www.watsu.com
Worldwide Aquatic Bodywork Association
P.O. Box 228
CH-6802 Rivera
Switzerland
www.waba.pro

WATSU® Instructor Certification (revision 2026.06.29)

What is Instructor Certification? Certification is the official process by which Watsu Practitioners become Assistants, qualified to assist Instructors, and by which Assistants become Instructors, qualified to teach Watsu at a designated level – Basic Watsu, Watsu 1, Watsu 2, Watsu 3, and Clinical Watsu 3. The certification process ensures that Assistants and Instructors meet internationally accepted standards for professional excellence, as established by the Worldwide Aquatic Bodywork Association (WABA). Only Assistants and Instructors who are Registered (listed in the WABA Registry) are authorized to assist or teach WABA classes.

Training Programs: WABA WATSU® Assistant and Instructor Training Programs throughout the world (Table 1) offer required core certification courses: Assistant Training Course (ATC) and Instructor Training Course (ITC) (Table 2).
ATC training must be taught in person and is encouraged to be imparted by a team of instructors. Teaching by a single Watsu® 3 Instructor who is part of an ATC Team is permitted without the need to request an exception.

The ITC must be taught in person by a team of instructors. Depending on the number of students, classes may be taught by two, three, or more instructors. In classes with a small number of students (maximum of three), teaching by a single Watsu® 3 Instructor who is part of an ATC/ITC Team may be considered, provided that an exception is requested from ESAC and approved by the Board.

All current ITC programs, including topics and the names of instructors, must be submitted to ESAC -only for acknowledgment- before the start of the class.
Requests for exceptions must be submitted to ESAC at least 15 working days in advance to the class start date.
To all Instructors in charge with ITC: note that meeting all these requirements is essential to ensure the successful completion of the student's qualification.

ATC or ITC class and Assistant or Instructor certification are two separate things.
The ATC/ITC team that organized the course together with the directly related TIs are responsible for entering the certification in the Registry for all new Assistants and Watsu Basic Instructors.

Training Overview: Assistants and Instructors commit to follow the WABA Teaching Philosophy and Code of Ethics, and complete training requirements for a designated level (Table 3). Each certification level requires experience assisting and co-teaching, mentoring with Senior Instructors (SIs) (Table 4), and evaluation of proficiency. ITC Instructors evaluate proficiency for Basic Watsu, and Coach Advisors (CAs) evaluate proficiency for all other levels (Table 5).

Approvals: WABA Board of Directors (BD), in consultation with WABA Educational Standards Advisory Committee (ESAC), approves certifications for advanced Instructors, and for SIs and CAs (Table 6). See glossary of WABA Acronyms and terms (Table 7).

Table 1. WATSU® Assistant and Instructor Training Programs

Training Program	Contact/Website
Germany – Institute Für Aquatische Körperarbeit ATC/ITC Team	Helen Schulz <helen@iaka.de> http://www.watsu.de/en
India – Watsu India ATC/ITC Team	Gianni De Stefani <agsgds@gmail.com> http://www.watsu.in
Italy – Watsu Italia ATC/ITC Team	Gianni De Stefani <agsgds@gmail.com> Keli Procopio <keliprocopio@gmail.com> http://www.watsu.it/en
Poland – Watsu Polska ATC/ITC Team	Tomasz Zagórski <szaman3w@wp.pl> http://www.watsu.pl
South & Central America – South and Central America ATC/ITC Team	Natalia Chaverri <terapiasacuaticascostarica@gmail.com> http://www.watsu-la.org.br
United States – US ATC/ITC Team	Cameron West, Mary Seamster, Jurgita Svediene, Lucinda Kaul <cameron@aquaticintegration.com>

Note: ATC/ITC Programs from any given country may be offered worldwide. However, if the class will be in a Nation of another ATC/ITC training program, that program must be contacted first, and a coordination may take place as per usual WABA ethical guidelines.

