EUROPEAN AQUATICS®

CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION OF COACHES' COURSES

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR AWARD AND LEARNING

https://www.eaacademy.eu/lms/applications

A. Introduction

Background

There are worldwide good practices on the empowerment of professionals by facilitating their education and lifelong learning. One of such cases is the European Union´s European Education Area, by providing access to quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning. The upskilling and reskilling of the work force is another policy that has been enacted in the past few years as noted by the World Economic Forum. Moreover, there is an increasing consensus that there are different pathways to enhance one´s capacity and qualifications in a field or industry. For instance, Academia is undoubtedly a beacon of knowledge production but recognizes there are other venues for knowledge dissemination and different learning modalities. Notwithstanding, the European University Association envisions by 2030 the existence of universities without walls. I.e., embracing and accepting different ways one can improve skills, knowledge and abilities, including in close collaboration with industry´s partners (e.g. the effort to rollout micro-credentials offers to those in the workforce Europewide). These principles, pillars and policies can be distilled into different sectors, e.g. inspiring the education and development of the European Aquatics community.

European Aquatics ("EA") under the Strategic Plan 2024-2028 is enacting a comprehensive policy to promote the education & development and registration of coaches across the continent. These include:

- the offer of formal courses (3 tiers: level 1, level 2 and level 3) in all aquatic disciplines
- the offer of lifelong learning initiatives in the form of clinics and other modalities to all aquatic disciplines.
- set-up of an e-learning platform where all education & development contents are to be made available to European Aquatics community

The European Aquatics Academy ("EAA") is the department assigned to design and disseminate coaches' courses in tandem with World Aquatics guidelines and Technical Committees recommendations.

Each discipline will have available the following courses: level 1 (beginner/assistant coach), level 2 (age-group or developmental coach), level 3 (performance coach).

Recognition of Prior Award ("RPA") is the recognition of a formal award for the purposes of achieving another formal award or recognition in other place. Recognition of prior learning ("RPL") aims to evaluate skills and knowledge acquired beyond formal training for the purpose of recognizing competence.

National Federations ("NFs") can request EA to waive the recognition exercise of their coaches by producing evidence of having in place an education plan certified

and approved by national authorities and underpinned on local legal frameworks (kindly refer to phases of implementation sub-section below).

Rational

- Branding: EA is a stronger brand well known across Europe and beyond
- Synergies: EA certification is aligned with World Aquatics guidelines and vision of the education and development of coaches
- Verification: The certification acts as a verified endorsement of the coach's SKA, providing greater confidence to athletes, parents, employers, and other actors in the EA community
- Professionalism: It demonstrates the coaches' commitment to the highest levels of professionalism and continuous development
- Recognition: it is recognized across all NF members that are part of this initiative
- Employability and mobility: facilitates seamless movement and employment opportunities across different European countries
- Benchmarking: sets a high standard for coaching across Europe, ensuring that certified coaches meet a consistent and rigorous level of competence and professionalism
- Advanced Training: it grants access to advanced training and development that might not be available through national programs
- Networking: It provides opportunities to be part of a community of likeminded professionals
- Development mindset: infuse a high-standard development mindset as in other sports (e.g. UEFA – diplomas and licenses: C, B, A, Pro)

B. Certification Tracks

Below one can find the guidelines for an NF and an individual coach to request the certification and recognition of a course

1. **RPA by National Federations Courses**

1.1. Each National federation can request certification and recognition of the courses that it has offered or is offering to local coaches.

1.2. The National Federation is to fill-out the certification application form, attach the requested documentation and submit it to the EAA.

1.3. EAA will analyze the process and identify the recognition that can be done based on the matching of learning outcomes, workload and content

1.4. An updated list of certified and recognized courses by NFs is to be made publicly available by EA.

1.5. Coaches holding NF courses certified and recognized by EA

1.5.1. can refer to the list noted in 1.4. to learn if the course is certified and recognized

a) If the course is certified and recognized by EA: the coach can apply for the certification (express certification track) and pay the processing fee.

b) If the course is not certified and recognized by EA: please refer to "2. Non-National Federations Courses"

2. RPA by Non-National Federations Courses (individual recognition of previous certification, i.e., not recognized in 1).

2.1. Coaches who hold a certification not issued by one NF already recognized by EAA, must submit an individual application requesting the recognition.

2.2. The application form includes:

a) Identification of the organization (e.g., National Federation, School, HEI, etc.).
b) Identification of the course to be certified and recognized
c) Description of the course to be certified and recognized
d) Identification and description of the teaching component (learning outcomes, curricular units, workload)
e) Official Certificate producing evidence the applicant has not committed any crime incompatible with the coaching career.

2.3. EAA will analyze the process and identify the recognition that can be done based on the matching of learning outcomes, workload and content.

2.4. The coach can apply for the certification (normal certification track) and pay the processing fee.

3. RPL (individual recognition of previous working experience and education)

3.1. Coaches with prior learning, whether through short learning programs, career background, volunteer and/or paid roles, can submit an individual application requesting to be certified.

3.2. The application form includes:

- **3.2.1.** Identification of the National Federation
- **3.2.2.** Identification of the course to be certified and recognized
- **3.2.3.** Description of the course to be certified and recognized
- **3.2.4.** Identification and description of the prior learning, including:
  - **a)** Prior formal learning – learning which has previously been formally accredited within an education system
  - **b)** Non-formal learning – learning acquired through planned activities but does not result in formal certification
  - **c)** Informal – learning acquired through day-to-day activities which may be unplanned and unintentional
  - **d)** Official Certificate producing evidence the applicant has not committed any crime incompatible with the coaching career.

3.3. EAA will analyze the process and identify the recognition that can be done based on the matching of learning outcomes, workload and content.

3.4. The coach can apply for the certification (comprehensive certification track) and pay the processing fee.

C. Validity of the EA Coach's Certification

- The EA Certification has a validity of 2 (two) years, starting from the issue of the Certificate when the process of recognition is concluded and the coach can download the Certificate.

- The renewal of the Certificate is required for the certification to remain valid. During the two years of the certification validity the coach must complete the following requirements (set #1 and set #2):

[SET #1: MANDATORY TO CHOOSE ONE]

- Participate at 1 EA Coach Clinic.
- Take an online course available on EA platform for coaches' education.

[SET #2: MANDATORY TO CHOOSE ONE]

- Lead/Facilitate/Speak at one EA Clinic (for level 1, 2 and 3).
- Lead the development of the sport in their own country (for level 2 and 3).
- Run one EA clinic/course for NFs to upskill and update local coaches (recognized by NF to keep local certification) (for level 1, 2 and 3).

D. Platform for the registration

- The process for the registration of the coach recognition and the renew of the certificate is available at the EAA platform:

  https://www.eaacademy.eu/lms/applications

Appendix 1

Flowchart

Appendix 2

Processing fees

Express certification track	100 EUR
Normal certification track	200 EUR
Comprehensive certification track	300 EUR

Appendix 3

List of certified and recognized courses by National Federations (updated on August 8th, 2025):

Aquatic Sports Association of Malta	Icelandic Swimming Association
Austrian Swimming Federation	Luxembourg Swimming Federation
Czech Swimming Federation	Norwegian Swimming Federation
Estonian Swimming Federation	Portuguese Swimming Federation
Flemish Swimming Federation	Royal Dutch Swimming Federation
German Swimming Federation	Royal Spanish Swimming Federation
Hungarian Water Polo Federation	Swedish Swimming Federation