



Survive and Save Club / Survive & Save Training achieves 'Aquamark approved status'

Introduction

The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) Aquamark scheme is designed to improve and enhance the quality of learn to swim programmes in the UK focusing on a best value service principle.

The objectives of the scheme include:

- To ensure effective implementation of ASA National Plan for Teaching Swimming, or the principles implicit in the National Plan for Teaching Swimming;
- To assist the provision of a consistently effective service to customers and participants, and to ensure that this service continues to improve in the future;
- To provide a framework to assist organisations to meet the requirements of Best Value;
- To provide a benchmark to which swimming programme providers can aspire;
- To facilitate sharing of best practice and to develop role models;
- To encourage the continuing professional development of teachers and coaches;
- To provide information on effectiveness of service delivery to customers and participants;
- To provide an external validation of performance.

The Aquamark consists of the programme criteria, a self assessment against these areas and an official assessment. There are four modules which is divided in to 21 areas:

Module 1: Programme Operation 1.1 Teaching Methodology 1.2. Programme Content 1.3. Lesson Planning 1.4. Programme Delivery 1.5. Programme Monitoring 1.6 Health and Safety Management 1.7 Child Protection 1.8. Facilities and Equipment	Module 3: Customer Relations 3.1 Participant/Customer Care 3.2 Participant/Customer Feedback 3.3 Session Bookings 3.4 Advertising and Promotions
Module 2: Staffing 2.1 Staff Planning and Recruitment 2.2 Staff Education, Training and Development 2.3 Staff Communication 2.4 Child Protection	Module 4: Policy and Strategy 4.1 Strategy Development and Implementation 4.2 Research 4.3 Financial Management 4.4 Partnerships 4.5 Management Style

We decided to complete modules 1 & 2 which led to us achieving the '**ASA Approved Scheme for Teaching and Coaching of Swimming**' focusing on the quality of the programme operation & staffing. We have decided to complete the modules 3 & 4 to lead to the 'ASA Premier Scheme for Teaching and Coaching of Swimming' by Summer 2008. Each area had a number of elements that followed a four point scale. If the element has:

.... not been considered or implemented	0
.... been considered but not implemented	1
.... been partly implemented	2
.... been fully implemented	3
.... demonstrated excellence through continuous improvement; role model	4



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Results

The club was visited by Sue Webb, the ASA Appointed assessor on a 'mystery' guest visit and subsequently the final assessment a fortnight later in September 2007. The results are as follows:

Ref	Unit 1 – Programme Operation	No of Elements	Required minimum score	Actual score	Maximum score available
1.1	Teaching Methodology	(4)	9	15	16
1.2	Programme Design and Content	(7)	16	19	28
1.3	Session Planning	(7)	16	26	28
1.4	Programme Delivery	(20)	48	57	80
1.5	Programme Monitoring	(7)	16	27	28
1.6	Health and Safety Management	(7)	16	18	28
1.7	Facilities and Equipment	(6)	14	15	24
TOTAL SCORE FOR UNIT 1 (76%)			135	177	232

Ref	Unit 2 - Staffing	No of Elements	Required minimum score	Actual score	Maximum score available
2.1	Staff Planning and Recruitment	(8)	19	31	32
2.2	Staff Education, Training and Development	(10)	24	37	40
2.3	Staff Communication	(6)	14	19	24
2.4	Child Protection	(5)	12	14	20
TOTAL SCORE FOR UNIT 2 (87%)			69	101	116

Strengths

We achieved outstanding scores in:

- 1.1 teaching methodology
- 1.3 session planning
- 1.5 programme monitoring
- 2.1 staff planning and recruitment
- 2.2 Staff education, training and development

Noticeably, we had achieved a number of four points "demonstrated excellence through continuous improvement; role model" in those areas.

Areas for development

- Formal research to develop expansion
- More emphasis to LTAD FUNDamentals
- Continue to develop and strengthen links with the centre and other clubs
- Minor issues on the programme delivery to be rectified including further peer monitoring & meetings
- Development of specific policies including facilities and implementation



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Assessor Comments

Sue Webb writes;

- "During the mystery visit the assessor spoke to a number of parents of club members, adult members who took lessons, children and teaching staff. In **every case there was real enthusiasm and positive feedback about the teachers and Survive and Save Club**, regarding the structure, standards, high motivation and results achieved. Several parents had been unhappy with the quality of lessons their children had received **elsewhere** and **gave praise** for the standards and progress they and/or their children **had made since joining** the Survive and Save Club."
- "It is a **very much a family orientated club** with a large number of teenage members and **the atmosphere was friendly and inclusive**. A significant majority of the club members and teaching team represent the diverse ethnic minority community. Overall there **was a real buzz** and everyone appeared involved. The assessor observed several lessons taking place and teachers and pupils had a good rapport."
- "Teachers arrived on time in order to take the equipment and prepare equipment. Teachers were all dressed appropriately. Teachers were friendly and approachable. Teachers relate well to the age of the pupils and have a pleasant manner. They gave clear instructions, were checking understanding and had clear audible voices. Both sessions observed comprised entry, introductory activity, main theme, contrasting and concluding activities. Overall the content and structure was appropriate to the needs of the group. Progressive practices were used for strokes and skills."

Overall summary

- "**Survive and Save Club** has remained a **friendly and family orientated club**. It has a **clear vision** of their future and have set the club on the path to **become a centre of excellence**. They have an **innovative and enthusiastic committee**, led by Ray Lau and Sally Baldwin, who are committed to the success of their club. They have made great efforts to **implement good practice in every** area. To date, they have **achieved remarkable success** in encouraging their older swimmers, not only to stay within swimming and lifesaving, but also to **remain in the club** and to **gain a wide range of professional qualifications** such as ASA Helpers, Swimming teachers and RLSS Assistant Lifesaving Teachers, Lifeguards and Trainer / Assessors. Through all these changes Survive and Save Club has **remained a friendly and family orientated club**."
- "Survive and Save is a **role model for equality**, encouraging people from ethnic minority groups into teaching who in turn act as **role models** for the **diverse ethnic groups** they teach."
- "Ultimately teaching standards are the **key to success of a learn to swim scheme**. With so many newly qualified teaching staff, the **focus is now on the quality of teaching** and by implementing the Aquamark recommendations of lesson planning and monitoring, **the model is in place to achieve excellence**. Provided this structure continues, the **benefits to all will be unprecedented**."
- "Survive and Save club are to be **commended for their outstanding achievements** in such a short time."

Ray Lau

Education & Development Officer
Oct 2007



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