WABA/WABR Training Institute Agreement October 1st, 2025

Preamble

A Training Institute (TI) is an integral part of the Worldwide Aquatic Bodywork Association (WABA) organization. It is a local representative of WABA in a specific country/area or an international representative of an Aquatic Bodywork (AB) modality. The local and international TI's globally promote WABA teachings and ethical values and have the authority to implement variations in order to meet specific cultural differences and training requirements. The local and international TI must submit certifications for Providers and Practitioners, oversee their progress, and assist in reducing the responsibility of the WABA Registry (WABR). TI's shall provide notice to their Providers and Practitioners to pay yearly WABA fees and remind them of Continuing Education requirements.

WATSU® WABA TI's do not have territoriality and exclusivity, in accordance with Harold Dull's wishes and free market philosophy.

As Watsu and other Aquatic Bodywork (AB) are expanding globally, WABA provides three options for creating a Training Institute.

Option #1

WABA will respect the existing and long-acting TI's and Instructors. WABA understands their contribution in the development of Watsu and/or AB 's.

It will recognize the TI, if the following criteria are satisfied:

a. TI has a fully active, comprehensive WATSU® and/or AB-path program
b. TI has at least one WATSU® 2 and/or AB level 2 Instructor on the Team
c. TI has certified at least 5 Watsu or other AB Practitioners in the last 5 years

If the existing TI meets all the above criteria, then the Board will consider all the satisfied criteria, and may give priority to the longstanding TI prior to approving a new TI in that area and/or country. Consideration of these criteria can be suspended by the Board when:

1. There is population of more than six million or
2. The new TI location is within 200km from another TI.

The WABA Board has the authority to address special situations on a case-by-case evaluation.

The WABA Board has the authority to ask for mediation, and/or in some cases make the final decision in case of conflict between Instructors.

Option #2 especially conceived for WATSU® TI

Procedure for creating a new WATSU® TI in an area or country where there is no local physical presence of a WATSU/WABA Instructor or WATSU® TI:

An application must be submitted to the WABA Board with at least one of the following prerequisites:

a. In an area where a TI is proposed, (with external instructor assistance) there is at least one certified local Watsu® Assistant or local Basic Watsu® Instructor already active
b. There is an external WATSU® level 1 or higher Instructor- who has established experience in teaching and organizing, and who is willing to promote WATSU® in the area.

Under the Second option, If the TI is being managed from abroad (because there is no local Instructor) when the local community grows to the size to support a full-time TI, it is advised to pass the TI on to a dedicated local assistant and or Instructor to coordinate the affairs of the TI.

Option #3 TI of other AB Techniques under WABA (Jahara®, WaterDance, HealingDance®, OBA®, WOGA® *etc.*)
This TI is a specialized AB administered in 3-4 States/Countries, continental or worldwide basis. They may not have WATSU® as part of their program. They are not obligated to follow Watsu ESAC guidelines. All members, practitioners, assistants and instructors must commit to WABA ethical standards.
WABA will respect the existing and long-acting TI's and Instructors. WABA understands their contribution in the development of a specific AB 's on a continental or worldwide basis. It will recognize the new TI, if the following criteria are satisfied:

d. TI has a fully active, comprehensive AB-path program
e. TI has at least one AB level 2 Instructor on the Team
f. TI has certified on his personal registry or on WABR, at least 5 Practitioners (any kind of AB modalities) within the last 5 years
g. TI has content of its technical program, an AB modality that is unique from the already recognized WABA AB modalities. The WABA Board may request ESAC to review the submitted TI curriculum prior to approval.

If the existing TI meets all the above criteria, then the Board will consider priority for a longstanding TI prior to approving a new TI associated with a new AB modality.

The WABA Board has the authority to address special situations on a case-by-case basis.

The Board shall undertake the following:

To assist in establishing quality TIs, the Board shall support and review the goals of *each new* TI every two years. This review can last for 6 years, maximum.

To support established TI's the Board will issue a survey every four years, to assess how the TI may be best supported in the future.

Everyone who is applying to open a new TI must:

(1) Be in good standing with the WABA Registry;
(2) Be current on all membership payments and training obligations; and
Have maintained a clear ethical record for the preceding four years, which includes, without limitation, being found accountable of a substantiated formal complaint.

