

for Current NCCP Coaches



How does the new program help me to become a better coach?

The new NCCP has been specifically designed to train coaches to be able to meet the needs of the specific participants/athletes they are working with. Coaches will participate in training opportunities that will enable them to return to their coaching environment with specific skills that can be implemented immediately. Coaches will learn to plan safe and effective practices, design meaningful season plans, teach appropriate sport skills to athletes, and many other important aspects of coaching. The true beneficiaries of the changes to the NCCP will ultimately be the participants, when their coaches are trained and certified based on the things they need to be able to do to best support those they coach.

I'm a Level 1 coach and want to become a Level 2 coach but I hear Theory 2 is no longer being offered. How do I become a Level 2 coach?

As of April 1, 2004, the new Competition – Introduction Part B multi-sport modules are taking the place of Level 2 Theory. You can access this workshop through your Provincial/Territorial Coaching Coordinator and then complete your Level 2 Technical and Level 2 Practical through your provincial/territorial sport organization to receive your Level 2 certification.

I'm a Level 1 coach and have my Level 2 Theory and I just heard that my sport has changed the Technical and Practical components for Levels 1 and 2. What do I do?

Contact your sport to determine what training opportunities you will need to access to complete your certification. Your sport will direct you to upcoming training and evaluation activities that are taking the place of the former Level 2 Technical and Practical.

I have heard that in 5 years I will lose my certification. Is that true?

In the new program, coaches will be required to continue to actively coach and to access professional development to ensure they maintain and/or update their skills, knowledge, and attitudes. When coaches become certified in the new program they will have to meet specific requirements, determined by each sport, over the course of 5 years, in order to maintain their certification. If coaches don't participate in required professional development activities, or don't remain actively coaching, they will be required to repeat the evaluation process to ensure that they still possess the necessary skills to effectively meet the needs of the athletes/participants they are working with or that they intend to work with. The five-year limitation is linked specifically to certification. Coaches will continue to possess credit for all training activities they have completed. Please note that five years is the minimum national standard for re-certification and some sports may require coaches to become re-certified more frequently.

I am a Level 3 coach. I've heard that the NCCP is changing. Does that mean I have to take my certification all over again?

One of the important principles of the new program is the recognition of prior learning. You will not need to repeat all of your training. Each sport will handle this situation slightly differently but in general, coaches with previous training and experience will be able to move directly to the evaluation for certification component where they will be asked to demonstrate that they are able to complete the tasks that a coach is required to do in order to work with a particular type of athlete/participant.

I want to become a Level 3 coach.

Should I just wait until the new program is complete?

We encourage you to access all coach training and certification opportunities that are currently available to you. Your National Sport Federation (NSF) can provide you with a recommendation for your coach education pathway. The knowledge, skills, and attitudes that you develop in the old program will be beneficial in the new program and there will be opportunities to receive credit for them in the new program.

My sport has certification requirements.

How do I know what I need in the new program?

As sports complete the development of their new program, they will modify their certification requirements. Until then it is likely that certification requirements will remain status quo. For further verification, coaches should contact their sport.

Why do I need to be evaluated to be certified now when I didn't before?

True certification in other occupations and professions is based upon an individual's ability to clearly demonstrate that he/she is capable of successfully doing what is required. In the old program, certification was almost entirely based upon a coach's participation in courses and the completion of a few assignments or practical coaching requirements. In the new program, coaches will be identified as "Trained" upon completion of these types of activities and will be identified as "Certified" when they have demonstrated that they are capable of integrating the skills, knowledge, and attitudes they have learned as part of their training into their specific coaching environment. In other words they have to demonstrate they can actually do what needs to be done to meet the needs of the participants/athletes they work versus just "knowing" what should be done.

I coach two different sports. What do I do?

There will be crossover and transferability from one sport to another. Coaches will have the ability to request to be evaluated in areas where they have acquired prior learning through their training as a coach in another sport. In the sports where that type of situation is highly likely, there will be opportunities for the NSFs to work together to proactively cross-reference their programs and determine the transferability in the training environment.

I coach different calibres of athletes. What do I do?

There will be some crossover and transferability between some contexts and therefore some opportunity to reduce redundancy. Coaches should focus the majority of their training and certification on the context in which they work most often or is the highest priority for the needs of their participants/athletes. Coaches will always have the opportunity to professionally develop in contexts other than the one that they predominantly work.

The NCCP is a collaborative program of the Government of Canada, provincial/territorial governments, national/provincial/territorial sport federations, and the Coaching Association of Canada.