With the start of school and a new swimming season in the midst of Covid we all need to remember to keep our certifications up to date to protect ourselves and our clubs. In accordance with Article 502.6.4 of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations: “Anyone who coaches swimmers at a USA Swimming practice or competition must be a coach member of USA Swimming and must have satisfactorily completed safety training, criminal background checks and other coaches’ education as required by USA Swimming.” The info below is from the September 1, 2020 USA Swimming Coaches Connection.

**Coach Certification Requirements – Extensions**

With the continuation of many facilities being closed due to COVID-19, coaches may find it difficult to renew some certifications. USA Swimming’s Risk Management Committee met, and the following steps are being taken to assist with this issue for coaches whose Lifeguard Training, In-Water Safety Training or CPR/AED certifications expire **between July 31, 2020 and December 30, 2020**:

**For agencies that are granting certification extensions**

 Submit the following to your LSC registrar:

• Any correspondence from the agency that provides specific information about the extension, including the new expiration date(s). Examples of correspondence include provisional/temporary certificates, email notifications from the agency, etc.

• A copy of your Lifeguard Training, In-Water Safety Training or CPR/AED certifications showing an expiration date within the dates stated above.

**For certifications from any agency that does not grant an extension-** USA Swimming is granting an extension until **December 31, 2020**, for coaches whose Lifeguard Training, In-Water Safety Training or CPR/AED certifications expire between July 31 and December 30, 2020.

Please note the following:

• For CPR/AED and In-Water Safety Training certifications that expire during the above stated timeframe, SWIMS and Deck Pass will be updated to reflect the new expiration date of 12/31/2020.

• Programming changes are necessary and will be done as soon as possible. In the meantime, coaches may receive reminders about expiring certifications until the current expiration dates are rolled forward to 12/31/2020.

• Any coaches who can renew the certifications listed above should send their updated certificates to their LSC registrar as usual.

• Those with expirations prior to the first extension of March 1, 2020 or who have not completed a CPR course WILL NOT receive an extension and/or exemption as they should have completed a class prior to the virus. It is also important to note that other certifications and membership requirements must be updated on or before their current expiration date for courses that are completed online. These courses include Athlete Protection Training, background checks, Coaches Advantage Training, and online Safety Training for Swim Coaches.

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**FYI-**

**The list of all required courses for new and returning coaches can be found on USA SWIMMING at this link:** <https://www.usaswimming.org/coaches/coaching-membership-requirements-checklist>

**“Failure by a coach member to renew the required certifications results in no liability coverage for the coach or potentially for the club.”**

 <https://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/risk-management/insurance-documents-and-forms/insurance-documents-and-forms/insurance-coverage-faqs-2020_updated.pdf?sfvrsn=c55d2532_6>