

National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) Tackle Football

There is a dizzying amount of information about the pathway to becoming a football coach in Canada. We are told that there are “Three Streams” and “Eight Contexts”. We are told that there is a lifelong process for following an athlete through his or her football life. Coaches now have three categories; 1) In Training, 2) Trained and 3) Certified. Coaches who grew up in the previous paradigm (Old NCCP) are left wondering how their prior knowledge and training fits in to the new and present process. We hope the new NCCP is not that difficult to understand.

WHY CHANGE

For years, football coaches have taken NCCP Technical levels one, two and three (very rarely four) in the old system. The old NCCP football resulted in many coaches being trained not certified.

The old NCCP trained coaches with an emphasis on technical skills. The coaches who did not take the Theory courses were not necessarily being instructed in how to handle kids in their age group, navigate ethical decisions, plan a practice or (for those non-teachers) teach a lesson.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Nothing has changed that much. Technical material is still part of the Training process but now it is combined with football specific Theory. It happens all at once. The process goes like this....

IN TRAINING - YOU HAVEN'T COMPLETED EVERY THING YET

TRAINED - YOU TOOK THE CLINIC AND HAVE NOT YET DECIDED TO BECOME CERTIFIED

CERTIFIED - YOU DECIDED TO TAKE THE EXTRA STEP TO BE CERTIFIED

Right now, most people will choose to be Trained. That part has not changed, the difference is that they have been taught some Theory along with the Technical material.

WHAT THE HECK IS A STREAM?

Think about the levels you coach at in very broad categories. Do you coach Atom or Pee Wee and just want to help your kid for a few years and then out? If the answer is yes this is the Community Sport/Recreation **Stream**. It just means that you are coaching pretty much beginners to the sport and fun and skill development are emphasized. The next “stream” is the Competition Stream. This is for coaches who coach 13 to 18 year olds (Some PeeWee, Bantam, Midget, High School). Following are the Streams:

Stream One

Community Sport Initiation (Novice Coach)

- For novice or parent type coaches who a beginner and want to coach just for a few years
- Recommended for Atom, PeeWee type novice coaches
- Available online with Football Canada (www.footballcanada.com)

Stream Two

Competition Introduction at Position

- For Peewee, Bantam and High school coaches who want more training and will stay in coaching for a few years
- If taking the second Comp-Intro at Position course (for another position) you only have to attend the technical sessions, not the classroom modules that you took from the first course

Competition Introduction at Coordinator (Delivery Late 2015)

- More advanced and must take minimum two Competition Intro-Position clinics on same side of ball before Competition Intro-Coordinator certification

Competition Introduction at Head Coach (Delivery 2016)

- More advanced than Coordinator

Stream Three

Competition Development (Delivery TBD)

- For elite coaches (Junior, University, Team AB Provincial coaches)

WHAT TRAINING SHOULD COACHES TAKE?

In Training: you are considered in-training while you are completing the courses

Trained: you are trained when you have completed;

1. Courses at each stream (“Comp Intro-Position” or “Coordinator” or “Head Coach”), thru F AB
2. “Making Headway in Football” (free course at www.footballcanada.com)
3. “Making Ethical Decisions” course online (Thru Coaching Ass. of Canada website at www.coach.ca)
4. “Safe Contact” course (One day course thru Football Alberta...2015/16)

Certified: you are certified after completing the following;

1. “Comp Intro-Position” or “Comp Intro-Coordinator” or “Comp Intro-Head Coach” courses (thru Football Alberta)
2. “Making Headway in Football” (free course at www.footballcanada.com)
3. “Making Ethical Decisions” course online (thru Coaching Ass. of Canada website at www.coach.ca)
4. “Post Workshop Assignment” (Completion and sent into Football Alberta)
5. “Evaluation” (thru an approved Football Alberta Evaluator on site visit)
6. “Safe Contact” course (One day course thru Football Alberta)

Some coaches may only want to be In Training or Trained while others might want to be Certified within their stream or continue onto a higher stream.

GRANDFATHERING FROM THE OLD NCCP TO THE NEW NCCP

See the back page, “Transfer of Qualifications (Tackle Football)”. The Coaching Association of Canada, www.coach.ca, has still not transferred appropriate transcripts from old to new in **the Locker** (database where your coaching number and transcripts/courses are held).

MOVING FORWARD

This is the new reality. We are going to move forward and train coaches to do the jobs that need to be done and hope that they will have a better understanding of the young people they are asked to coach. They will be better trained to keep young football players safe. They will have a method of working through the ethical decisions that come with being a modern football coach. Our players will benefit and by extension so will our sport.