

**National Surf Schools and Instructors Association
(NSSIA)**



**Surf/SUP Instructors and Coaches Initial
Application**

(PRINT CLEARLY)

Name _____ Date _____

Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Accreditation applying for:

Level: Surfing Apprentice ____ Instructor ____ Senior ____ Master ____
(Check one based on qualifications detailed herein)

Certifications: Surf Instructor ____ SUP Ocean ____ SUP Inland (flatwater) ____

Surf Coach ____ SUP Coach ____
(Check all applying for)

Circle the training manual language you are requesting: English, Spanish,
French, German, Italian, Dutch, Swedish, or Portuguese

Application Submission Instructions:

Completed application with supporting documentation (you do not
need a complete package to get started) and \$35 basic one
certification fee plus \$10 for each additional certification can be mailed
to:

NSSIA
P.O. Box 550
Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732

Note: Applications received without payment will not be processed.

Note: NSSIA endorsed instructor training may be acceptable for instructor experience.

Upon receipt of this application, the NSSIA will send you our instructor's manual, a self examination, and a liability release to be signed and returned. The examination is keyed to the instructor's manual. You have up to 6 months to complete the self study, or up to one year upon request. When the self study examination and release are returned, and all reference letters have been received, you will be provisionally certified until such time as you can attend a formal NSSIA certification class. It is strongly encouraged that you complete the self study course before attending the classroom course. Classroom courses are taught at various locations and by individual master level instructors throughout the year. Recertification does not require a re-examination. Formal classroom training requirements for non-US instructors are determined on a case by case basis.

Surf and/or SUP School Owners Note: You must complete the individual NSSIA instructor certification program before your school can apply for NSSIA school accreditation or the NSSIA insurance programs.

Per the instructions below, on a separate sheet, provide a detailed record of employment/instruction activities, or attach information as indicated. Also, include any NSSIA training (location, date, etc.) that may be relevant.

Requirement 1

Your personal resume to include: your surf teaching job history, surf organizational involvement, major competitions, and judging experience, if any. Template provided separately if requested.

Requirement 2

Copies of Certificates (include other instructor certifications if available)

CPR, First Aid

Requirement 3

Evidence of number of years of surfing or SUP experience to support the level you are applying for - 7 years minimum (surf) or 2 years minimum (SUP). This evidence can take the form of a picture, article, or be part of a recommendation letter. Note that if you claim to have surfed before 8 years old, be prepared to prove it.

Requirement 4

List your school, instructor, and/or coaching references the NSSIA will be receiving.

Note: Recommendation letters on your behalf should be sent or emailed by the surf schools and individuals identified on this application directly to the NSSIA. You will be notified of acceptance status when all supporting documentation is received.

Requirement 5 (as applicable for advanced level certifications)

Submit either the advertising brochure for your school, or a copy of your website page, plus a photo of you giving a lesson.

Other Information for Consideration

Formal education and/or teaching certificate in education

Copy of supporting articles published about you, your programs, or articles you have written

Memberships in Surfrider, surf clubs, recreation groups, etc.

Contracts you have received from large corporations, government agencies, educational institutions, etc. related to surf instruction

List of surfing events you have directed. Note competitive background will have some bearing on your certification level, but only as a surf coach.

Depending on your background, these are the current Certification Levels (Surf) you can apply for:

Apprentice - Level 1 - SURF

- 2 years experience as a surf instructor in a licensed surf school.
- 2 accredited school or certified instructor references
- Sign a waiver certificate that they have read and will implement the NSSIA approved surf etiquette/water safety training in their programs and that they have read and will implement the NSSIA approved Surf School code of ethics.
- Minimum of 7 years verifiable surfing experience.

Note: Entry level applicants with no experience will also be placed in this category for a minimum of 2 years. They must subsequently receive a minimum score on the self study and the classroom exam to be advanced.

Apprentice - Level 1 - SUP

- 1 years experience as a SUP instructor in a licensed school (inland or ocean).
- 2 school or instructor references

- Sign a waiver certificate that they have read and will implement the NSSIA approved surf etiquette/water safety training in their programs and that they have read and will implement the NSSIA approved Surf School code of ethics.