Table 2. Core Assistant and Instructor Training Courses

Course	Prerequisites	Details
Assistant Training Course (ATC)	• Be certified Watsu Practitioner for minimum one year • Give 60 professional sessions during previous year. After becoming a Practitioner, take Watsu 1 twice or take Watsu 1 once and Watsu 2 once. One class must be current Watsu 1. Application Package a. Application Form b. Resume c. Letter of Intent stating why you wish to be an Assistant Description of practice – how long active, location, quantity and types of clients... d. WABA Transcripts – courses taken and audited e. Professional licenses and insurance f. Written recommendations from two registered Instructors g. Criminal Background Check Submit application to Assistant Training Program of choice (Table 1).	Core Topics: • Guidelines for assisting • Roles • Watsu® skills • Communication and listening skills • Creating a safe and positive learning environment • Learning styles • Class dynamics • Supporting land and pool classes Duration: 3-4 days, 30+ hrs Considerations: • Watsu 1 (50 hours) may be completed in modules as Basic Watsu (16 hours) and Watsu Transition Flow (34 hours) • Only one recommendation required in countries with two or fewer Instructors • ATC Instructors may require additional assignments to complete certification after ATC completion
Instructor Training Course (ITC)	• Pass ATC • Assist Watsu 1 two times, with two different Instructors Application Package a. Letter of Intent stating why you wish to be an instructor b. Resume c. Description of practice – how long active, location, quantity and types of clients... d. WABA Transcripts – courses taken, audited, and assisted	Core Topics: • Role of Instructor • Creating and Maintaining Safe Container • Managing Communication • Teaching Styles • Watsu Skills • Teaching Land and Pool Classes • Ethics • Business Practices

	e. Professional licenses and insurance f. Evaluation from each Instructor assisted g. Written recommendations from two registered Instructors Submit application to Instructor Training Program of choice (Table 1).	Duration: 7 days/70+ hours Considerations: • Assisting Watsu 1 classes (50 hours) may be completed in modules as Basic Watsu(16 hours) and Watsu Transition Flow (34 hours) • Assisting Watsu 2 (50 hours) may be substituted for one of the assists • ITC Instructors may require additional assignments to complete certification after ITC completion.

Table 3. WATSU® Instructor Certification. (Requirements for each level must be completed before advancing to that level.)

Level	Requirements	Authorizations
WATSU® Assistant	• Pass ATC	• To assist Watsu courses • To teach Introduction to Watsu and Watsu Round, up to 8-hour class • To register Introduction to Watsu and Watsu Round students in WABA Registry
Basic WATSU®Instructor-In-Training	• Pass ITC	• To co-teach Basic Watsu classes with experienced Watsu 1 Instructor (who has taught at least four Watsu 1 classes independently)
Basic WATSU®Instructor	• Co-teach two Basic Watsu classes with two different authorized Watsu 1 Instructors (Exception may be requested to ESAC for remote countries with only one Watsu 1 instructor) Submit Application to Instructor Training Program (ITC) and receive approval	• To teach Basic Watsu independently • To register students in WABA Registry • To create Training Institute (TI) independently or with colleagues

WATSU® 1 Instructor-In- Training	• Teach three Basic Watsu classes independently • Register students for Basic Watsu classes • Within last 24 months, have assisted Watsu 1 or Transition Flow one time • Submit Application to Instructor Training Program (ITC) and receive Program approval	• To co-teach Watsu 1 classes with Senior Instructor
WATSU® 1 Instructor	• Co-teach three Watsu 1 or Transition Flow classes with two different Senior Instructors • At least one of the three classes must be a full WATSU 1 50-hour class • Teach one 50-hour Watsu 1 class independently, mentored and evaluated by Coach Advisor • Submit Application to Instructor Training Program (ITC), then ESAC review, and receive BD approval	• To teach Watsu 1 independently

