

USSA COACHES EDUCATION- 07 MARCH BULLETIN

General News

Welcome to the USSA Coaches Education monthly update. The goal of the bulletin is to regularly update our members through an easily accessible medium. The update will be organized under general topics for quick identification and access. The bulletin will be a helpful tool for coaches to stay current on USSA education news. Be sure to check out the information below.

End of the Season Evaluation:

With the end in sight, now is the time to prepare for the annual program evaluation. Just as the U.S. Ski Team devotes almost two weeks in April for an A to Z program evaluation, every club should have the same process in place. It may not be as detailed or thorough as the teams, but it should correspond with the mission and complexity of the club, with the focus on assessing the current state of the club and how to improve it for the 2007-08 season. There are a number of forms available; the key is to be as objective and honest as possible, including an anonymous survey of athletes and families, a club's number one constituency. After the evaluation is complete, use that information to plan for summer athlete training, coaches development, and the coming season. The season ending program evaluation may be a club's most valuable responsibility.

Program Update – Answering the Forums:

Spring is in the air and the forums are heating up. It's time to set the record straight on a number of issues being raised by member coaches on a variety of forums.

- 1) **Past Certifications:** All coaches certified under the old system have been **grandfathered** in at the same level. To maintain one's certification, a coach is required to pass a continuing education credit (CEC) once every two years. There are a wide variety of CEC options; from attending a local fall coaches seminar, to on-line courses outside of skiing but athlete related, to specific USSA CD-ROM courses, etc. This is not new information, it has been stated in a number of sources that all coaches have received. (see Coaches Resource Center Forum post)
- 2) **USSA and PSIA:** For the past three years, USSA has been engaged in a dialogue with PSIA on a number of issues. For example, USSA has certified a number of the PSIA Alpine Demonstration Team members as USSA Instructors to deliver Level 100 clinics. USSA has participated in the PSIA National Academy, as well as other PSIA conferences. USSA and PSIA have both expressed an interest in working together in a number of areas to the benefit of both organizations. Coaches Education wants to assure its members that we are seeking to utilize the best of PSIA.
- 3) **USSA and Canada:** As a reminder, USSA has enhanced our working relationship with the CSCF through mutual recognition of coaching certifications (A level 200 USSA coach is granted an automatic Level 100 in Canada and the same in the states for a Canadian coach), each organization offers discounts to foreign coaching members on the purchase of educational

materials, and we have agreed to continue to explore further ways that would benefit each other. USSA remains open and anxious to work with all national educational programs and we continue to review as much material as we are able to, but it's worth reminding all members that we are in competition with all these nations as well.

- 4) **USSA Improvements:** While budget limitations will always be a problem for any organization, club or academy, Coaches Education has continued to enhance its member's benefits through a number of specific actions. The **Coaches Resource Center** will continue to add additional educational content in the coming years. A number of articles and forum topics were posted this year to generate discussion and to test the availability of coaches to participate. **Email Blasts:** These monthly bulletins have been an effort to communicate in a more timely manner to all our coaches, we hope it has helped.

This is only a brief review of some of the progress Coaches education has made in the last couple of years, as well as some of the ongoing initiatives that demand time and energy now.

Summer Clinics – Mt Hood:

Clinic Scheduling for 2007-08 Season:

It's not too early to start planning for your 2008 Level 100 or Level 200 clinics. We are already receiving requests for "Program" clinics, as well as regular open clinics. Save you and your coaches time, travel, and lifts tickets, by hosting a "Program" clinic at your ski area. Contact Erin Bordley with possible dates for the 2007-08 season.