If a TI fails to pay required fees or does not organize courses in its designated region, it will first be suspended by Board decision and after 3 years he will lose his official status and removed from the registry.

Details of the TI agreement under WABA and WABR

The submission of this Agreement dated October 1st, 2025 to the _____Training Institute on _____, 202X confirms the request to be assigned a place as TI on the Worldwide Aquatic Bodywork Registry, referred herein as The Registry and to be a WABA member. The Registry is owned by Aquatic Wellness Foundation (AWF) who oversee the WATSU® and TANTSU® service marks. The Registry works closely with the Worldwide Aquatic Bodywork Association (WABA), a non-profit association formed in Switzerland in 2016. The above provisions, starting with the Preamble and the hereafter set forth provisions are to be attested to at the end of this document as being read, understood and agreed to by the Training Institute receiving this document.

Any significant future amendments, rules and/or guidelines adopted by WABA and thereafter by EGA (the Virtual General Assembly of the WABA members) shall be presented to the Training Institute for consideration and acceptance before they become a part of this Agreement.

TI specific tasks

1. **Each TI** shall have a program for a student to be registered as a practitioner that includes all the core requirements established by ESAC for WATSU® certification programs and approved by the WABA Board. Programs may include Watsu® but are not exclusive to Watsu
Other Aquatic Bodywork Programs need to be approved by Board and placed on the Registry, i.e. Healing Dance®, Waterdance®, Aquatic Integration™, OBA® etc.…

2. **Each TI** may choose to have a WATSU® Intern Provider level in their WATSU® Practitioner program in which a student practices WATSU® Aquatic Bodywork as an intern at a facility where they have been working as a bodyworker and/or therapist. Upon presenting a letter from their employer, stating the need for their services, the student and SPA (or equivalent) signs a contract. The contract guarantees the completion of the practitioner program by the end of the subsequent 24 months. The **TI** oversees the fulfilment of the contract, if the participant in the provider program needs more time, an extension of maximum 2 years can be requested from the Board.

3. **Each TI** will provide to the public a clear description of their programs. Any additional details can be found on their TI's web site. These listed programs can be reviewed by ESAC and/or WABA Board and if the need for improvements in the program is found, the TI will make those improvements within time designated by the Board.

4. The TI will cooperate with other TIs associated with WABA and follow the guidelines

established by its Ethics Committees. No TI may claim exclusive rights to a territory and, if there is an earlier authorized TI in a country, their programs and fees must not be undercut by the subsequent TI's

A. WABA and WABR Fees

To stay registered in WABA Registry as TI you should pay the following Fees:

a. Annual Fee: The TI must pay an annual fee. The fee is based on the number of instructors registered under the TI for their classes. Registry forwards to WABA the full amount.
    i. $50 – if one or two instructors.
    ii. $100 – if three or four instructors.
    iii. $150 – if five or more instructors.

b. Authorization Fee:
    i. $100 – First time instructor Authorization (any kind of AB modality)
    ii. $50 – First time for all other Authorizations Ex: Practitioner/Assistant
    iii. $ 0 – for subsequent levels or different AB modalities

c. Renewal Fee: In whatever way they are renewed, Registry forwards to WABA $10 towards each practitioner/assistant and $40 for each instructor.
    i. $100 – renewal of Instructor Authorization
    ii. $25 – renewal for Assistants and practitioners.
    iii. $20 – renewal of practitioner if the TI wants to maintain its own list and communicate the list to the WABR Office.

d. Posting Fee: The fees are levied for posting the classes on the registry under a training institute. The fees are fixed as per the classification of Economies under UN – HDI Index of Developed economies, Economies in transition and Developing Economies.

e. Additional Fee: If the student or practitioner (for CEU) wishes to have the hours of the transferred class from other institutions added to their total WABR transcript hours, a fee of $.30 for every hour of awarded credit is debited to the TI's account on the Registry. In developing countries (see above) $0.15.