WATSU® 2 Instructor-In- Training	• Be registered Watsu 1 Instructor for at least two years • Teach four Watsu 1 classes independently or in a team • At least two of the classes must be taught independently. • Register students for these classes in WABA Registry • Assist / Intern current Watsu 2 class if he/she has not taken a Watsu 2 class in the last two years • Submit Application to ESAC and receive BD approval	• To co-teach Watsu 2 classes with Senior Instructor

WATSU® 2 Instructor	• Co-teach two Watsu 2 classes with two different Senior Instructors • Teach one Watsu 2 class independently, mentored and evaluated by Coach Advisor • Submit Application to ESAC and receive BD approval	• To teach Watsu 2 independently • To approve Demonstration of Competency (DOC) as prerequisite for Watsu 3 class and for Provider status
WATSU® 3 Instructor-In- Training	• Be registered Watsu 2 Instructor for at least two years • Teach five Watsu 2 classes independently or in a team • At least three classes need to be taught independently • Assist two Watsu 3 classes, one class within last two years • Submit Application to ESAC and receive BD approval	• To co-teach Watsu 3 classes with a Watsu 3 Instructor

WATSU® 3 Instructor	• Co-teach two Watsu 3 classes, with two different Senior Instructors • Teach one Watsu 3 class independently, mentored and evaluated by Coach Advisor • Submit Application to ESAC and receive BD approval	• To teach Watsu 3 independently • To approve Hands-On/DOP for Practitioner certification
Instructor Application Package: *WABA Instructor Application Guidelines*, Level-Specific *Application Form*, and *Student Evaluation Summary* spreadsheet downloadable from WABA.PRO website (ESAC Docs – WABA.pro). For each level of certification, Instructor-In-Training submits a complete application package: a) Application Overview Form (checklist for application package and requirements) b) Letter of Intent (level, professional goals, description of practice) c) Transcripts (from WABA Registry, courses completed and taught) d) Written Evaluation and Recommendation from Co-Instructors d) Written Evaluation and Approval by Coach Advisor (CA) e) Professional Licenses and Insurance to meet local legal requirements		

f) Instructor in training assessment forms for all classes assisted, co-taught, taught, and coached that are provided by each ATC/ITC training program

g) Students' assessment forms for all classes co-taught, taught, and coached

Applicants are responsible for keeping copies of their own assessment Forms throughout their training

Instructor Certification Considerations and Clarifications

- **Audit/Intern Requirement:** Assistants must audit and intern a class before assisting at a particular advanced class level (WATSU®2, WATSU® 3, Clinical WATSU® 3, WATSU® 3 Adaptive, WATSU® 4...). ESAC may waive this requirement if Assistant is considered to be sufficiently prepared. Note that ATC prerequisites include equivalent requirement for Watsu 1 level.
- **Class Size Requirement:** Classes must have a minimum of four students, with at least two non-auditors.
- **Requirement to Assist and Co-Teach with Different Instructors:** For each level assisting and co-teaching must be performed with at least two different approved Senior Instructors.
  ESAC can agree for exception in Watsu isolated countries where only one Instructor is active.
  A senior instructor, mentor, coach advisor must consider their neutrality when instructing, mentoring or advising a spouse, partner or family member. A Coach Advisor may not advise a spouse, partner nor family member. Only one co-teaching may count for a Senior Instructor who is in relationship with the instructor; the second co-teach must be completed by another senior instructor
- **Basic Watsu Independent and Team Teaching:** Watsu 1 Instructor-in-Training may combine independently taught Basic Watsu and co-teaching of Watsu 1 Transition Flow for the co-teaching requirement, but not for the CA evaluated independent teaching requirement. At least one co-teaching must be a full 50-hour course in five or six consecutive days, to ensure proficiency in teaching 50-hour intensives.
- **Organizing Classes Requirement:** For co-teaching and CA evaluated independent teaching, at least two required classes must be organized by the Instructor-In-Training, including all aspects of scheduling, listing, advertisement, enrollment, and arrangement to use facilities.
- **Watsu 3 Requirement:** Watsu 3 Instructors-In-Training are encouraged to take Clinical Watsu 3 or WATSU® 3 Adaptive
- **DOC and Hands-On Authorization**: Watsu 2 and 3 Instructors are authorized to approve DOC, and Watsu 3 Instructors are authorized to approve Hands-On. In special cases, WABA BD may authorize other Instructors to approve DOC or Hands-On, based on recommendation of Watsu 3 Senior Instructor, skills and supplementary training/mentoring.
- **Apprenticeship Path:** Training Programs to accommodate disability and special needs may be designed in an apprentice/mentor framework to meet equivalent requirements, experience, and evaluation, and must be approved ahead of time on a case-by-case basis by WABA BD based on recommendations from ESAC.
- **Core Curriculum:** WABA is establishing Core Watsu Training Curriculum to ensure that the Watsu® service mark remains a symbol of consistent professional excellence. Local ATC and ITC Programs may have additional requirements.

