



COACH CERTIFICATION

The National Coaching Certification Program certifies coaches who have demonstrated their ability to apply critically important competencies to coaching situations relevant to the stage of athletes they coach. This means that coaches must not only know about coaching but be able to demonstrate their ability to apply this knowledge in the coaching situation.

Coaches can be trained in any of the following eight coaching contexts, which are specific to the type of athlete they are working with, and can progress through to a "Master Coach" level in any context.

COMMUNITY SPORT

The **Community Sport – Initiation** context focuses on participants who are being introduced to a sport. In many sports this is very young children participating in the sport for the first time. In a few sports, initiation into the sport can occur with youth or adults. Participants get involved to meet new friends, have fun, and to learn a new activity. The role of the coach is to ensure a fun and safe environment and to teach the development of some of the "FUNdamentals" stage skills and abilities for participants.

The **Community Sport – Ongoing participation** context is typically for either youth participating in a recreational environment, or masters participants participating for recreation, fitness, and socialization reasons. The participants are in the Active for Life stage of long-term athlete development. The role of the coach is to encourage participants to continue their involvement in the sport.

COMPETITION

The **Competition – Introduction** context is designed for coaches of athletes moving from the FUNdamentals to the Learn to Train and Train to Train stages of long-term athlete development.

The **Competition – Development** context is designed for coaches of athletes ranging from the Train to Train to the Train to Compete stages of long-term athlete development.

The **Competition – High performance** context is typically reserved for coaches of athletes in the Train to Win stage of long-term athlete development although there is the possibility of some phasing in of a Train to Compete athlete into the High Performance level because of the fluidity of the stages of long-term athlete development. Coaches in this context require specific skills and abilities in order to meet the needs of their athletes.

INSTRUCTION

Instructors in the **Instruction – Beginners** context are usually working with participants who are experiencing the sport for the first time through a series of lessons. Typically there's no formalized competition at this level — it's strictly about skill development and there is a short timeframe of interaction between the instructor and the participant.

Instructors in the **Instruction – Intermediate performers** and **Instruction – Advanced performers** contexts are very specialized and are specifically there to assist athletes crossing over from competitive sport to gain enhanced skills, and in some cases, tactical development specific to their sport.



The five core competencies are made concrete through specific coaching outcomes



There are five NCCP core competencies

*Certification is valid for no longer than 5 years and professional development is required to maintain certification.