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## An evaluation of introductory courses for officials and coaches

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SLSA published a Junior Coaching Manual in mid 2009 which was issued to every club and branch in Australia. The response to the resource was fantastic with the 1,000 copies that were printed being sold within two months. This indicated to SLSA the need to do more for coach education at this level and to also offer similar opportunities in the area of officiating.

Until now it has been hard to convince individuals to commit to undertaking a Level 1 coaches or officials course to work with junior athletes (U16) due to perceptions of the theory intensive nature and duration of these courses. SLSA has developed a Junior Surf Coach course that will underpin the Level 1 coaching course and become the introduction to the coach accreditation pathway. The course runs for six hours, contains four theory modules and four practical modules, and can be delivered at any club by an experienced Level 1 coach. Participants will receive the Junior Coaching manual and a Junior Coaching DVD, and will gain recognition of prior learning towards the Age Managers award and the Level 1 coaching accreditation. A similar course and resources are currently being developed for a Junior Surf Officials Course.

This paper will present the results of an evaluation of the courses (Coaches and Officials). The evaluation will consist of a survey of all of those who participated in the course to determine course strengths as well as areas of weakness which can be improved.

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