



# Coaching and Officiating e-Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of **The Coaching and Officiating e-Newsletter** produced by the Australian Sports Commission's (ASC) Coaching and Officiating Unit.

The e-Newsletter will provide regular communication to State/Territory Sport Education Centres and National Sporting Organisations (NSOs). The e-Newsletter will be produced every 2 months. It is proposed that the e-newsletter will contain content on:

- o Coaching and officiating developments
- o Latest strategies for mentoring and assessing
- o Technological advances with coaching and officiating
- o Year of the Official updates
- o Case studies

## Training Program Approval Process

NSOs are reminded that Training Program (coaching and officiating courses) approval is only valid for four years from the date the program is registered with the NCAS or NOAS. If training programs are not current, coaches and officials cannot be accredited with the NCAS and NOAS respectively.

NSOs should be aware of expiry dates and review their training programs, preferably well before the current approval expires in case major changes are required. In August last year the Coaching and Officiating Unit released revised Guidelines for the Design and Registration of NCAS & NOAS Training Programs. The revised guidelines can be found at [http://www.ausport.gov.au/nso/Designguide06\\_03.pdf](http://www.ausport.gov.au/nso/Designguide06_03.pdf). All NSOs were advised of the release of these Guidelines by email. The Coaching and Officiating Unit welcomes any feedback about the guidelines either by contacting any of the C&O sports consultants or [ncas@ausport.gov.au](mailto:ncas@ausport.gov.au)

NSOs should refer to the revised guidelines when reviewing training programs as they contain several significant changes to reflect current competency-based training principles. Once reviewed, training programs should be submitted to the relevant Coaching and Officiating sports consultant. The program will be reviewed and if approved, registered for a

further four-year period. Should changes be required, the sports consultant will advise the sport. C&O sports consultants can assist sports with further explanation of the process.

Any sport that isn't sure whether their training programs are current should contact their C&O sports consultant.

## National Officiating Scholarship Program

Following a pilot in 2003, the Coaching and Officiating Unit has developed the National Officiating Scholarship Program (NOSP). The NOSP provides potential high performance officials with an intense learning program. The structure for this intense learning program is flexible to meet the individual needs of the sport and can vary from 4 to 52 weeks in duration. The scholarship officials will participate in hands-on officiating, undertake professional development courses and update/upgrade their level of National Officiating Accreditation Scheme (NOAS) accreditation.

The following Sports were successful in receiving a scholarship for 2004: BMX Australia, Baseball Australia, Basketball Australia, Australian Volleyball Federation, Squash Australia, Gymnastics Australia, Australian Rugby Union.

For further information about the NOSP contact Anita Hobson-Powell on [anita.hobson-powell@ausport.gov.au](mailto:anita.hobson-powell@ausport.gov.au)

## The VET Sector and the NCAS / NOAS

Over the last ten years or so, the ASC has tried to keep NSOs up to date with the progress of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) agenda and the link that sports can have with such a system.

During the last six months the ASC has had a series of meetings with the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) and Sport and Recreation Training Australia (SRTA) to clarify the position of those sports that are presently within the SITP. There are currently 22 sports that have courses registered with SRTA, of which there are 14 sports that have coaching or officiating courses registered. Of those sports, few have completely embraced the VET sector.

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Fortunately, the discussions have been very positive with a number of issues being raised and agreement reached. Whilst a final outcome is still being negotiated, some important areas have been worked on. These include;

- o The NSO will be the determinant for what units of competency should go into the Sport Specific Training packages;
- o For those sports that wish to be involved in the Training Packages, the same units of competency that NSOs register with the NCAS / NOAS for any given accreditation level will be registered in the SITP;
- o Any person that undertakes training through the VET sector in accordance with the SITP units of competency for a given sport will receive automatic Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) by the NSO for the education and training component of their same course within the NCAS / NOAS.
- o All Presenters and Trainers of the Sport Specific units of competency conducted in the VET sector, will be required to have the qualifications deemed necessary by the NSO (as well as any other qualification deemed necessary by the VET sector) in order to deliver those units (eg the NSO may require people to be "L2 Anysport" or higher to deliver or assess the unit of competency).
- o Sports will have clear and accurate information available to them before being required to sign onto the acceptance of the Training Packages.