B. Procedures of Authorizations and Mode of Payments

1. Authorizations are added to student's records on the Registry by Training Institutes. Any current Training Institute can add a Provider or Practitioner authorization. Training Institutes with WABA approved ITC programs can add Assistant and Instructor authorizations. The Institute prints the Certificate for new students /practitioner authorizations. The Practitioner and assistant/Instructor Authorizations include membership in WABA. The Provider authorization, the first time Practitioner authorization and the first Assistant or Instructor authorization are valid until the end of the subsequent year if issued after 31st of August.
2. Every three years, at least 50 hours of continuing education classes are required for Practitioner, assistant and Instructor renewals.
3. The solo teaching of specific levels of WATSU® requires approval from the WABA Board (see WATSU® Instructor Certification guidelines- WIC). The TI will not provide the public names of Practitioners who do not maintain their WABA/R authorizations.
4. The attendance of all students in each WABA approved class in the TI's program that leads to a Registry authorization, must be posted on the Registry. Classes that are attended by other educational organizations do not require fees paid by the TI.
5. When adding classes to its WABR schedules that have a fixed number of hours of Aquatic Bodywork (called Water/Land Hours) the TI will engage only instructors currently authorized on The Registry to teach these courses.
6. To stay listed on the WABA registry in their classes, Instructors need to remain current with their fees and yearly dues. The TI will accept as fulfilling parts of their program Water/Land Hours taught by authorized WABA instructors or other TI's.
7. A TI may add supplemental courses that compliment a program that has the required core of WATSU® or other Aquatic Bodywork courses.
8. The instructors of these courses do not have to be WABA instructors, but the TI will require them to sign and follow the same ethical agreement standards as WABA instructors. If the course is part of a certification program that is needed for its completion and/or the TI wishes to have the course listed to the public on the Registry, all its students must be posted, and the same fees paid as for other classes. In this case a TI recognized WABA Instructor is granting for the quality of those classes.
9. Only the TI itself can add supplemental classes to the Registry. Anyone with an account on the Registry can be designated as being responsible for the posting fees. Though the hours of supplemental classes cannot replace the required Registry Water Hours, they will be added to the hours required for continuing education.
10. In addition to Registry classes that can be attended anywhere, the TI may fulfill part of the requirements of its program with comparable courses transferred from other trainings. The TI, after confirming a student's documentation, can transfer the course onto the student's transcript or only confirm an occurred verification. These hours cannot reduce the Registry minimum number of required 200 Water Hours. Transferred-in classes can replace prerequisites if the TI considers them comparable.

11. These hours may be added to those required for continuing education, if the class had been held in the previous three years,

C. WATSU® and TANTSU® service marks

The TI may use the trademarked logo and terms WATSU® and TANTSU® in its literature and on its social media accounts, so long as the first time the terms appear on a page the word is accompanied by a trademark symbol and are in an appropriate context.

There are three main points to maintain validity of registered Trademark/Service Mark - Intellectual Property Rights

1. **Always use as an adjective, never a Noun**
2. **WATSU®, with the ®, must always be *highlighted* in some way to distinguish as an adjective from surrounding text -- All caps (Preferred), calligraphy, italics, bold print, quotation marks, initial caps with quotes, or lowercase with quotes. Be consistent whenever using the Trademark (Service Mark) WATSU®. Example:** WATSU® Aquatic Bodywork
3. **Notice of ownership or registrant must be at least once -- You only need to give credit one time in the writing (document/website), and preferably the first time used.**

PLEASE NOTE: **Common Practice is to list credit (notice of ownership) on the first page of a document**, and it can be listed on every page, but is not necessary and technically not a requirement. PLEASE LIST CREDIT ON YOUR WEBSITE, CLASS DESCRIPTION, ETC. - **Example of notice**:
WATSU® is a Registered Trademark and Servicemark in the US, Europe, and Asia, assigned to Calias Murillo- Dull, daughter of Watsu Creator/WABA Founder Harold Dull.
For information or question please email trademark@watsu.com.

AFFIRMATION

I, _____, director of this Training Institute, understand and agree that any failure to follow the above will result in my Training Institute's removal from the Registry. I also agree to the following: I will keep an account on the Registry and understand that all payments from that account are for services that WABR or WABA has rendered. I recognize that placement of the TI on the Registry is a privilege, and the Training Institute will continue following the above requirements because of the benefits it receives from being listed as a WABA/R Training Institute. The TI will maintain ethical standards (see WABA Guidelines) and ensure that the progress of our students is moderated by their readiness for each subsequent level. The institute will not misrepresent a student's placement on the Registry as fulfilling any requirements for a government recognized practice.

WABA Board approved on June 25, 2021. Amended by EGA on August 10th 2025