Encouraging CPD

More sports are focusing on CPD to up skill and update their instructor and coaches. RYA Racing has a well-developed, but compulsory approach for their coaches. Should we be offering CPD as part of our instructor training pathway, if so, how can we encourage our instructors and coaches to participate and what should we be offering?

Most feedback that came back from the discussion groups agreed that CPD should be offered, but that there were important challenges and considerations to be investigated.

Groups felt CPD was a vital part of ensuring participants have a quality experience, and therefore should be designed to enthuse and up skill instructors. It was believed that it should be in the form of compulsory updates for Coaches, Trainers, but biannual rather than every 5 years, reflecting on the Racing Division as a model to consider.

One group felt CPD should be compulsory and graded to personal qualification with credits gained with different scores for qualification level, similar to the UKCC format.

Others felt less strong and believed working with SI's to help them deliver the CPD instructors required was a far more suitable, flexible and attainable route, relieving the pressure, showing CPD in a positive light and hopefully encouraging more people to participate.

The kind of topics groups thought should be covered was varied from centre and safety management to Instructional and communication techniques, on water skills and session's management.

The RYA Training Department has made several attempts to run CDP so here were some of the ideas as to how the groups thought it might work:

- Evening winter workshops as time of year is important
- Instructor training day
- Needs to be a mixed; centre based, regional based and nationally
- Good communication and promotion is required
- Possibility of using E-learning
- Better use of Wavelength

Possible CPD linked to inspection process, such as updates delivered when visiting etc.