

## FAQs on Swim Australia™ Teacher (SAT) accreditation courses

### Q. What Courses are available?

A. There are three entry level courses. These are the Swim Australia Teacher, the Swim Australia Teacher of Babies and Toddlers and the Swim Australia Teacher of Competitive Swimming. The Swim Australia Teacher of Competitive Swimming used to be known as the Junior Squad and Assistant Coach Course and is the prerequisite to the Bronze Coaching Course. Those Teachers who complete the Swim Australia Teacher may also choose to undertake specialist courses in Adolescents and Adults, Learners with Disability or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (to be released in 2011).

### Q. Does the SAT qualification allow the teacher to deliver GST free 'swimming, water safety, and personal survival skills lessons'?

A. YES. The Swim Australia Teacher course contains all the competencies required\* by the Federal Government (ATO) for this. The other SAT entry level courses have different competencies to that required by the ATO.

### Q. Can I obtain Professional Indemnity Insurance with the SAT accreditation?

A. YES. Your entry level course fees includes membership of the Australian Swimming Coaches and Teachers Association (ASCTA). This not for profit membership based association which owns the SAT courses also offers an industry insurance scheme for accredited Coaches and Teachers via ASCTA-Marsh Insurance Broker's low cost insurance. Call 1300 305 575 for insurance advice. ASCTA-Marsh issues a policy in the name of the Teacher including both \$10M or \$20M public liability and \$10M professional indemnity limits. All SAT qualifications are recognised by ASCTA-Marsh for Swim School's Public Liability Insurance.

### Q. What is the CPR requirement of the SAT Course?

A. Federal Government approved vocational competencies for Swim Teachers include SRCAQU003B. Part of this competency requires a level of competency in basic water rescues and CPR. CPR is recognised by ASCTA as an essential skill and component of one's risk management strategy. Ultimately ongoing CPR competency is a workplace safety decision depending on their risk management plan.

### Q. Who recognises the SAT accreditation?

A. The Federal Government! Under the Federal Government's Vocational Training Act, competencies are established by the relevant industry training package; in this case the National Community Recreation Industry. Competencies determine one's qualification and must be recognised by all government agencies and employers. There are several Registered Training Organisations (ASCTA is one of them) that package the required vocational competencies into a qualification course.

Of course the Australian Swimming Coaches and Teachers Association, as the owners of the course, are committed to maximising its recognition – as do its divisions Swim Australia and asctaACCREDITATION (formerly SwimEd). The SAT accreditation is endorsed by Swimming Australia Ltd. (SAL) – the governing body for the sport in Australia. ASCTA is a Stakeholder in SAL; as are the State Swimming Associations and the Australian Swimmer's Association.

The International Federation of Swimming Teachers Associations (IFSTA) recognises the SAT accreditation internationally. This also provides for a unique relationship with other member organisations; for example, Teacher of Swimming Associations in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Holland, Germany, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the United States Swim Schools Association. SAT accredited Teachers may apply for IFSTA recognition if they work in a member country.

### Q. What else is special about the SAT course?

A. The SAT Course 'theory component' is available on CD-ROM. This gives the Student access to video clips, colour photos, and hundreds of equivalent 'pages' of text that a book or training manual could never match. Self paced learning eliminates non-essential contact time and guides the Student to acquiring the underpinning knowledge base. The 'contact component' (i.e. face-to-face instruction at an aquatic venue called a Practical Induction) of the course can be much more 'hands on' because the theory has already been delivered and assessed. The quality and number of people who contributed to the development of the CD ROM make the content world class!

## For those entering the profession

### Q. I'd like to attend a Swim Australia™ Teacher course. How do I enrol?



Administration:  
SwimEd  
PO Box 158  
Beerwah Q 4519

☎ 61 (0)7 5494 9649  
☎ 61 (0)7 5494 9022  
✉ teaching@swimmed.com  
🌐 www.swimmed.com



A. Go to [www.swimed.com/index\\_files/SATCalendar.htm](http://www.swimed.com/index_files/SATCalendar.htm) The Course Calendar has the Course Administrator's contact details. Contact the Course Administrator to request a specific course enrolment. Please note, most course enrolments close one week prior to the course commencement so it's important to enrol early to allow time for completion of the CD ROM theory study.

