

Dear TU/LAU Officer:

USA Rugby is improving the Coach Development Program (CDP) to provide better and more accessible learning experiences for coaches. The CDP has changed significantly in structure to provide the following benefits:

- Alignment with the IRB, which allows USA Rugby's certification to gain acceptance throughout the world.
- Provides online access to coach development course modules and resources
- Provides coaches the opportunity to obtain multiple certifications through the CDP: USA Rugby (iRB) certification, National Center for Sports Safety certification (PREPARE) and Positive Coaching Alliance certification.

The former progressive structure (Level I, II, and III) has been replaced with courses that allow coaches to select the most appropriate course to meet their needs and those of their audience. The new CDP program certifies that a coach is competent in areas specific to each course. This fall three of the courses will be offered: *Youth, Introducing Rugby* and *Developing Rugby Skills*.

The Coach Development Program now includes an online coaching portal, and will give coaches access to multiple online modules and resources. To gain certification it is required to complete on-line modules and a face-to-face workshop. The online modules include the Foundations of Coaching Rugby, PREPARE (NCCSS Sports Safety) and the companion modules specific to each certification course. The new certification will be valid for three years and can be renewed with attendance at any USA Rugby Coach Development Program offering.

USA Rugby recognizes that many coaches currently hold accreditation from the previous system of instruction, and to facilitate this transition, USA Rugby will provide the three-year term, effective August 1, 2005 for all previous accreditations. After three years, on August 1, 2008, all current accreditations will expire. To maintain their coaching credentials and privileges past this date, previously accredited coaches will need to complete the USA Rugby Coach Certification program. USA Rugby strongly encourages all coaches to seek certification within the new system to be as well informed and well-trained as possible. It is in the best interests of this great game and those who play it to insure that our coaches teach in a highly effective and safe manner.

We recognize that many TUs and LAUs require their teams to have an accredited (Level I) coach. The new CDP program equivalency of Level I accreditation is certification in either *Introducing Rugby* or *Developing Rugby Skills* (completed PREPARE and Foundations of Coaching Rugby online modules, course specific modules, and a face-to-face workshop).

**Remember current Level I accreditation will be valid for three years from August 1, 2005.**

We are working to facilitate your ability to verify certifications. You can get more information on the new programs at [www.usarugby.org/cdp](http://www.usarugby.org/cdp) or you can email Pete Steinberg ([psteinberg@usarugby.org](mailto:psteinberg@usarugby.org)) or Katie Wurst ([kwurst@usarugby.org](mailto:kwurst@usarugby.org)) with further questions.