

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COACHES HOLDING QUALIFICATIONS FROM OUTSIDE IRELAND.**

Both TICA and Tennis Ireland totally support a new initiative for 2008, that *all coaches working in Ireland should have a Tennis Ireland qualification*, gained either by taking a Tennis Ireland Coaches Course or being assimilated into the Tennis Ireland Coaches Qualifications Ladder.

What is the logic behind this move? As in many Irish workplaces, there has been a welcome influx to this country of tennis coaches from abroad over the last few years. These coaches often hold qualifications from certificating bodies in the country in which they previously lived and worked.

It is vital for both parties that potential employers of these coaches, whether that be Provincial Branches, Clubs or private individuals are, aware of what a coach is qualified to do. For example, is a coach with an Argentinian Level One Certificate qualified to coach only beginner players, or right up to advanced player level? Currently it is very difficult if not impossible for potential employers in Ireland to establish this basic information.

This is where the **Tennis Ireland Assimilation Process** will prove invaluable both for coaches and employers. Any coach with a foreign qualification now has the opportunity to assimilate into the Tennis Ireland Coaches Qualifications Ladder at the level which reflects their qualifications from their home country. Indeed, under EU law coaches have a right to equivalency, if they are a citizen of an EU member state.

Any coach holding a qualification from a body other than Tennis Ireland, and who wishes to be assimilated into the Irish structure, should contact Mr. Proinsias Gallagher at Tennis Ireland to initiate the process:

*email:* [pgallagher@tennisireland.ie](mailto:pgallagher@tennisireland.ie) *telephone:* 01 700 7406.

TICA is implementing the following process with regard to coaches who do not currently hold a Tennis Ireland qualification/equivalency:

- Able to join the Association in 2008 as previous years (with access to TICA Public Liability Insurance group scheme).
- During 2008 he/she should seek assimilation through Tennis Ireland process.
- Coach who does not seek assimilation in 2008, or apply for Level One Course during 2008 – will not be eligible to join TICA in 2009.

TICA would like to stress that we see this as a positive move both for coaches who have studied abroad and for the players and organisations who employ these coaches here in Ireland. Assimilation removes doubts from an employers mind as to `how qualified` a coach is, and allows a coach to receive acknowledgement and remuneration commensurate with his or her true level of qualification.