- **Dues, Registry, Watsu® Trademark:** Assistants and Instructors must pay annual Instructor Dues, as well as pay Posting Fees to register each student in every class. Registered Assistants and Instructors are listed in the WABA Registry and authorized to use the Watsu® trademark as a symbol of professional excellence.
- **"Grandfathered" Certification:** For each major revision of Instructor Standards, Instructors are "grandfathered in" to keep authorization to teach Watsu, as long as they teach the current form, unless otherwise approved by WABA BD. If an Instructor requires more training, WABA BD, in consultation with ESAC, may require completion of ITC or additional requirements.
- **Continuing Education:** Practitioners, Assistants, and Instructors are required take 50 hours of Continuing Education (CE) every three years to enhance and maintain professional skills. WABA maintains a list of WABA approved CE courses. Other courses may be approved by ESAC on a case-by-case basis.
- **Agreement:** Assistants and Instructors agree in writing to read, understand, share, and follow these Instructor Certification Standards and future updates as a responsibility of their WABA certification.
- **Finances:** Fees for taking classes, auditing, assisting, supervising, co-teaching, teaching, or coach advising must be agreed upon in writing by all parties ahead of time, and are typically set by the Instructor.
- **Requirement Changes:** In cases where Instructor Certification requirements change, applicant may follow either new requirements or older requirements (ex post facto) for up to five years from the date ATC or ITC is passed, the date certification is approved at a particular level, or the date when first co-teaching is completed for the next level of certification:
  - **Date ATC Passed:** requirements for Assistant certification and pre-requisites for ITC Class in effect on that date apply for up to five years.
  - **Date ITC Passed:** requirements for W1 Instructor certification in effect on that date apply for up to five years.
  - **Date Certified W1 Instructor:** requirements for W2 Instructor certification in effect on that date apply for up to five years.
  - **Date Certified W2 Instructor:** requirements for W3 Instructor certification in effect on that date apply for up to five years.
  - **Date Complete First Co-Teaching at next level:** requirements for next level certification in effect on that date apply for up to five years.

Table 3A. WATSU® 3 Clinical Instructor Certification

Level	Requirements	Authorizations
Clinical WATSU® 3 Instructor-In-Training	• Be registered Watsu 2 Instructor for at least three years • Teach five Watsu 2 classes independently or in a team • Assist two Clinical Watsu 3 classes with two different Instructors, one class within last two years • Provide copy of professional healthcare license or certificate • Provide proof of professional healthcare education – Anatomy (100 hrs), Physiology (100 hrs), Pathology (100 hrs), Clinical Reasoning for indications / precautions for bodywork and immersion in water, Somatic Psychology/Trauma/PTSD (100 hrs) or approved equivalency • Five years in Professional Practice – e.g., Treatment of Orthopedic and Neurological Conditions; Trauma/PTSD Treatment; clinical treatment with adults and children • Submit Application to Clinical Watsu 3 Instructors (currently Peggy Schoedinger and Cameron West) and receive approval	• Managing risk: environmental, physical, emotional • No sequence used or taught • Free Flow and Follow Movement • Listening to body's natural movements and tendencies • Acute vs chronic conditions, staying within Scope of Practice • Clinical Intake Form, assessing risks • How to document sessions • Use of special needs models (within Scope of Practice) for 1-3 sessions during class • Progression of treatment: less is more • Typically addressing trunk and neck needs first, then proximal to distal with extremities • Providing handouts regarding different conditions

