

**Australian Underwater Federation
National Director of Coaching
Report 16th November 2006**

Level One Ocean and Level One Underwater Hockey coach

The Level 1 Ocean Snorkel Coach & the Level One Underwater Hockey Course is still waiting for the Australian Sport Commission to approve!

Prior to November 2005 I was given a verbal approval of the above courses from John Armstrong 'Coaching and Officiating unit' Australian Sports Commission (ASC).

The written confirmation never arrived. The ratification not qualified, I discovered this approximately August 2006

John Armstrong has now moved on unfortunately leaving that work undone a situation that both myself and ASC are embarrassed about. Peter Topp has taken over our sporting area and I am negotiating and maintaining dialogue with him. There is heavy cloud over the Level One Ocean Coach, which also encompassed Spearfishing and Freediving element. This course may no longer be approved, as it no longer fits within the guidelines of what ASC call a sport, particularly the spearfishing element. This is very disappointing as we have been associated with the Aust Sport Commission for many years.

Please see website listing <http://www.ausport.gov.au/nso/recognition.asp> Copies available at AUF AGM Level One Underwater hockey they have no problem with however it approval to has been delayed.

Level 2 in all displaces needs to be updated and approved. However I can not work on them until the Level One Coach Ocean and Underwater hockey are through.

I was asked to attend the National Director of coaching workshop in Melbourne Oct 2006 by ASC.

Here they informed me of the above possible change. We are negotiating the changes at present. However correspondence and decisions are coming slow. This is good and bad. Good because I have negotiated that people still get there Coaching Course in all disciplines approved, bad because we do not know what direction we are going in. I hope we will get an answer before Xmas.

I repeat at this stage I have negotiated that all current courses level 1 and 2 plus updates will go through. This may or may not change in the near future.

There are options;

1. ASC will dump Ocean snorkelling but keep underwater hockey.
2. I can throw my hands up in disgust, fight the issue according to their guidelines or
3. become a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). I do have experience and success in that area completing having completed this week the requirements for a RTO in Maritime Studies for the company I work for Maritime Constructions.

Updating of the Level 2 for both Underwater Hockey and Ocean snorkelling are sorely in need.

I have done some updating in terms of competency-based assessment with the Level O (orientation) Snorkelling.

Note: the Aust Sports Commission has a new manual and workbook and the Level One sports General. It is a much simpler format.

Work needs to be done to ensure that the content of the Course Coordinator manual also reflect the Level One Sport General changes

Please find below the emails between Peter Topp of ASC and myself

-----Original Message-----

From: Peter Topp [<mailto:Peter.Topp@ausport.gov.au>]
Sent: Tuesday, 10 October 2006 4:08 PM
To: Mary-Anne
Cc: Graham Henderson; Sue Dockar; Tony Wynd
Subject: RE: Australian Underwater Federation
Mary-Anne

Thanks for your email. The process of responding from the ASC is already in motion here. As I indicated I am not in a position to provide an ASC response at this time, I am seeking Executive Approval for that.

In regards to your statements below I offer the following:

The link below provides the recognition guidelines of national sporting organisations by the ASC. The Underwater Federation of Australian is recognised, it is the Ocean Snorkelling disciplines that are in question here and as such the recognition document may not be specific to the case we are dealing with.
<http://www.ausport.gov.au/nso/recognition.asp>

The ASC has questions about the Ocean Snorkelling disciplines inclusion in the NCAS. In regards to Level 2, if this relates to Ocean Snorkelling, I am not in a position to work on it at present.

In regards to existing coaches in Ocean Snorkelling disciplines, their accreditation will remain current until they are due to "update". I am not in a position to advise what will occur beyond that point as the first issue needs to be resolved. If the AUF has conducted courses up to now, these should be submitted to the ASC for accreditation and inclusion in the NCAS as is normal process.

I will seek out a response regarding the Underwater Hockey level 1 course, I was of the impression that this had been finalised. My apologies for the delay here.

I understand your concern regarding correspondence from the ASC, it will be made clear from the ASC's perspective what services will be available to the AUF.

