones;

3. All National Talent, Olympic Development and Elite Camp Coaches, consultants (working more than one day), volunteers who have constant and consistent interaction and/or authority over athletes and chaperones;

4. All National Team athletes currently listed in the USADA Registered Testing Pool;

5. All National Talent, Olympic Development and Elite Camp Coaches, consultants (working more than one day), volunteers who have constant and consistent interaction and/or authority over athletes and chaperones;

6. All athletes (18 years of age and older) who practice or compete with minor age athletes;

7. All members (18 years of age and older) serving on all USSS committees, subcommittees and boards;

8. All USSS Member Club employees, contract coaches, chaperones, support staff and volunteers who have constant and consistent interaction and/or authority over athletes. This includes, but is not limited to, Dance, Acrobatics, Flexibility, Swimming Staff, etc at any national or local training facility;

9. Optional, but highly recommended: USSS Member Club board members.

10. All officials (Levels 1 through FINA “A” & Emeritus);

11. All staff, including coaches, managers, chaperones and adults who have constant and consistent interaction and/or authority over athletes while traveling with athletes to national, regional and local events or for the Club Option, Private Invitation, or International Club Exchange (ICE) Programs. Excludes adults traveling as fans;

12. All Life and Professional members who have constant and consistent interaction and/or authority over athletes or are 18 years of age or older and train with minor age athletes.

D. USSS maintains and publishes a list of persons on its website who are compliant with the SafeSport Training. See Appendix Q.