WATSU® 3 Clinical Instructor	• Co-teach two Clinical Watsu 3 classes, with two different Senior Instructors • Teach one Clinical Watsu 3 class independently, mentored and evaluated by Clinical Watsu 3 Instructor • Submit Application to ESAC and receive BD Approval	• To teach Clinical Watsu 3 independently • To approve Hands-On for Practitioner certification

WATSU® 3 Adaptive Instructor Certification

Level	Requirements	Authorization
WATSU® 3 Adaptive Instructor - In-Training	• Be registered as a Watsu 2 Instructor for at least two years • Teach five Watsu 2 classes independently or in a team • At least three classes need to be taught independently • Having had an Aquatic Private Practice for 4 years, seeing at least 4 clients per week Practice must include clients with special needs with a wide range of physical challenges -- neurological and orthopedic, including spasticity, chronic pain and mild-moderate psychological issues. • Assist two Watsu 3 Adaptive classes, one class within last two	• To co-teach Watsu 3 Adaptive classes with a Watsu 3 Instructor

	years • Submit Application to ESAC and receive BD approval	
WATSU® 3 Adaptive Instructor	• Co-teach two Watsu 3 Adaptive with two different Senior Instructors • Teach one Watsu 3 Adaptive class independently, mentored and evaluated by Coach Advisor • Submit Application to ESAC and receive BD approval	• To teach Watsu 3 Adaptive independently • To approve Hands-On/DOP for Practitioner certification

Guidelines for Approved WATSU® 3 Instructors Wishing to Teach a different Form of WATSU® 3

• Take one time the WS3 wishing to teach (as a student or as an assistant) • Co-teaching one time the WS3 wishing to teach • Teach one time the WATSU® 3 wishing to teach with a Coach Advisor, when required.
N.B. For a Watsu 3 Free Flow Instructor wishing to become an Adaptive Watsu 3 Instructor or a Clinical Watsu 3 Instructor it's mandatory to comply with the specific requirements outlined above.

Table 4. WABA Senior Instructors (SIs)