Yes I acknowledge the amount of personal contribution you have made to this and that you have previously sought information / confirmation from the ASC. However as I have indicated I can only influence the future not the past.

I have put the issue in motion here and will endeavour to have a response to you within the timeframe indicated.

I trust you understand my position in this situation, I certainly understand yours, having come from an organisation that relies heavily on the great work undertaken by individuals such as you.

Peter Topp
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-----Original Message-----

From: Mary-Anne [<mailto:mstacey@senet.com.au>]
Sent: Tuesday, 10 October 2006 7:21 AM
To: Peter Topp
Cc: 'Graham Henderson'; Sue Dockar
Subject: Australian Underwater Federation

A reminder.

Dear Peter,

We need to sort the current situation regarding the status of the AUF with NCAS.

As agreed for the time being;

You have agreed to send the new NCAS guidelines for Sports.

You have no problem with the continued inclusion of Level One Underwater Hockey You have questions regarding the Level One Ocean inclusion in the NCAS scheme You acknowledge Level one has been upgraded suitably, however the level still needs to be worked on. You will accept Level 2 as you understand the intent is to work on it as soon as we have sorted out level one status.

As you understand I have a responsibility to the coaches I have and the coaches undertaking qualifications. You stated NCAS will honour any accreditations that the AUF NDC put through put through. Should the circumstances change which you have indicated are being questioned, due to an apparent change in your guidelines) you have agreed to put through qualifications until I am able to sort out an equitable form of qualification.

As I have been waiting a letter from John Armstrong since late 2005 regarding the approval of Level One Underwater Hockey and Ocean which he had given to me verbally. This information I went with to the 2005 AUF AGM.

I am

now embarrassed because that letter never arrived. We need to be very clear with the content of new/current information of this because I do not wish to confuse my colleges or imply I have mislead or misappropriated my duties. My reputation is a stake also.

You have agreed to attend to matter before mid November due to the AUF AGM which I must present at.

You acknowledge I am displeased with the extraordinary amount of time this has taken to resolve. I am not happy that I have had to put the limited funds for coaching which I have personally raised towards this and still have no resolution. This is not good enough. I acknowledge that personally it is not your doing, however you are now responsible for it's resolution.

I met with John Armstrong September 2005. I then submitted the appropriate material by Sept/Oct 2005 as requested. I have now resubmitted to you similar data, with some improvements, 10 August 2006. I have attend the workshops as you suggested.

I am now writing my annual report due to be submitted in the next week.

I

will be presenting this report at the AGM for the AUF in Sydney 17th November. We need a win/win resolution by then

With respect and integrity

Regards

AUF National Director of Coaching

Mary-Anne Stacey

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Courses run by AUF NDC

QLD	Brisbane Adrenalin Spearfishing Oct 7 – 9 2005	Ocean Snorkel Coach - Spearfishing	Completed
SA	Pt Noarlunga Reef, Adelaide SA March 4 - 5 2006	Ocean Snorkel Coach	Completed
QLD	Brisbane Stradbroke island March 31 – May 2 2006	Ocean Snorkel Coach	Completed
NSW	Terrigal October 21-22 2006	Ocean Snorkel Coach	Insufficient financially committed numbers. To be reconvened Anzac weekend April 2007
SA	Kangaroo Island November 18 – 19 2006	Ocean Snorkel Coach	Lack of lead time by organisers reconvene January 17 - 18 2006
SA	Pt Noarlunga Reef, Adelaide SA March 4 - 5 2006	Ocean Snorkel Coach	To be run

Courses run by Level 2 Coaches

ACT	Jocelyn Fitzhardinge	Ocean Snorkel Diver	completed
VIC	David Wails October 17-20 2006	Ocean Snorkel Coach	completed

Proposed Courses 2007

SA	South Australia Kangaroo Island January 17 - 18 2006	Ocean Snorkel Coach	Planning underway
NSW	Terrigal April 2007	Ocean Snorkel Coach	Planning underway
WA	Perth May 4 – 6 2007	Ocean Snorkel Coach and/or Underwater hockey	Any interest?
QLD	Brisbane date to be advised	Ocean Snorkel Coach and/or Underwater Hockey	Any interest?
VIC	Date to be advised	Ocean Snorkel Coach and/or Underwater Hockey	Any interest?
SA	Pt. Noarlunga Reef, Adelaide SA December 15 - 16 2007	Ocean Snorkel Coach	Any interest?

