

An Overview of the Coaching Certification Program

As the governing body for soccer in Canada the Canadian Soccer Association is responsible for training coaches from grass roots to national team level. With the increasing number of players registering with clubs across the country this represents a considerable challenge. In order to meet this challenge a three tiered certification program has been developed in conjunction with our provincial/territorial partners that we feel will meet the needs of both developing coaches and the sport itself.

In ascending order, the tiers or levels through which a coach can advance are:

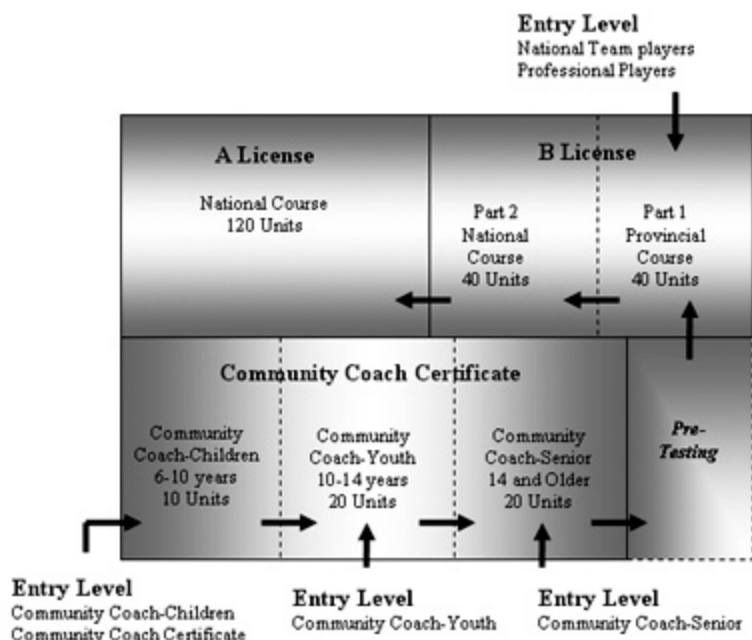
A License
B License
Community Coach Certificate

The Community Coach Certificate, as the name suggests, is aimed at the coaches working with children, youth players and senior players involved in recreational and competitive community club soccer. In the flow chart below one can see that the Community Coach Certificate essentially consists of three parts; Children, Youth and Senior. Coaches wishing to gain certification would do so in the following manner.

- **Community Coach Certification:** Completion of Children's, Youth and Senior courses totaling 50 units
- **Community Coach-Children:** Completion of the Children's course totaling 10 units (6-10 age group)
- **Community Coach-Youth:** Completion of the Youth course totaling 20 units (10-14 age group)
- **Community Coach-Senior:** Completion of the Senior course totaling 20 units (14 years and older)

The largest number of coaches at the community club level are parents involved in mini-soccer programs, and are new to the game. These parent/coaches are generally interested in gaining a rudimentary understanding of the task at hand but, due to other commitments, cannot make coaching certification a high priority. With this in mind, the program makes it possible for a coach to complete the 10 units of the Children's course in one day and be awarded the designation "Community Coach-Children". This designation is recognized for Mini-Soccer coaches only.

Coaches working with players aged 10-14 years or 14 years and older may enter the Program through the respective Youth or Senior category if they do not wish to gain full certification at the community level. They will undergo 20 units (i.e., two days) of instruction in order to gain the designation of either Community Coach-Youth or Community Coach-Senior.



Coaches may gain the full Community Coach Certificate by attending all 50 units involved in the Children's, Youth and Senior courses (approximately five days in total). It is recommended that this designation entitle the coach to coach a team at any age group, in any amateur competition/ tournament, at the club level.

If, on completion of this process, a coach wishes to apply to enter the Licensing Program, admittance into the B License course is dependant upon a coach attending and passing a formal "pre-test" held within his or her Province, before the application is made.

The Canadian Soccer Association's Licensing Program, aimed at those who are more serious about their coaching development, requires that coaches reach a minimum standard of competence in a practical coaching environment. Each coach is, therefore, formally "assessed" and graded by Staff Instructors as part of the course. This process begins with the B License, which involves a total of 80 teaching units plus time allocated for formal assessments. It is aimed at coaches working with players in a competitive environment where "performance" is a critical factor in successful coaching. The A license course includes a total of 120 teaching units plus formal assessments. The A License is designed for "high performance" coaches and caters to those wishing to make a career of coaching at the highest level.

Each of the courses within the program are built around teaching "units" of 45 minutes, with an emphasis being placed on the practical application of certain coaching tasks, also known as "competencies". These tasks/competencies are expanded upon as the coach progresses through the program and will range from showing an understanding of the rules of mini soccer to running an effective practice with players in a high performance environment.

More information on Technical/Practical courses can be obtained by contacting the Canadian Soccer Association or your Provincial/Territorial Soccer Association.

Want to find out more?

If you are interested in finding out more about the Community Coach Program, the B License Pre-Test or Part 1 (Provincial Course) of the B License Program you should contact your Provincial Soccer Association for details. If you require information on the A License Program or B License-National Courses offered annually then you should contact the Canadian Soccer Association Technical Office. You can find the appropriate contact information by going to the **Technical Directory**. You can also access more information about the Canadian Soccer Association Coach Licensing Program by going to **A License** or **B License** in the Programs section of the Coaching Centre.

Integration of Old Qualifications into the New Program:

The integration of the previous, 5 Level Program into the new 3 Level format is shown below. This conversion shall take place in order to give fair representation to those that have taken part in the NCCP Technical/Practical components prior to the launch of this Program in October, 1999:

Level 1 (pre-June 1997) = Community Coach-Children
Level 1 Children = Community Coach-Children
Level 1 Youth = Community Coach-Youth
Level 1 Senior = Community Coach-Senior
Level 2 = Community Coach-Senior
Level 3 = *Community Coach Certificate
C License = **Recognized until December 31, 2004
B License = B License
B License (Mentorship only) = B License Part 1 (Provincial Course)
A License = A License

*Note: To gain the full Community Coach Certificate when transferring certification from the old to the new Program a coach must have also taken at least Level 1 Theory, or a Community Coach Course. This ensures that the required theory topics have been covered. (i.e., Role of the Coach, Session Planning, Safety, etc).

**Note: All C License Coaches have until December 31, 2004, to take a B License-Provincial Course. At that time the C License designation will cease to exist and all coaches still holding that designation will be classified as Community Coach Certificate holders.