

To USA Swimming Local Swimming Committees & Local Member Clubs

## **Assisting a Coach**

**Article 502.4.3 “Anyone who coaches athletes at a USA Swimming practice or competition must be a coach member of USA Swimming and must have satisfactorily completed safety training and background screening required by USA Swimming.”**

The above article was passed by the USA Swimming House of Delegates and is published in the 2009 USA Swimming rulebook. Effective January 1, 2009, any type of coaching including, but not limited to, swimming and dry land training, must be provided by a registered USA Swimming member Coach. Coaching by any other person who is not a registered coach member, including USA Swimming Athlete Members, is not permitted.

In order for someone other than a coach member to assist the coach in coaching activities, that person must be under the “direct supervision” of the USA Swimming coach and must be a USA Swimming member (i.e. athlete or non-athlete, non-coach member). This would mean the coach must be on deck at all times and must be directly involved in whatever activity with which the non-coach member is assisting. For instance, an athlete could demonstrate strokes to younger swimmers and the athlete would not have to be a coach member in that instance. However, a good example of what is not allowed would be an athlete who is working with a group of swimmers while the coach is separately working with a second group of swimmers. This would not be classified as “direct supervision” and the athlete would have to be a coach member in order to work with the separate group.

Specific questions about this should be addressed to Member Services Staff at USA Swimming Headquarters at 719.866.4578.