

USA Swimming Coach Education Requirement is changing in February 2013!!

At its September 2012 meeting, the USA Swimming Board of Directors approved the following change to the Coach Member Requirements in the policy manual:

Coach Education Requirement – Prior to becoming a USA Swimming member coach for the first time, a coach is required to successfully complete the online course, Foundations of Coaching 101. Before registering to be a coach member the 2nd year, the coach must successfully complete the two-part Foundations of Coaching 201 course. (Effective 2013).

What does this transition mean for new coaches?

For a new coach who registers between Sept 1, 2012 and February 3, 2013

Two Options:

1. New Course Option:

- a. After February 4, 2013, complete the “new” Foundations of Coaching 101 course requirement.
- b. Prior to 2nd year of registration complete the Foundations of Coaching 201 requirement which includes the 201 Course and a Rules and Regulations Test.

2. Old Course Option

- a. Prior to second year of registration complete the “old” Foundations of Coaching DVD based test

For a new coach who registers on or after February 4, 2013:

1. New Course Option Only:

- a. Complete the “new” Foundations of Coaching 101. Foundations 101 must be completed prior to becoming a coach member of USA Swimming.
- b. Prior to 2nd year of registration complete the “new” Foundations of Coaching 201 and the Rules and Regulations Test.

For a former or existing coach member renewing for 2013 as 2nd year of coach membership:

1. Old Course Option Only

- a. Prior to second year of registration complete the “old” Foundations of Coaching DVD based test

Why is USA Swimming changing the coaching education requirement?

Currently a coach has no educational requirement to begin coaching and can coach the entire first year without completing the Foundations of Coaching education requirement. Then, before registering for the 2nd year, the coach must complete a comprehensive education requirement that includes both coaching education and rules and regulations testing. We believe it makes more sense to require a minimum coaching education requirement before a coach can begin coaching followed by a more comprehensive requirement prior to the second registration year.

What is the format of the new Foundations course?

The new two-part Foundations of Coaching course will be delivered in an online format that will ensure that participants review the educational content prior to taking the test. This plan provides some exposure to key concepts for the brand new coach while breaking the overall current education requirement into more manageable pieces. Foundations 101 will be approximately 90 minutes. Foundations 201 is a more comprehensive course of approximately 3-4 hours.

Are Rules and Regulations included in Foundations of Coaching?

Rules and Regulations will be a separate test completed on the USA Swimming website. This material will not be incorporated into the online course and test. This test will be 30 questions. Completing this test will be the 2nd required component to fulfill the Foundations 201 requirement.

Who is developing these courses?

The courses are being developed using existing and updated materials and videos from the current DVD based course that was developed jointly by USA Swimming and The American Swimming Coaches Association. The curriculum is being customized by [ePath Learning](#) into an online learning platform. The Rules and Regulations test is developed by the Officials' Committee of USA Swimming.

What will be the cost of these courses?

Foundations 101 will cost \$15. Foundations 201 will cost \$25. There will be no charge for the Rules and Regulations portion. The entire cost goes to offset development expenses and maintenance fees. There is no profit to USA Swimming.

How do I access the courses?

Foundations 101 and 201 will be accessible through a direct link on the USA Swimming website in the coach education section. The Rules and Regulations test will be accessible in the online testing section of the USA Swimming website.

Will I be required to take other courses?

No. Once a coach has completed 101, 201 and Rules and Regulations, all other coaching education is voluntary. Of course, a coach will still have to maintain safety certifications, background screening requirements and Safe Sport requirements. We encourage coaches to attend clinics and continue to educate themselves in all aspects of coaching.

Will I have access to the resources from the courses after I complete the courses?

Yes. You will be able to access the resources and videos used in the courses after you complete the course. In addition, ePath Learning will host an entire resource section for all coaches that will contain presentations, documents and video. Voluntary mini courses will also be housed on ePath. Accessing these resources will be free of charge to all member coaches.

Will I still have to take a 180 question test?

No. The test at the end of the Foundations 101 course is 25 questions. You will have access to all material while taking the test. The test at the end of Foundations 201 is 40 questions, again with access to the course material while taking the test. A coach will not be able to access the tests until all course work is completed. In other words, you cannot jump immediately to the test. The Rules and Regulations test is 30 questions based on the USA Swimming Rule Book.

Can I take 101 and 201 all at once or do I have to wait until my second year?

101 will be released on February 4, 2013 and will be required of all new coaches who register after that date. 201 will be released in the spring of 2013. Once the 201 course is active, a coach can complete 201 at any time prior to registration for the second year. A coach will not be able to access 201 until 101 has been successfully completed.

What will happen to the old DVD based course?

The current DVD based course will be permanently deactivated on December 31, 2013. After that date, the only option for a coach to complete the education requirement will be the completion of 101, 201 and Rules and Regs.