Name	Email	Location
Ahara Vatter	aharava1@hotmail.com	USA (New Mexico)
Alexander George	healingdance@hotmail.com	Germany
Alexis Lee	alexislee@me.com	USA (Hawaii)
Anat Juran	aquanat@bigpond.net.au	Australia
Antonio Maria Cardozo Acosta	antoniomcacosta@gmail.com	Brazil
Arjana Brunschwiler	arjana@watsu-wata.com	Belgium
Batia Siegel	batia@watsu-ways.co.il	Israel
Cameron West	cameron@aquaticintegration.com	USA (California)
Carolyn Crawford	c.j.crawford@xtra.co.nz	New Zealand
Darja Havelkova	darjahavelkova@gmail.com	Czech Republic
Eberhard Petschel	shanti.petschel@creavista.org	Germany
Elisa Munoz Blanco	Elisa.mb@watsupath.com	Spain
Fernando Calixto	fcwatsu@yahoo.com.br	Brazil
Georges Amir Kunzler	info@lewatsu.ch	USA (Oregon)
Gianni De Stefani	awticino@bluewin.ch	Switzerland
Hagar Guttman	hagarag@gmail.com	Israel
Helene Schulz	helen@iaka.de	Germany
Inika Spence-Whaley	inikasati@gmail.com	USA (Hawaii)
Je-Won Park	j-falc@hanmail.net	South Korea
Jun Hong Kim	aquakjh1004@gmail.com	South Korea
Jurgita Svediene	jurga@svedas.net	Lithuania
Karla Caspers	karlacaspers@gmx.de	Germany
Keli Procopio	keliprocopio@gmail.com	Italy
Kim L Hartz	watsukim@gmail.com	USA (California)
Mary Seamster	maryseamster@earthlink.net	USA (Washington)
Marcelo Roque	marceloroque@@me.com	Mexico
Mauricio Garcia	mauriciokg43@gmail.com	Brazil
Miguel Angel Bertran	miguebertran@gmail.com	Spain
Monica Moti Marcangeli	ilmiowatsu@gmail.com	Italy
Natalia Chaverri	terapiasacuaticascostarica@gmail.com	Costa Rica
Peggy Schoedinger	pegaquatic@aol.com	USA (Colorado)
Tatyana Penzina	penzina_tatyana@bk.ru	Russia
Tomasz Zagorski	szaman3w@wp.pl	Poland
Toru Ogasawara	ogasawara@watsucenter.jp	Japan
Xavier Boisson	xavierboisson@hotmail.com	France
Zdenka Yasova	Z.Jasova@seznam.cz	Czech Republic

Table 5. WABA Coach Advisors (CAs)

Name	Email	Location
Ahara Vatter	aharava1@hotmail.com	USA (New Mexico)
Batia Siegel	batia.siegel@gmail.com	Israel
Cameron West	cameron@aquaticintegration.com	USA (California)
Gianni De Stefani	agsgds@gmail.com	Switzerland
Helen Schulz	helen@iaka.de	Germany
Jurgita Svediene	jurga@svedas.net	Lithuania
Keli Procopio	keliprocopio@gmail.com	Italy
Mary Seamster	maryseamster@earthlink.net	USA (Washington)
Mauricio Garcia	mauriciokg@uol.com.br	Brazil
Peggy Schoedinger	pegaquatic@aol.com	USA (Colorado)
Tomasz Zagorski	szaman3w@wp.pl	Poland
Xavier Boisson	xavierboisson@hotmail.com	France

Table 6. Senior Instructor (SI) and Coach Advisor (CA) Certification

Level	Requirements	Authorizations
Senior Instructor (SI)	• Teach Watsu 1 for five years and Watsu 2 for three years, with five Watsu classes per year during last three years • Maintain active professional aquatic bodywork practice • Demonstrate professional excellence as Instructor, with effective communication skills, and impeccable ethical record • Submit Application to ESAC and receive BD approval	• To mentor, Co-Teach, and evaluate Instructors-In-Training

Coach Advisor (CA)	• Be SI for four years and registered Watsu 3 Instructor • Mentor, co-teach, and evaluate five Instructors-in-Training, with demonstration of excellence • Demonstrate professional excellence as SI, with effective communication skills, and impeccable ethical record • Submit Application to ESAC and receive BD approval	• To coach, evaluate, and recommend approval of Instructors-In-Training for certification
SI and CA Application Package: *WABA Instructor Application Guidelines*, *SI and CA Application Forms*, and *Student Evaluation Summary* spreadsheet downloadable from WABA.PRO website (ESAC Docs – WABA.pro). SI or CA candidate submits a complete application package to ESAC:		

a) Application Overview Form (list teaching and experience that meets requirements)
b) Transcripts (from WABA Registry, courses co-taught and taught)
c) Written Evaluation and Recommendation from Mentor
d) Student Evaluations for each course co-taught and taught and Student Evaluation Summary

Applicants and Mentors must prepare applications using WABA Guidelines for Instructor Certification Applications, SI and CA Application Forms, and Evaluation Summary spreadsheet (downloadable from ESAC Docs – WABA.pro). Applicants are responsible for keeping copies of their own Evaluations, in conjunction with their TIs, Mentors, SIs, and CAs.