If you would like a course facilitated in your state or your level 2 coaches would like to run one with my guidance/assistance, please contact me as soon as possible so I can program the years activities for 2007

Course Coordinator manuals

Copies of the Course Co-ordinator manual are available to current level 2 snorkel Coaches for a fee of \$150.00.

Proceeds of sale of manuals after printing costs and royalties are paid into the AUF coaching account.

[Copies can be ordered through Mary-Anne Stacey AUF NDC or Sue Dockar](#)

At the AGM I will have a record stating how many copies have printed for the year and monies paid to AUF coaching account

Manuals

- The upgraded **AUF Introductory to Snorkelling and Underwater** hockey manual 2005 edition is available on request for coaches
- The updated **AUF Standards & Procedures manual**. A 2005 edition is available on request for coaches

My 2005 suggestion of making these manuals available to current financial coaches to download of the net for a once only fee of \$10.00 has not been actioned yet. As upgrades occur current financial coaches would be able to download the updated pages at no further cost. This is the way forward and a great way to generate finances for the coaching fund.

Spearfishing

At last here are a few more spearfishing coaches occurring and we do have some spearfishing coaches around the county available.

In collaboration with Adam Smith we have developed a Risk management plan for spearfishing training and competitions. Copies are available I understand it is Dr Adam Smith to review this document on a once a year basis. *An example of this risk management plan will be available at the AGM 2006*

Ocean snorkelling

Courses up and running well. Would like to get more states involved, hence am proposing forward planning.

Free diving

We still not have a Freediving commissioner stepping forward due to insurance reasons. I have run short day course in Freediving over the last year on an as needs basis. I have taught breath holding and mind control for helicopter escape training!!! Amazing where this skill can lead you.

Underwater hockey

Very little movement here quite disappointed. As a volunteer I can only oil squeaky wheels

Insurance

I have not heard any development on this front till recently. I welcome the information that will be presented this AGM. I wish to utilise this service for myself and avail insurance to new and old coaches

This is imperative to set up if we wish to stay within the ASC or set up as an RTO

Other Business

- I would like to remind the Spearfishing and Underwater Commissions, that I can run course bases on 10 participants anywhere in the country. Please plan well ahead

For the future

- I have recently acquired a level 2 Ocean coach in David Wails, Victoria. He has run numerous snorkelling courses over the years in NASDS and has chosen to move in to the AUF. David has bought significant amounts of our resources and it is my intent to visit him on a course in the near future (prior to Xmas if possible) so that we may moderate each other views.
- It would be beneficial to have more Level 2 Coaches running courses. I am happy to assist/guide first time level 2 course coordinators by coming and supporting as a facilitator.
- I had intended to give AUF NDC away this year, however under the current shadow of our accreditation I have chosen to stay on one more year to ensure the safe passage of snorkel courses.
- Should we have to move on from the Australian Sports Commission and become a RTO (Registered Training Organisation). I will be requesting a grant to ensure I have the available time to write an RTO. I have finishing a successful application this week for my current workplace. However that did take me 6 months full time to write. I feel I can do the same for the AUF. I believe I can do it in a shorter timeframe however I do not have the available time and resources to do it at no cost. I am a proposing a grant that would cover me for 3 months at the expenditure rate of one day a week. I can alter my workload so as that I will be available one day a week in which to write.
- We must look into the insurance angle both Aust Sport Commission and RTO's needs to have sufficient insurance for professional liability for coaches, officials, office holders as well as sufficient public liability

Regards

Mary-Anne Stacey

AUF National Director of Coaching