Whilst there are other areas that are being addressed and will be distributed to the participating NSOs in more detail soon, the above points have been contentious for some years and have caused concern for either the NSO or the VET sector. NSOs will be able to go into the SITP, fully informed and completely aware of the benefits and consequences.

The real advantage for sport is that there is another potential network of delivery of coach and official education that will meet all the demands that NSOs seek of them, with the potential for some education to be able to be provided with public education funding. If any given sport doesn't wish to be involved in the VET sector – then it doesn't have to!

For further information contact John Armstrong on [john.armstrong@ausport.gov.au](mailto:john.armstrong@ausport.gov.au)

### **Coaching and Officiating 2003 – Investing in the future**

The Australian Sports Commission's Coaching and Officiating Unit staged the "Coaching and Officiating 2003 – Investing in the future" conference from 27-29 November, 2003.

Following the opening address by the Minister for the Arts and Sport, the Honourable Senator Rod Kemp, more than 300 delegates representing a range of organisations including NSOs, SSOs, local sporting clubs, State Departments of Sport and Recreation, and peak industry groups, participated in a range of workshops and plenary sessions.

The focus of the three-day program was to investigate a range of strategic issues related to coaching and officiating. Each of the one-day programs offered were aimed at professional development for high performance and community-level coaches and officials respectively.

Key conference streams saw presentations and discussion groups held relating to a number of current issues impacting upon coaching and officiating in Australia. These included: the recruitment and retention of coaches and officials, how to create better development pathways for coaches and officials, improving education and training delivery in rural and regional areas, ideas on how to develop effective e-learning strategies, and the implications of current state-based child protection legislations.

Specific outcomes achieved from the conference included:

- o Endorsement of the recently promoted changes by the ASC in setting a flexible levels framework for NSO training programs under the NCAS;
- o The need for the current general principle courses to include elements related to the "softer skills" of coaching and a "game management" approach for officials;

- o A need to improve the reach of education and training delivery networks to better support the work of NSOs in this area; and
- o Higher levels of support required to meet the needs of high performance coaches.

A number of positive comments about the quality of the conference were received. A clear message received was that conferences such as this do provide an opportunity for increased knowledge sharing, which is vital if the ongoing issues surrounding coaching and officiating are to be addressed effectively.

A number of the presentations delivered at the conference are available at <http://www.ausport.gov.au/events/coachofficial03/>

For further information please contact Murray Halls on [murray.halls@ausport.gov.au](mailto:murray.halls@ausport.gov.au)

### **Play by the Rules**

*Play by the Rules* is an online training and information resource for sport and recreation clubs and associations. *Play by the Rules* provides information on how to prevent and deal with inappropriate behaviour including discrimination, harassment, favouritism, bias and various forms of abuse.

*Play by the Rules* contains several sections:

1. Online training programs
  - o *Play by the Rules* offers four free, tailored online training courses for coaches, administrators, umpires, and player, participants & volunteers.
  - o The courses are short and may be done in part or all at once.
  - o An official certificate is issued upon successful completion of a course.
  - o The courses make extensive use of cases studies.
  - o The official certificate generated after successfully completing the Coaches course can be used to obtain recognition of current competency in sections of nationally recognised coaching qualifications
2. Frequently asked questions
3. Legislation

4. Court decisions
5. What's New
6. Resources to download and use.

### **How can NSOs use this site?**

NSOs are able to use this site as:

1. an updating opportunity for members
2. a pre-request for courses
3. a requirement for all SSO directors
4. resource for members
5. link on their website

For further information about PBTR contact Anita Hobson-Powell on [anita.hobson-powell@ausport.gov.au](mailto:anita.hobson-powell@ausport.gov.au)

### **Course Presenter and Assessor Training**

A number of sports have indicated in their Funding and Service Level Agreements that a priority this financial year is to look at the development or, and assistance for course presenters and assessors.

Sports have the following options when looking at training their course presenters:

- o Sending trainees to a Course Presenters and/or Assessor Training Course run by their State Coaching and Officiating Centres. Contacts for these people can be found at: [http://www.coachingaus.org/contacts.htm - State](http://www.coachingaus.org/contacts.htm-State)
- o Sending them to a Cert. IV Workplace Training and Assessment course at a TAFE
- o Running their own sports specific Course Presenters and/or Assessor Training courses utilising modules out of the ASC Course Presenters Program and Assessor Training Program.