

July 27, 2008

Gentlepersons of the National Strength and Conditioning Association, and whoever may be concerned:

This letter shall serve as my formal relinquishment of my Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist credential. I was in the first group to test for the CSCS in 1985, and was among the minority of applicants to pass the exam and be granted the credential, which I was proud to hold for many years. However, the NSCA has apparently taken a different direction from the one with which I so closely identified 23 years ago. My professional emphasis has remained on the improvement of strength and conditioning, while that of the NSCA has apparently changed. Its professional publications are quite thoroughly reflective of a shift in emphasis to physical therapy and athletic training, while failing, in my opinion, to address the actual processes by which athletes are made more strong and conditioned, and further, in my opinion, failing to meet the minimum standards for a quality scientific publication. Its internal administrative problems are legend. It has dealt with me in an unsatisfactory manner regarding its professional insurance. It no longer serves my best professional interest to be associated with the NSCA or the NSCA Certification Commission.

Therefore, I am formally relinquishing my CSCS credential, which I shall no longer use in any subsequent professional reference or capacity. Furthermore, I withdraw permission from The National Strength and Conditioning Association and the NSCA Certification Commission to list me as a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist in any publications or online materials that may be published subsequent to the receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Mark Rippetoe
Certificate # 85173

(A signed paper copy has been sent to Dr. Baechle, Janet Owens, and Lee Brown.)