SI and CA Certification Considerations and Clarifications:

- **Class Size Requirement:** Classes must have a minimum of four students, with at least two non-auditors.
- **Dues, Registry, Watsu® Trademark:** SIs and CAs must consistently pay annual Instructor Dues, as well as pay Posting Fees to register each student in every class.
- **Maintaining Senior Instructor or Coach Advisor status** is subject to the following criteria:
    - ❖ Registry Status: All annual instructor fees must be fully up to date in the registry.
    - ❖ Active Teaching: Water classes must have been taught within the last three years.
    - ❖ Continuing Education: A minimum of 50 hours of Continuing Education must be completed every three years.
    - ❖ Failure to meet these criteria will result in a temporary suspension of status until all requirements are fulfilled.
- **Grandfathered" Certification:** For each major revision of SI or CA Standards, certification is "grandfathered in" under the rules in effect for original certification, as long as they teach the current form of Watsu, unless otherwise approved by WABA BD.
- **Professional Excellence:** with respect to logistics (scheduling, listing, advertising, registering…); diversity of venues, backgrounds, teaching styles, and cultures; objective and effective feedback/evaluation; timely communication via email, telephone, etc.; supportive and non-judgmental communication skills; prepare evaluations and review in person; coordination between TI, SI, CA, Co-Instructors, and Instructors-In-Training; impeccable ethical standards; understanding and support of WABA certification standards; timely and complete preparation of application packages.
- **Requirement Changes:** in cases where SI or CA Certification requirements change, applicant may follow either new requirements or older requirements as follows:
    - **Date Certified W3 Instructor:** requirements for SI certification in effect on that date apply for five years.
    - **Date Certified SI:** requirements for CA certification in effect on that date apply for five years.
    - **Date of Intent Request:** requirements for SI or CA certification apply for five years after a letter of intent to apply for certification is submitted to ESAC and approved by BD.

Table 7. Glossary of WABA Assistant and Instructor Certification Terms

Acronym	Description
ATC	**Assistant Training Course** – see Table 2
	Assistant: WABA certified professional authorized to assist Instructors in teaching Watsu courses
	Authorizations: official rights or duties of WABA certified Assistants and Instructors, in particular to assist or teach at a designated level, to register
	students, to use the Watsu® trademark, to found TIs, to create elective courses, and to conduct Supervisions, as approved by WABA BD
BD	**Board of Directors:** official group of Practitioners and Instructors that oversees and provides leadership for WABA, through policy and operational decisions, approval of certifications, management of website, fundraising, coordination of committees, and enactment of standards
	Certification: official WABA process by which Watsu students become Practitioners, Practitioners become Assistants, and Assistants become Instructors authorized to teach at a designated level (Basic, Watsu 1, Watsu 2, and Watsu 3); certification requires completion of all requirements for designated level and ensures professional competence
CA	**Coach Advisor:** WABA certified Senior Instructor (SI) who mentors, evaluates, and recommends certification of Instructors
CE	**Continuing Education:** Coursework required of Practitioners, Assistants, and Instructors to enhance skills and maintain certification.
DOC	**Demonstration of Competency (DOC):** evaluation of readiness to take Watsu 3; approved and placed in WABA Registry by Watsu 2 or 3 Instructors (or other BD approved Instructor) based on receiving session from Student; in some cases, additional preparation may be required before approval
ESAC	**Educational Standards Advisory Committee:** official WABA committee that advises WABA BD about educational policy and standards pertaining to Watsu Provider, Practitioner, and Instructor certification, and that also helps with implementation of educational standards, certification, and approval of elective courses
Hands-On	**Hands-On (former also called DOP- demonstration of proficiency):** evaluation of readiness to give sessions as Practitioner; approved and placed in WABA Registry by Watsu 3 Instructors (or other BD approved Instructor) during or after Watsu 3, based on receiving session from Student; in some cases, additional preparation may be required before approval

