

NWAL COACH CERTIFICATION POLICY

The Northwest Aquatic League (NWAL) takes all steps within its power to assure that swimmers are provided a safe, secure, and healthy environment, including requiring that all paid coaches have successfully passed a criminal background check in order to be certified. It is the policy of NWAL that only certified coaches should aid and instruct swimmers during practices and meets. Only certified coaches displaying NWAL badges will be allowed on the swimming pool deck at any NWAL sanctioned meet. A “coach” is any person who trains, directs, or instructs swimmers for compensation in any form. Compensation includes, but is not limited to, money, goods or services of more than a nominal amount.

It is the responsibility of each team to enforce these rules during practices and team activities. To the extent that a team utilizes volunteers (such as older swimmers) to assist with team activities, including practices, it is the responsibility of the team to establish safeguards to assure that the swimmers remain in a safe, secure and healthy environment. At a minimum, NWAL requires that such volunteers work under the direct supervision of an NWAL certified coach. Each team is encouraged to establish such additional safeguards as are, in the reasonable judgment of the team’s governing organization, necessary to assure the safety, security and health of its swimmers.