



FOOTBALL CANADA THE NATIONAL COACHING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (NCCP)

PREAMBLE

Football Alberta along with all other Provincial Football Associations (PSO) will no longer offer the old NCCP Technical or Theory course as they will be incorporated in the New NCCP courses. Read on to understand the process for future delivery of the New NCCP and courses. Additional memos will be sent to coaches and will be on our website. Since 1997, the emphasis of the NCCP has been on developing competent coaches – an exciting step towards helping them to become more effective and have a more meaningful impact on an athlete’s development and experience.

Football Canada’s Long Term Athlete Development Model is the basis for its NCCP, because it places the participant/athlete first and the coach is at the centre of the athlete’s development.

The NCCP has undergone a number of changes in recent years. In response to an extensive evaluation, the Coaching Association of Canada has adapted the NCCP to fit today’s coaching environment. The Football Canada’s NCCP is being designed and will be implemented to develop the coach’s knowledge, skills and attitudes (behaviour) appropriate to his or her athletes’ stage of development.

Among these important changes in the “New” NCCP is the shift in emphasis from “**what a coach knows**” to “**what a coach can do**”. This transformation to a competency/outcomes-based approach is a key factor in the re-development of the program.

THE NEW NCCP MODEL (COMPETENCY-BASED MODEL)

The new NCCP is made up of two streams and a total of four contexts, each with its own coaching requirements. Football Canada has decided that all four contexts are relevant to the development of football and essential to the meeting the “Football for Life - through Long Term Athlete Development” goals of Enhanced Excellence and Enhanced Participation.

The Two Streams of the NCCP are:

Stream 1 – Community Sport

Community Sport-Initiation Novice course (For new or novice coaches at Atom/PeeWee level): The Community Sport Stream has a decidedly recreation focus. In the “Initiation”

context the development of fundamental movement and Fundamental Football Skills are essential where fun, fitness, and participation are the focus at the younger ages. In the “On-going” context fun, fitness, and participation are key elements and in many cases competitive recreation is the focus.

Coaches in the Community Sport – Initiation Context typically become involved on a voluntary (and often short-term) basis because their children participate in a sport. However, many coaches work with participants of all ages who are new to the sport.

Stream 2 – Competition

The Competition Stream has three (3) contexts – Introduction to Competition, Competition Development, & High Performance. The focus of athlete development in these contexts is Excellence”. The Course offered at this point is: **Competition-Introduction at Position Coach (Replaces NCCP Level 1 & 2 Technical and Theory)**.

The coaches in these contexts tend to work with athletes over the long term to improve performance, often in preparation for provincial, national, and international competitions.

Additionally, Coaches in the “Competition” stream usually have previous coaching experience or are former athletes in the sport.

THE NEW NCCP

| COMMUNITY SPORT STREAM | COMPETITION STREAM |
|--|---|
| INITIATION (Atom and PeeWee) | INTRODUCTION (Bantam, Midget, High School) |
| Ongoing Participation (Take Competition Stream) | DEVELOPMENT (Junior and University) |
| | HIGH PERFORMANCE (National, International, Professional) |

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

The new NCCP model distinguishes between training and certification. Coaches can participate in training opportunities to acquire or refine the skills and knowledge required for a particular coaching context as defined by the sport. 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.

In the New NCCP, a coach is described as being:

- **In Training** – when a coach has completed some of the required training for a context;
- **Trained** – when a coach has completed all required training for a context;
- **Certified** – when a coach has completed all evaluation requirements for a context.

Training

Football Canada's NCCP is integrating the football specific (technical) component and the multi-sport (theory) component **INTO one course** for each player context (Competition Introduction for example) and coaching context (position coach, coordinator for example).

Certification

The evaluation method is still being developed and not applicable at this point in time. Once all the relevant football specific and multi-sport modules are completed, the coach will then be able to proceed to Evaluation (practical). When all evaluation criteria are satisfactorily met the coach will then be **certified**. As mentioned above, and to make it clear, certification will be granted only in the participant & coach context that the coach is evaluated. Unlike the Old Level's NCCP there is **no component** (Technical, Theory or Practical) certification. The coach will be recognized as being "In-Training", "Trained", or "Certified". We will notify all coaches when the evaluation stage is available in Alberta.

RECOGNITION OF THE OLD "LEVELS BASED NCCP QUALIFICATIONS IN THE NEW "COMPETENCY-BASED" NCCP

CREDIT BY CHALLENGE

The Credit by Challenge Program which was offered in the Old NCCP paradigm will not be available in the New "Competency-Based" NCCP. However, it is intended once all the other coaching contexts have been developed that experienced coaches, who believe they have the prerequisites will be able to go straight to evaluation. **But don't expect this option any time soon.**

The **GRANDFATHERING of Old NCCP** courses taken are valued in the NEW NCCP and in the next few weeks Football Canada and the Coaching Ass. of Canada (CAC) will determine what these coaches will receive. A further memo will be sent explaining details.

Recognition Principles:

- Levels-Based (Old) NCCP qualifications are valued in the “New” Competency-Based NCCP and will remain part of each coach’s transcript;
- Coaches from the “old” NCCP will be granted qualification equivalencies into the “New” NCCP;
- In each “coaching” context, coaches must complete gaps in training and evaluation that exist between the “Old” NCCP and the “New” NCCP within a five (5) year period. The clock will start ticking when the “context” receives final CAC approval.

TRANSITION TO THE NEW NCCP

Effective January 1, 2010 Football Canada and PSO’s will:

- **Cease offering Level One and Level Two Training and Certification under the Old NCCP Levels Paradigm. (CAC will not recognize NCCP L1 & L2 Levels Training conducted after January 1, 2010).**

Effective January 1, 2010:

- **PSO will begin offering the COMMUNITY SPORT (FOOTBALL) NOVICE COACH TRAINING (For new or novice coach at Atom/PeeWee level) – in lieu of Level 1 Equivalent;**

Effective February 1, 2010:

- **PSOs will begin offering “INTRODUCTION TO COMPETITION – POSITION COACH- TRAINING in lieu of the Old Level 1 & Level 2 Technical Program. Theory is now included in the new courses offered by Football Alberta.**

Coaches who are coaching in the Competition Development Context will be able to take the “Introduction to Competition” training and upon successful completion of the training will be granted “In-Training” in that context.

Continuance of Levels-Based NCCP – Level 3

Football Canada will continue to offer Level 3 Certification under the Old NCCP until Context Approval for “Competition Development” is received. It will mean that Level 3 Training will be offered until the end of 2010.

Level 3 Certification requirements:

- Football Technical Level 3;
- Competition Development Multi-sports Modules; and
- Practical (a total of 5 years of coaching, with 1 complete season of coaching AFTER the successful completion of BOTH Football Technical and Theory).