



# Pick 1: Because Kids Matter

Kids matter, so safety matters. What will you do this month to increase the safety of the kids in your club? Each month a different safety principle will be highlighted. There are five areas where clubs can take action and several different suggestions of things to do. Pick one (or more) of the following action items or, choose your own, and do it this month.

The goal: **DO SOMETHING MEANINGFUL** this month to increase the safety of the kids in your club.

**Principle of the Month:** Coaches need CURRENT credentials to maintain USA Swimming coach membership. Only coach members can coach athletes at USA Swimming practice or competition.

Take Action This Month! Pick 1 and DO IT		How does your club encourage and support continual USA Swimming Coach Membership for every coach? This includes no lapses because of expired, or unrecorded, credentials.
1	 <p>Policy Development &amp; Understanding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USA Swimming <b>REQUIRES ALL</b> coach members to be currently certified in several areas. For details, see: <a href="https://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/coaching-resourcesdocuments/coach-membership-requirements/coach-membership-requirements-checklist.pdf">https://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/coaching-resourcesdocuments/coach-membership-requirements/coach-membership-requirements-checklist.pdf</a></li> <li>• There is <b>NO grace period</b>. If <b>ANY</b> of the requirements expire, or are not officially recorded, the membership is automatically switched from a Coach to a Non-Athlete membership by USA Swimming.</li> <li>• <b>Only coach members can coach athletes at practice or competition.</b></li> <li>• <b>A coach does not have USA Swimming insurance coverage if his/her membership is not valid.</b> This can affect clubs too.</li> <li>• <b>Proof of some required certifications must be officially recorded via the LSC.</b> Details available <a href="#">here</a>. Todd Etherington is the contact for Utah.</li> </ul>
2	 <p>Policy Integration &amp; Use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite being a requirement, many coaches in Utah have a lapsed, or unrecorded, required credentials. It is a problem which affects many clubs.</li> <li>• <b>Does your club regularly verify coach certification?</b> Who does it? How regularly? (Some credentials expire monthly.) Who hold coaches accountable to keep their credentials current?</li> <li>• <b>What can be done to eliminate this ongoing problem in your club?</b></li> </ul>
3	 <p>Meetings and Other Communication With Team Leadership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coach Meeting or Other Communication:</b> Share the info in the first two sections. Are some coaches having trouble maintaining continual certification? Brainstorm ways to help. Make a plan, then put it into action.</li> <li>• <b>Board Meeting:</b> Share the info in the first 2 sections. Assess club strengths and needed improvements. Make a plan to address needed improvements.</li> </ul>
4	 <p>Communication with Swimmers and Parents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate club athletes and parents on the exceptional coaching they receive. Let them know the extra things USA Swimming coaches do to become, and remain, coach members.</li> </ul>
5	 <p>Additional Resources/ <b>SHARE!</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share what's worked for your club and help keep even more kids safe! Email Utah Swimming Safety Chair.</li> <li>• More information: <a href="http://www.usaswimming.org/for-you/coaches">http://www.usaswimming.org/for-you/coaches</a> (scroll down to: "Becoming or Renewing Your Coach Membership")</li> </ul>