



NATIONAL COACH CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



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Launched in 1970, the National Coach Certification Program (NCCP) is a partnership between the Coaching Association of Canada, the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, and more than 60 national sport federations and their provincial and territorial sport associations. As Canada's recognized training and certification program, the NCCP serves a wide range of coaches, including those who introduce beginners to sport to those working with high performance athletes.

In response to an extensive evaluation, the program has been going through a major re-development since the late 1990s. Key to these changes is a shift in emphasis from "what a coach knows" to "what a coach can do." In the new competency-based system, training and certification programs are based on clearly defined needs of participants. This new structure addresses the full range of sports in Canada at various skill levels and in a variety of settings.

The New NCCP Model

Within hockey, the new NCCP model is made up of three streams and a total of six contexts (or training sessions), each with its own coaching requirements.

Coach Stream		Development Stream	High Performance Stream
Intro Coach <i>(mandatory for coaches working with 5 and 6 year olds)</i>	Coach Stream Core Programming	Development Stream Core Program 1 <i>*upon completion coach is considered trained</i>	High Performance Stream Core Program 1 <i>*upon completion coach is considered trained</i>
		Mentorship Program Pre-task for Development 2	Mentorship and Formal Coach Field Evaluation
Mentorship		Development Stream Core Program 2 <i>*upon completion coach is considered trained Development2</i>	High Performance Stream Core Program 2 <i>*upon completion coach is considered trained</i>
		Mentorship and Formal Coach Field Evaluation	Mentorship and Formal Coach Field Evaluation

Coach Stream

Coaches in the Coach Stream typically become involved on a voluntary basis because their children participate in a sport. They tend to work with athletes who are new to the sport. Below is a profile of players within this stream:

	Age Range	Competitive Context
Community	5 – 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation • Novice • Atom
Recreational	11 – 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pee Wee House • Bantam House • Midget House
Adult Recreational	18 +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad hoc leagues

Development Stream

Coaches in the Development Stream usually have previous coaching experience or are former athletes in the sport. They tend to work with athletes to improve performance, often in preparation for provincial and national competitions. Below is a profile of players within this stream:

	Age Range	Competitive Context
Provincial	11 – 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pee Wee Rep • Bantam Rep • Midget Rep
Regional	15 – 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Hockey “B” and below • Senior Hockey

High Performance Stream

Coaches in the High Performance Stream usually have previous coaching experience or are former athletes in the sport. They tend to work with athletes over the long term to improve performance, often in preparation for provincial, national, and international competitions. Below is a profile of players within this stream:

	Age Range	Competitive Context
Provincial	11 – 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pee Wee Rep • Bantam Rep • Midget Rep
Regional	15 - 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Hockey “B” and below • Senior Hockey

****A coach can enter directly into any of the 3 streams assuming that they are coaching athletes who are within the stream.***

Training and Certification

A coach is described as:

- Trained – when a coach has completed **all** required **training** for a context;
- Certified – when a coach has completed **all evaluation** requirements for a context.

The new NCCP model distinguishes between trained and certified. Coaches can participate in training opportunities to acquire or refine the skills and knowledge required for a particular coaching context. To be certified in a coaching context, coaches are evaluated on their demonstrated ability to perform within that context in areas such as program design, practice planning, performance analysis, program management, ethical coaching, support to participants during training, and support to participants in competition.

Certified coaches enjoy the credibility of the sporting community and of the athletes they coach. They are recognized as meeting or exceeding the high standards embraced by more than 60 national sport federations in Canada. Fostering confidence at all levels of sport, certification is a benefit shared by parents, athletes, sport organizations, and our communities.

To check your certification status, please visit the Coaching Association of Canada website at www.coach.ca.

To Register for a Clinic

The delivery of the NCCP with regards to content is consistent across the country; however, the provincial coach education requirements vary from region to region. To determine which course you require to coach within your local minor hockey association or to register for a coaching clinic, please access your branch website through the branches section of the CD.