**Q. What does the course price cover?**

The recommended retail price for the Swim Australia™ Teacher course is \$250 per Student. The cost covers:

- necessary course resources including the SAT CD ROM and relevant paperwork
- pool admission
- Practical Induction course
- Insurance cover whilst undertaking course requirements and for 28 days after accreditation is granted
- Accreditation costs (upon successful completion - valid for 4 years) and issuing of certificate and Statement of Attainment for vocational competencies
- secure storage of student records for 30 years as required by the Australian Quality Training Framework
- ASCTA Base membership until June 30 the following year

**Q. Most of the Swim Australia™ Teacher courses listed on the Course Calendar are one day? How do you complete a course in such a short time?**

A. Most courses utilise the Swim Australia™ Teacher course CD ROM. Once you enrol, the Course Administrator sends you a Course CD ROM and an Accumulative Training Record to track your progress. Working through the randomised questions following each Unit of Study, you must answer correctly or be referred back to the relevant section for further study. By the time of attendance at the Practical Induction session you will have attained a good level of understanding and knowledge. Depending on your prior knowledge, the self paced theory study may take you up to 30 hours of independent study. You are also required to observe five hours of swimming lessons prior to attending the Practical Induction. The Practical Induction highlights practical components of teaching water familiarisation, swimming and water safety and other practical components deemed necessary before you progress to teaching in a "real" situation. Following the Practical Induction course Students complete practical hours in a swim school setting. The course is considered to be over 60 hours when the 5 hours observation, nominal 20-30 hours "On the Job" training, hours Practical Induction and nominal 30 hours theory study is all taken into account.

**Q. If I'm studying the theory component of the Swim Australia™ Teacher at home in my own time, how do I know that I've studied adequately to set myself on the path to becoming a great Teacher?**

A. The SAT CD ROM requires you to gain a 100% theory pass mark before proceeding onto the next phase of the course. If you incorrectly answer a question, the CD ROM refers you back to the relevant section to study further, before resuming and re-answering the question. The CD ROM was developed by industry experts, has colour photos and videos of teaching sequences and was reviewed by internationally recognised and experienced Teachers so every Swim Australia™ Teacher will graduate with a wide range of knowledge. A Theory Acknowledgement Certificate with your name may be printed once sections have been fully completed.

**Q. My friend is completing the Swim Australia™ Teacher course at the same time as me. Can we just copy each other's answers?**

A. Every Student receives a different mix of randomly selected questions from the CD ROM program. Sufficient variation is introduced to ensure each Student has a thorough knowledge of each unit of study. If you undertake the questions a second time they will differ from the first round.

**Q. I've attended other courses having large enrolments, but I'd prefer small group instruction. Will I have the opportunity to chat with the Course Presenters and ask questions? What is the maximum number in a Swim Australia™ Teacher course?**

A. ASCTA recognises the value that small course numbers and personal instruction can offer; consequently, the maximum number of Students per Presenter in a Swim Australia™ Teacher course is 19. Many courses are much smaller than this number. If additional Students have enrolled, another Course Presenter will be added or no more enrolments will be accepted.

**Q. I have attended courses where the Course Presenter may have the required knowledge, but has limited practical experience. Who presents the Swim Australia™ Teacher course?**

A. Swim Australia™ Teacher Course Presenters are provided with the Swim Australia™ Teacher Course Presenter Kit; all have worked extensively in the industry, hold training and assessing qualifications and are keen to pass on their wealth of knowledge to help improve the standard of Teachers. They are also provided with strategies and training to enable you to transition in easy steps to teaching in a confident and knowledgeable manner.

**Q. Who decides if a Student is competent to teach?**

A. On the Job Competency Assessment **must be** undertaken and **signed off** by a Swim Australia™ Teacher Course Presenter and Assessor **or by recommendation from** a Swim School Manager, a Swim Australia™ Teacher with 2 years industry experience or someone approved by **ascta**ACCREDITATION. A recommendation regarding a Student's competence must be submitted as per the guidelines listed on the competency assessment, and is subject to review by a qualified assessor.

