

ASA Young Aquatic Organiser Award

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1. Who is it for?

The Young Aquatic Organiser Award (YAOA) is aimed at 14 – 18 year olds who are developing their leadership and coaching skills and wish to become involved in the administration, teaching, coaching or officiating of aquatic activities.

The award aims to:

- Give young people an insight in to the organisation of the ASA and clubs that fall within its jurisdiction
- Equip candidates with the skills to help plan, deliver and evaluate the running of an aquatic event
- Give candidates the opportunity to volunteer within an ASA recognised Swim21 club
- Encourage candidates to develop their skills within aquatic sports

It is an ideal bolt on award for young people following vocational sport qualifications at school or college.

Candidates must be at least 14 years of age at the start of the learning programme and have confirmed access to an ASA accredited Swim 21 club.

2. What is the syllabus?

The qualification comprises of six units and is designed to be delivered using a combination of theory and practical.

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|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| Unit 1 | The structure and organisation of the ASA and the clubs within the ASA | 1 hour theory |
| Unit 2 | The skills and qualities required to be a Young Aquatic Organiser | 1 hour theory |
| Unit 3 | Planning of an aquatic event | 2 hours theory |
| Unit 4 | Delivery of an aquatic event | 2 hours practical |
| Unit 5 | Evaluation of an aquatic event | 1 hour theory |
| Unit 6 | Voluntary placement within an aquatic club | 3 hours |
| Total hours | | 10 hours |

All units are mandatory and candidates must be successful in each.

Candidates are required to complete all aspects of the programme within a period of 12 months from the commencement of the course.

There are no formal assessment requirements for this award; however, all candidates will need to demonstrate competency in all units to achieve the certificate.

In addition, the candidate will be required to present a satisfactory report for their voluntary placement within an ASA Accredited Swim21 Club from the nominated point of contact at the club.

3. Who can deliver it?

All presenters who deliver this course will need to meet the following criteria and be approved by the ASA:

- Have recognised experience in the delivery of qualifications and/or awards
- Have experience of working with young people
- Have a full CRB check
- Have knowledge of the ASA
- Have attended an Orientation Session for Presenters*

*Throughout the year ASA regions will organise and deliver Orientation Sessions for Presenters, if you are interested in delivering this Award please contact the Education Officer in your region or email volunteering@swimming.org.

4. Who can organise it?

The course does not have to be run through the ASA Approved Centre network, therefore a variety of people/organisations are able to organise it, including but not limited to:

- Swimming Development Officers
- ASA Club representatives
- Club or Regional Volunteer Officers
- YAOA Presenters
- ASA Approved Centres
- ASA Regional Development Officers
- ASA Education Officers

5. How can I organise a course?

If you are interested in organising a course the first step is to find a Presenter. You can do this by contacting the ASA Awarding Body or emailing volunteering@swimming.org for a list of Presenters in your area.

Once you have found a Presenter you will need to liaise with them to ensure the facilities are available for both the theory and practical elements of the course.

Courses must be registered centrally with the ASA Awarding Body a minimum of 28 days prior to commencement of the date.

More information regarding organising a course can be found on the website.

Please note that presenter training commenced in October 2007 and is being organised only where there is an identified demand. If there are no trained presenters in your area you may have to allow extra time for this process to be completed.

6. What is involved in organising and delivering the Award?

The ASA Young Aquatic Organiser Award has three parts: a theory session, a practical session and a voluntary club placement. The organiser and presenter need to ensure that both the theory and practical sessions are organised and that the candidates have a confirmed link with an ASA Swim21 Club for the placement. It is likely that they will need to involve other people to help coordinate the practical session and the club placement.

7. How do we organise the practical session?

The idea of the practical session during the course is to provide young people with an insight into organising an event and to give them the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in leadership and organisation whilst carrying out a meaningful role.

Ideally we would like the young people to organise and run their own event and there are a number of opportunities of linking in this Award with other programmes to do so, such as Step into Sport, assisting to deliver Aquatic Festivals with Competition Managers and working with clubs to deliver PESSCL programmes or fun competitions at the end of training.

In the long term we would like to see the course included in yearly programmes to coincide with events that are being run throughout the year. A couple of examples of how this might be achieved are below:

- A club has some time trials planned in October so they organise a YAO course to run in September and delegate the organisation of a fun session at the end of the time trials to the young people attending the course.
- A School Sport Partnership plan to run an Aquatic Festival in July, so they organise a YAO course to run in May and delegate a session during the festival for the young people to plan and deliver.

If it is not possible for the young people to organise an independent event for the practical session, there are other options to consider:

- To link into an existing event and have specific roles delegated to the young people
- To deliver an event using the candidates as participants
E.g. 15 candidates on the course split into three groups of 5, each group plans and organises a 20-minute event. Each group runs their event using the remaining 10 candidates as participants.

Whichever way the practical session is delivered it is important to make sure that the young people have a meaningful role and are given the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in leadership and organisation.

8. Does the placement have to be with an ASA Swim21 club or can it be with any ASA affiliated club?

Yes, the placement has to be with an ASA Accredited Swim21 club.

A number of candidates may already be involved with a Swim21 club, however, for those that aren't, a suitable placement will need to be found. The organiser can liaise with both the Presenter and their ASA Regional Development Officer to find a suitable placement.

If there are a limited number of accredited clubs in your area and you are struggling to find suitable placements please email volunteering@swimming.org for help.

9. Will clubs know what to do with the Young Person placed with them?

A resource for ASA Swim21 clubs has been developed to support them in taking placements. Hopefully this will guide them into making it a valuable experience for both the young person and the club, and in the long run to maybe gain another volunteer! This is available for clubs to download from the website.

10. Is there a cost to candidates?

Yes, there will be a nominal fee of £5.75 per candidate to provide certificates and resources.

11. I want to attend a course who do I contact?

In the first instance please speak to someone in your school or club to express an interest in the Award and see if someone can help to organise the course for you. If you would like further information please email volunteering@swimming.org.

12. When will candidates receive their certificates?

The candidate will receive their certificate once they have successfully completed the voluntary placement for unit 6 and a satisfactory report has been received.

13. Will the young people be insured during their club placement?

If the young person is already a member of a club affiliated to the ASA they will be covered for any voluntary role. If they are not a member they will be insured through temporary membership for a period of 3 consecutive weeks. The clubs do not need to fill in any forms to access this temporary membership but will they need to take a record of the volunteers details and the date that they volunteered.