Instructor – Level 2 - SURF

- 4 years experience as a surf instructor
- 3 accredited school or certified instructor references
- Sign a waiver certificate that they have read and will implement the NSSIA approved surf etiquette/water safety training in their programs and that they will read and will implement the NSSIA approved Surf School code of ethics.
- CPR certificate.
- Minimum of 10 years verifiable surfing experience.

Instructor – Level 2 - SUP

- 2 years experience as a SUP instructor (ocean or inland).
- 3 school or instructor references.
- Sign a waiver certificate that they have read and will implement the NSSIA approved surf etiquette/water safety training in their programs and that they will read and will implement the NSSIA approved Surf School code of ethics.
- CPR certificate.
- Minimum of 5 years verifiable SUP experience.

Senior – Level 3 - SURF

- 6 years experience as a surf instructor
- 3 accredited school or certified instructor references
- Sign a waiver certificate that they have read and will implement the NSSIA approved surf etiquette/water safety training in their programs and that they will read and will implement the NSSIA approved Surf School code of ethics.
- CPR certificate.
- Minimum of 10 years verifiable surfing experience.

Note: Applicants must subsequently receive a minimum score on the self study and the classroom exam to be advanced to this level. Additionally there is a supplemental exam required and all must undergo a background investigation.

Senior – Level 3 - SUP

- 3 years experience as a SUP instructor (must include 1 year ocean)
- 3 accredited school or certified instructor references
- Sign a waiver certificate that they have read and will implement the NSSIA approved surf etiquette/water safety training in their programs

and that they will read and will implement the NSSIA approved Surf School code of ethics.

- CPR certificate.
- Minimum of 5 years verifiable SUP experience.

Master - Level 4 - SURF

- 8 years working as a surf instructor
- 4 accredited school or certified instructor references
- 1 certified master instructor endorsement*
- Sign a waiver certificate that they have read and will implement the NSSIA approved surf etiquette/water safety training in their programs and that they have read and will implement the NSSIA approved Surf School code of ethics.
- CPR certificate.
- Minimum of 20 years verifiable surfing experience.
- Criminal Background investigation (performed by NSSIA).
- Must be able to complete and pass the NSSIA Senior/Master level supplement.

Note: Applicants must subsequently receive a minimum score on the self study and the classroom exam to be advanced to this level. Additionally there is a supplemental exam required and all must undergo a background investigation.

Master - Level 4 - SUP

- 6 years working as a SUP instructor (must include 3 years ocean).
- 4 accredited school or certified instructor references.
- 1 certified master instructor endorsement*
- Sign a waiver certificate that they have read and will implement the NSSIA approved surf etiquette/water safety training in their programs and that they have read and will implement the NSSIA approved Surf School code of ethics.
- CPR certificate.
- Minimum of 20 years verifiable surfing experience.
- Criminal Background investigation (performed by NSSIA).

Coach – (SURF ONLY)

- 2 years experience as a surf coach for a high school or college
- 2 years experience as a competitor and/or contest judge
- 1 letter of recommendation from an athletic director or letter of recommendation from a current or former top 25 professional surfer, contest director, judge, or coach.
- Sign a certificate that they have read and will implement the NSSIA approved surf etiquette/water safety training in their programs and that they have read and will implement the NSSIA approved Surf School code of ethics.

- CPR certificate.
- Minimum of 10 years verifiable surfing experience.
- Must be able to pass the NSSIA surf coaching supplement and exam.

Coach – (SUP)

- 3 years SUP experience
- 2 years SUP instructor
- 1 year coaching experience any sport
- 2 years race history experience (competitor of coach)
- Must be able to pass the NSSIA SUP coaching supplement and exam.

Exceptions

† At this time both colleges and lifeguard groups offer surfboard lessons and surfboard classes. Recommendations and proof of experience in these venues is also acceptable.

† Additional Experience: Formal training in a NSSIA sponsored and endorsed instructors' training course may be acceptable for up to one additional year of instructor experience.

† If an applicant cannot meet the 2 accredited surf schools, 2 certified instructors, or top 25 professional references requirements, but are otherwise qualified, they may submit an application to the Director of Certifications with non-accredited references. Certifications will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

*Military instructor applicants will be considered on a case by case basis.