

Para Swimming Coach Certification Program (PSCC) 2025 Format

All courses require a set of pre-requisites to enroll and to be considered complete to receive a certificate of completion and/or certification and each course requires an assessment. All courses must be attended in the order of numerical progression. To attend a higher-level course, you must successfully complete and pass the previous level and each level's experience requirements or the equivalent.

Standard Prerequisites:

- Current Professional Resume to be updated and submitted annually to the Education Manager.
- Attend the Virtual para information session: *The Introduction & Orientation to Para Swimming (1.25 hours)* a Virtual or in-person clinic (offered quarterly). This is required each quadrennial cycle to remain current with all aspects including any WPS rule interpretation and technical meeting information when attending a para only swim meet.
- Current USA Swimming annual coach membership card in good standing each year to maintain the active course certification validity. It is the coach's responsibility to submit annually a current copy of the membership card to the Education Manager.
 - Current CPR, AED, and First Aid Certification
 - Safe Sport Training (annual training is complimentary)
 - Green Light (Clear) NCSI Background Check
 - Any educational course work required by USA Swimming, U.S. Paralympics Swimming to maintain current and/or membership status.
 - Attend, prior to beginning the program,

Coach Experiential Learning:

- Each level of the program will require a coach to meet the experiential requirements.

PSCC Level 1 → certification certificate course. This course is offered as an online virtual course. This course will have a workbook to be completed prior to the virtual session. Engagement and discussion activities will take place incorporating the workbook and experiential learning into the virtual session. Each year at least four (4) courses will be held either as a virtual session or as an in-person session.

Level 1 covers governance and knowledge for para swimming, aimed at foundational to emerging level para swimmers. It prepares coaches for para-specific swim meets and camps with a 3.5-hour virtual course. Participants must complete a workbook beforehand, join discussions during the session, and pass a post-course assessment.

Experiential learning: Minimum 1-year experience as a lead coach in a competitive swimming program. As a coach previously, currently or potentially in the future coaching a swimmer with or without a disability impairment from either an athlete foundational, emerging or national level or beyond.

PSCC Level 2 → certification certificate course. This course is offered as a hybrid course combining virtual and in-person experiential coursework. A workbook must be completed prior to the virtual session. The virtual session will include engagement and discussion activities that incorporate the workbook and experiential learning, further expanding on specific experience on the pool deck. Each year at least four (4) courses will be held either as a virtual session or as an in-person session.

Level 2 covers knowledge for para swimming, aimed at emerging to national level para swimmers. It prepares coaches for para-specific swim meets and camps with a 3-hour virtual course and at least one (1) hour of in-person experience at a camp, clinic, or para only meet. Participants must complete a workbook beforehand, join discussions during the session, and pass a post-course assessment.

Experiential learning: Currently coaching with an organized swimming program and previously, currently, or potentially in the future coaching a swimmer with a disability and has attended/coached an athlete to the emerging level, national level or beyond.

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Level 3 → certification certificate course. This course is only offered as an in-person course.

A workbook must be completed prior to the virtual session. The virtual session will include engagement and discussion activities that incorporate the workbook and experiential learning, further expanding on specific experiences encountered when representing on world stages. Each year of a quadrennial cycle at least one (1) course will be held as an in-person session.

The curriculum is a national-level program aimed at cultivating elite international-caliber coaches capable of delivering high-quality to practical athlete development expertise on world stages. This level will be through invitation /selection process. The program offers candidates the opportunity to develop specialized practical coaching skills, enhance performance planning and analysis required in camps, travel and games settings, and learn organizational techniques through active learning exercises and interactions. Completion of the course requires approximately five hours, including but not limited to the successful completion of the assessment and participation in active learning activities.

Experiential learning: Currently coaching with an organized swimming program and previously, currently, or potentially in the future coaching a swimmer with a disability and has attended/coached an athlete to the emerging level, national level or beyond. Coaches at this level are those that have demonstrated the ability to serve as a complete coach for the overall growth and development of the team. The coach should be able to incorporate the highest level of adaptability to pivot and utilize great problem-solving skillsets to reach the best possible outcomes for Team USA to reach performance objectives and outcomes.

PSCC CEU Requirements for any level of certification held → Recertification and Continuing Education Requirements

A PSCC certification is valid for four (4) years. Recertification ensures that coaches continue to challenge themselves and further their knowledge. It is critical to remain informed of the latest information and expertise within the para-swimming community.

To maintain a Para Swimming Coach Certification, coaches must complete recertification by their recertification deadline. Para Swimming Coach Certification recertification process consists of completing specified requirements as well as submitting a recertification application. For all recertification information, please see the (insert webpage link).

Recertification Requirements:

- Eight (8) CEU/PDU, with six (6) being Para-specific and the remaining credits in general swimming-related areas.
- Meet all course certification pre-requisites for the Level being recertified.
- Lapsed recertifications require retaking the Level and completing all experiential learning components.
- USPS will provide a minimum of six (6) CEU opportunities in para swimming over each 4-year period of a quadrennial cycle, which may be offered virtually or in-person.
- Submit other CEU credits for prior approval to fit the requirements.
- Coach recertification requirements will be pro-rated based on the certification date. For example, if a coach is certified in the second year of a quadrennial cycle, the CEU requirement will be reduced by two (2) CEUs. In this case, the coach will need 6 CEUs total, with 4.5 in para-specific areas and 1.5 in related areas.
- Example of available CEU's in the para swimming space:
 - I.E→ The attendance at an Introduction & Orientation Virtual Session will earn a coach one (1) CEU. The Regional In-person Session with an athlete clinic will earn a coach two (2) CEU.
- USPS CEU earning events will be posted on the team website under the Coach tab.