**Q. As I become more experienced teaching I would like to specialise in teaching other niche areas? How do I become qualified?**

The Australian Swimming Coaches & Teachers Association (ASCTA) delivers specialist coaching courses for Elite, Open Water Swimming, Swimming with a Disability the AUSSI Adult course. With Teaching we have available a course for teaching independent learners in groups situations (Swim Australia™ Teacher); the Swim Australia™ Teacher of Babies and Toddlers and the Swim Australia Teacher of Competitive Swimming. The Swim Australia Teacher of Competitive Swimming used to be known as the Junior Squad and Assistant Coach Course and is the prerequisite to the Bronze Coaching Course. Those Teachers who complete the Swim Australia Teacher may also choose to undertake specialist courses in Adolescents and Adults, Learners with Disability or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse.

ASCTA will develop further specialist teaching courses. These will be released over the next few years.

**Q. I have been teaching and have attended conventions and other professional development activities. Do I have to sit through the whole SAT course if I already have the required skills?**

No. Because assessment is competency based, you may be able to attain the standard required in a much shorter period of time. Studying the SAT Course CD ROM and successfully completing the assessment questions, along with documentation of practical experience and evidence of vocational competencies completed (i.e. having a Statement of Attainment issued by a Registered Training Organisation) will allow you to complete a Recognition of Current Competency (RCC) application.

**Q. How long are the Swim Australia™ Teacher qualifications valid for?**

A. 4 years! The same time period recognised by the Australian Sports Commission and Swimming Australia Ltd. for coaching qualifications. Your Swim Australia™ Teacher accreditations will also be extended to fall into line with any new SAT qualifications you gain.

**Q. How do I reaccredit my Swim Australia™ Teacher accreditation/ certificate?**

A. Accreditation must be renewed every 4 years. Six months prior to expiration you will be sent a reminder notice detailing your options, they include:

- if you have been an ASCTA member continuously during the 4 year period, you pay a small administration fee to renew your qualification as this provides you with all the professional development you require, or
- without continuous ASCTA membership you pay a somewhat larger administration fee and must document professional development activities undertaken during the previous 4 year period.
- you should also note that should you undertake another SAT course that all accreditations are then updated for renewal in 4 years time from the date of the last accreditation being issued

**Q. Do the Swim Australia™ Teacher courses advocate a certain way of teaching?**

A. The courses promote sound scientific principles and accepted pedagogy as a best practice model. The SAT Course CD ROM demonstrates how industry professionals operate and the Practical Induction session shows you how to translate theory into practice. On the Job training gives you a further opportunity to fine-tune your teaching skills. Whilst certain methods are promoted, you should have a solid knowledge base from which to make sound teaching decisions. You will be able to develop a 'style' that is consistent with the best practice model, but which suits your teaching environment and individual talents.

## Becoming more involved

**Q. How can I become a Swim Australia™ Teacher Course Presenter?**

A. If you have current SAT accreditation, a minimum 5 years industry experience and hold a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment or equivalent, contact **ascta**ACCREDITATION for a Course Presenter's application. Course Presenter Applications and the Course Presenters Kit are FREE.

**Q. How can I become a Swim Australia™ Course Administrator?**

A. If you feel you have the organisational skills to oversee course delivery, contact **ascta**ACCREDITATION for further information.

## Swim School Registration

**Q. How does Swim Australia™ Teacher Accreditation tie in with my Swim School's registration with Swim Australia?**

A. Swim Australia registered Swim Schools promote best practice by employing only qualified teachers. A teacher's qualifications must contain all six of the core competencies required by the Federal Government. Both the Swim Australia™ Teacher and the Swim Australia™ Teacher specialist qualifications satisfy this requirement.

Swim School operators and teachers should review the Australian Tax Office requirements regarding the content of lessons eligible for GST exemption, please visit

<http://www.ato.gov.au/content/downloads/bus39995n10336062008.pdf>

The following site will provide further details, for more information contact the Australian Taxation Office directly.

<http://www.treasurer.gov.au/DisplayDocs.aspx?doc=pressreleases/2007/075.htm&pageID=003&min=pcd&Year=&DocType=0> For