



WPA Education FAQ's

New Framework and Accreditations

Version 1 – 1 September 2017

Paper Purpose: To outline how the changes to the WPA Education Framework, accreditation courses and implementation of e-learning capability effect current water polo coaches, officials, referees and volunteers.

Q: What's changing?

A: WPA, jointly with the State Associations, is excited to announce that following an extensive review process a new Water Polo Education Framework and Curriculum will be implemented. WPA is also pleased to announce a partnership with e-learning experts, etrainu to bring the new water polo education program to the community through online courses.

Please refer to the [**WPA Education Curriculum**](#) for an overview of new National Accreditation Scheme.

Q: Why are these changes being made?

A: Following an extensive review, it was identified that;

1. the current course material was out-of-date
2. there were no mechanisms in place for re-accreditation or professional development of existing coaches and officials and;
3. there is a need within the sport to grow the number of quality trained coaches and officials to assist in future player development and club growth.

The changes being implemented address these three key areas.

Q: How were these changes made?

A: WPA and the States undertook a review period which included collation of the current program and course materials, consultation with the community through an education online survey, benchmarking and comparison against other like Australian sports and in-depth workshops with subject-matter experts, working groups and key stakeholders.

Q: What does this mean for me?

A: The changes to the water polo education framework means that there is an opportunity for upskilling and training for everyone, accessible anywhere/anytime. A 12-month transition period until September 2018 will be in put in place to give everyone time to become familiar and accredited within the new system and accreditation levels.

Q: What happens to my current coaching/refereeing accreditation?

A: Please refer to the [**WPA Education Transition Guide**](#) for specific information as to how your current qualification or past learning translates into the new system.



Q: Why can I only find information on the new Community level at the moment and not higher?

A: Only information on the Community stream courses (Coach, Referee and Competition Official) is currently available as only these courses have been finalised to date. Further information on the Development and Advanced course streams will become available as they are finalised over the coming months.

Q: I coach/referee but have never had an accreditation – what does this mean for me?

A: Currently if you are operating as a coach or referee without an accreditation you are not fully covered by WPA's professional indemnity policy. If you would like to continue coaching or refereeing water polo activity you will need to gain the appropriate level accreditation.

Q: Why do I have to have an accreditation to coach or referee?

A: Following the completion of the transition period, WPA and State Associations will begin enforcing rules at National, State and Sanctioned competitions and tournaments that requires individuals to hold a valid and corresponding level accreditation (i.e. National Championships will require all Coaches entering a team and appointed referees to have the appropriate level accreditation within in the new system).

Q: I don't agree with where my current accreditation transitions into the new framework as per the transition guide – is this negotiable?

A: The transition guide maps and aligns the past course material and training requirements with the new curriculum. There will be some crossover which is catered for in the transition guide, assuming evidence can be provided by the individual, however for compliance purposes there will be a number of new requirements all accredited individuals will be required to undertake. This also provides an opportunity to ensure a minimum knowledge foundation at each level.

If you are unhappy with where your past accreditation transitions into the new system you can choose to undertake additional training, when available, to upskill into the a higher accreditation as per a normal process if you wish.

Q: Is RPL available?

A: Following the completion of the transition period, WPA will be implementing a Recognition of Prior Learning Policy which will inform fast-track and international transfer request. Not all accreditations will be eligible for RPL.

In the meantime – please refer to the [WPA Education Transition Guide](#) for details.

Q: How do I access the online training?

A: WPA's online training is delivered through WPA's new "The LearningPool". You can access The LearningPool by visiting the WPA website "Get Involved" section and clicking on the link to the LearningPool.



Q: What will it cost?

A: Each accreditation has a different cost. Rest-assured that significant consultation has gone into determining the price for each accreditation and is inclusive of all online training requirements, mandatory workshop registrations, practical assessments and 3 years of accreditation validity upon completion.

For specific course costs, please log-in and select the applicable course within The LearningPool

Q: Why should I have to pay for an accreditation?

A: Accreditation costs are made up of the costs incurred to facilitate the required workshops, payments for practical assessors, delivery of online training modules and administration of a 3-year accreditation, including insurance and continued program development.

Q: When will all the new accreditation courses be rolled out?

A: The anticipated roll-out date for the new courses are;

- Community stream courses – September 2017
- Development stream courses – December 2017
- Advanced stream courses – April 2018
- Elite stream courses – by invitation only from June 2018

Existing accreditations will be valid until the new corresponding level is released.

Q: What happens after I get the new accreditation?

A: Following the completion of the requirements to acquire your new accreditation you will be issued a completion certificate and accreditation recorded on the national database. Accreditations are valid for 3 years. During this time, you will be required to undertake a number of professional development activities to maintain and renew your accreditation after the 3-year period.

Q: What does this mean for clubs and event organisers?

A: Clubs and event organisers are recommended to encourage their players, parents and volunteers to gain an accreditation through The LearningPool so there are more trained and skilled individuals to support more clubs and events.

Q: What is an accreditation ceiling?

A: An accreditation ceiling is put in place to ensure that individuals do not work above the scope of their training, putting themselves and others at risk. Minimum accreditation requirements and accreditation ceilings limit an individual's activity to the areas of skills they are accredited to deliver.

Q: What are the minimum requirements for each course?

A: Each course will have different minimum requirements and pre-requisites prior to commencement in a course. The common requirements for every accreditation course is current WPA membership and a State specific Working with Children Check. The minimum age to commence the Community stream courses is 14 years.

Q: Where do I go to get help for the online platform?

A: Once logged in to The LearningPool, there is a help button located in the top right corner that will provide information guides and contacts for further assistance.