	Instructor Dues: annual professional payment required of all WABA Assistants and Instructors to be Registered, helps pay costs of maintaining the WABA Registry, WABA annual dues and other administrative services
ITC	**Instructor Training Course** – see Table 2
	Instructor-In-Training: Watsu Practitioner or Instructor authorized to co-teach at a designated level, as required for certification as Instructor at that level
	Instructor: Watsu professional certified to have training and experience necessary to teach Watsu courses independently at a designated level
	Level: category of Watsu course – Basic, Watsu 1, Watsu 2, and Watsu 3 – that comprises standard set of professional skills, sequence of moves, and officially recognized degree of mastery
	Licensed: Practitioner who fulfills local legal requirements to be able to practice aquatic bodywork in particular country, state, province, county, or region

	Posting Fees: payments charged to cover the cost of maintaining student, Assistant, Instructor, and course records in the WABA Registry
	Practitioner: WABA certified professional authorized to give Watsu sessions; based on training courses, experience, and assessment of proficiency

	Provider: professional authorized by WABA to give Watsu sessions under an existing license-to-touch at spa, clinic, or other facility, while completing coursework and other requirements for certification as Practitioner
	Registered: Assistants and Instructors who have paid annual Instructor Dues and are listed in Registry; authorized to use Watsu® trademark as symbol of professional excellence, and authorized to assist or teach WABA approved courses
	Registry: online WABA database containing student transcripts, certification records, course offerings, Practitioner and Instructor listings, and official documents (maintained by Worldwide Aquatic Bodywork Registry, WABR, organization run by Dull's family)
SI	**Senior Instructor:** experienced WABA certified Instructor who mentors, Co-Teaches, and helps evaluate proficiency for Instructor certification
	Supervision: one-on-one training session in which an Assistant or Instructor mentors a Watsu student to develop professional skills, for credit hours posted in the WABA Registry
TI	**Training Institute:** officially recognized organization that offers Watsu training for Practitioners and Instructors, including Watsu courses, electives, ATC, and ITC

	Watsu®: form of aquatic bodywork characterized by one-on-one sessions in which a Practitioner gently cradles, moves, stretches, and massages Receiver in warm water, with nose and mouth above water surface; for relaxation, recreation, personal growth, and therapy; originally developed by Harold Dull at Harbin Hot Springs.

Table 8. Governance of ATC and ITC Training Programs

Assistant Training Course
Join an Existing ATC Team The candidate should minimally: • WS1 Instructor, having taught at least 3 WATSU classes in the past 3 years • Current instructor has attended ATC. If in their country there were no ATC courses taught, they may join the team as an assistant or trainee for the first ATC class. • If the instructor has already been a member of an ITC they may join an existing ATC upon approval of the ATC team. • Demonstrate professional excellence as an instructor including effective communication skills and for the preceding 5 years must have a clean ethical record, that does not contain any warning or sanction in accordance to Art.18 of the statutes • Letter of intent. • Letter of recommendation from a TI to be submitted to the ATC team
Create a new ATC Team • At least one (1) instructor has taught WS3 with at least 5 WATSU classes in the last 3 years. • 0ther members of the group should be at least a WS1 Instructor, having taught at least 3 classes in the past 3 years. • Attended ATC. • Attended ATC as a Trainee or Assistant. Specific location situations will be considered. • If you are ~~in~~ already teaching an ITC course you may create a new ATC team. • Demonstrate professional excellence as an instructor, including effective communication skills and for the preceding 5 years must have a clean ethical record, that does not contain any warning or sanction in accordance to Art.18 of the statutes • Letter of Intent submitted. • Letter of recommendation from Training Institute or Established ATC/ITC team. • Submit application to ESAC, including the complete program.