

New Coaching Courses and Accreditation announcement

Dear Swimming Community,

In late 2017, Swimming Australia (SAL) partnered with Victoria University to redevelop the existing Silver and Gold Swimming Coach Education courses. Then in 2018, a comprehensive research project was undertaken to help define a new National Coaching Strategy for Australian Swimming through Tokyo 2020 and beyond.

With a strong combined future vision for Swimming Coaching in Australia, SAL and the Australian Swimming Coaches and Teachers Association (ASCTA) have decided on new names for the coach education courses and accreditation levels, and an enhanced way of learning and recognition for coaches of all levels, that we believe will help to improve our great sport.

The changes to the Swimming Australia Coach Accreditation Framework now provide 2 separate components of coach accreditation and licencing – Education (SAL online coaching courses and face to face workshops) and experience in the industry (including ASCTA membership longevity).

The new Coach Education courses and related Coach Accreditation levels will be now known as follows:

- **Development** (previously Bronze) - Successful Development Coaches create experiences which focus on the benefits of developing skills and increasing fitness. Their enthusiasm and encouragement provide extra motivation for participants to develop a love of swimming and sustain this interest over their lives.
- **Advanced** (previously Silver) - Successful Advanced Coaches bring out each swimmer's ability by identifying individual needs and planning and implementing suitable training programs based on individual swimmer needs. They implement support systems that develop the individual swimmers physical and psychological fitness and maximises their performance.
- **Performance** (previously Gold) - Successful Performance Coaches develop people and structures to sustain success for swimming. They do this by balancing data and information with intuition and experience to make accurate evidence-based decisions under pressure. They trust their swimmers to take responsibility for their own performances, and they welcome feedback.

More information on the new education courses and related accreditation levels can be found at swimming.org.au.

As of 1 July 2019, Swimming Australia will take over the issuing of Coach Accreditation. Current Coach Accreditations will be mapped directly across to the new levels as follows:

- Bronze Accreditation will become Development Accreditation
- Silver Accreditation will become Advanced Accreditation
- Gold Accreditation will become Performance Accreditation

Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Coach performance recognition will continue to be recognised and will be awarded by ASCTA. Criteria for achieving performance recognition will be released in due course.

We are excited to announce that we will be offering 3 core workshops for the Advanced Course and 1 Elective workshop (which can be used for the Advanced or Performance Course) at the ASCTA Convention 2019. To register your interest in enrolling in the course and attending the face to face workshops at the Convention, please register your expression of interest at the ASCTA Convention website – asctaconvention.com.

Prior to attending the workshops at the ASCTA Convention, you will need to complete the online enrolment for the full Advanced Course or Performance Course and complete the associated theory modules. Online course enrolment will be available from 1st April 2019.

For further information please contact Paul Malcolm, GM Sport Sustainability and Growth at paul.malcolm@swimming.org.au



Leigh Russell
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FAQs:

Who will this affect?

All current accredited and prospective swimming coaches in Australia, and those wishing to undertake further education and professional development to advance their career in coaching.

How will it affect coaches?

Coaches will be able to complete coach education courses via a combination of online learning and assessments, face to face workshops and mentoring. Assessment will be a combination of online quizzes, research projects, case studies, assignments, attendance at and contribution to workshops, post-workshop reflections in the home club/squad environment, and completion of practical hours under guidance from a Mentor.

Can coaches re-do an education course? / Do coaches need to re-do education courses?

If coaches already hold coaching accreditation, they don't have to re-do a course, but they will need to continue to do professional development to gain points for re-accreditation as per the current system. The full courses are available to be re-done if desired and individual modules will be available to complete for professional development.

What happens to my current accreditation?

Your current accreditation will be directly mapped to the equivalent education level and your previous performance achievement will also be mapped directly to the new criteria.

What if coaches have already commenced a course?

If a coach has already started a coach education course under the old criteria, they will have the option of either finishing under that criteria or transferring to the new course.

Will performance recognition be required to achieve coach accreditation in the future?

No. The new accreditation structure does not include 'performance criteria' to progress through the education courses.

What is happening with the existing Bronze, Silver and Gold coach recognition?

Coach performance recognition will continue to be awarded, together with education and experience as part of the Coach licensing system.

Do I need to maintain my ASCTA Membership?

Yes. You need to be a member of ASCTA to;

- be issued with coach accreditation;
- ensure working with children requirements are maintained;
- be eligible for State and National swimming meet Event Accreditation;
- for selection on State and National teams; and
- to access insurance.

What is the process for recognition of prior learning (RPL) for existing coaches?

There will be an RPL process available from 1 July 2019, for coaches to apply for credits towards the new coaching modules. Details of the requirements for RPL will be available in due course.

Where can I find more details?

More details on the education levels, the criteria for completing the new courses and the requirements for gaining accreditation can be found at swimming.org.au.