

COACH EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT 2025/26



Coaching Education Pathway

The **CANADASOCCER COACHING EDUCATION PATHWAY** is established by the Canadian Soccer Association. It represents the pathway for Coaches to achieve the required level of education to coach player(s) in Canada, at all age groups.

It is guided by the principles of Long-Term Player Development Model (LTPD) and aligned to the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) and the Coaching Association of Canada.

BC Soccer is responsible for the delivery of all Community Stream Workshops and C License. All other modules are the responsibility of Canada Soccer Association.

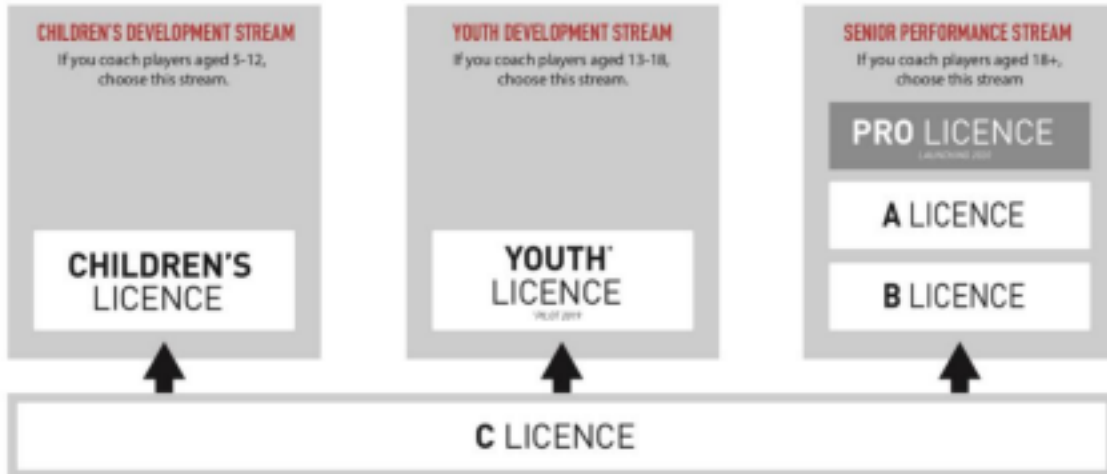


CANADA SOCCER COACH EDUCATION PATHWAY



LICENSING STREAM WORKSHOPS

ONLINE MODULES + PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS + EVALUATIONS



COMMUNITY STREAM WORKSHOPS
ONLINE MODULE + PRACTICAL WORKSHOP

ACTIVE START If you coach players aged 4-6, complete this workshop	FUNDAMENTALS If you coach players aged 6-9, complete this workshop	LEARN TO TRAIN If you coach players aged 9-12, complete this workshop	SOCCER FOR LIFE If you coach players aged 13+, complete this workshop
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Coaching Education Pathway (cont...)

The **BC SOCCER PATHWAY** below provides a summary of the programs, competitions and levels that soccer is played in British Columbia which include various environments and age specific coaching standards set by BC Soccer. It is a roadmap for **ALL** soccer players wishing to play the beautiful game regardless of age and ability.

ADULT

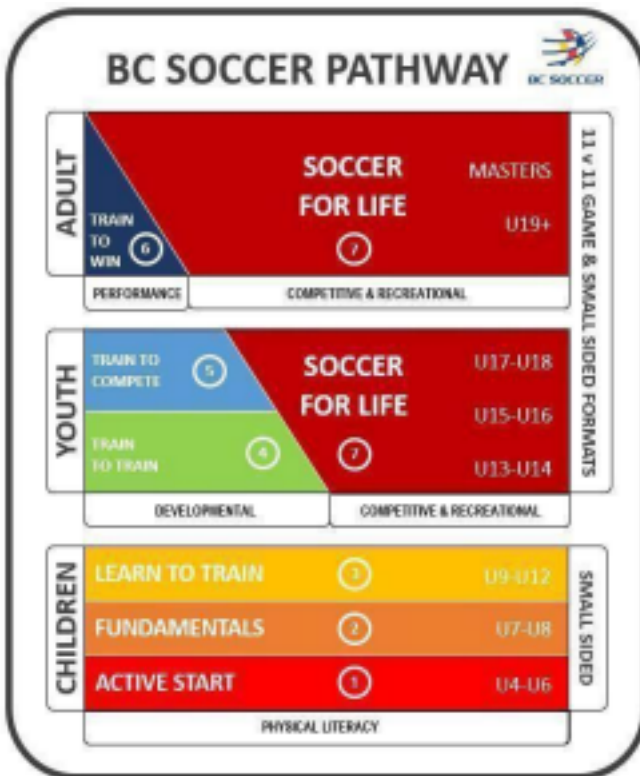
TRAIN TO WIN	National A License Trained status is recommended for Head Coaches
SOCCER FOR LIFE	Soccer for Life Community Certificate is required for Head Coaches in Provincial Cup

YOUTH

TRAIN TO COMPETE	National B License Trained status is required for Head Coaches
TRAIN TO TRAIN	
SOCCER FOR LIFE	Soccer for Life Community Certificate is required for Head Coaches and in Provincial Cup

CHILDREN

LEARN TO TRAIN	Learn to Train Community Certificate is required for Head Coaches
FUNDAMENTALS	Fundamentals Community Certificate is required for Head Coaches
ACTIVE START	Active Start Community Certificate is required for Head Coaches



Mandatory Coaching Certification

Canada Soccer is responsible for the development and certification of all coaches working with players across all environments in Canada, through its Coach Education & Certification Program.

Canada Soccer's Grassroots Coach Education Program has four workshops based on Stages 1, 2, 3, and 7 of the Long-Term Player Development Model.

The

Active

first three
workshops,
Start,

FUNdamentals and **Learn to Train**, deal with soccer training and the importance of physical literacy for players up to 12 years of age. The fourth workshop is called **Soccer for Life** and focuses on working with players age 13 and older through to "master's soccer". The Soccer for Life stage includes a wide array of participants who play for fun and fitness, those who enjoy recreational soccer, as well as those who prefer to play competitively but not at a high-performance level.

Coaches wishing to gain training through the Grassroots Coach Education Program would do so in the following manner:

[Active Start Workshop](#)

Designed for coaches of U4 to U6 players and consists of completing 1.5 hours of online training followed by a 2-hour Practical On-Field Workshop. No pre-requisites required.

[FUNdamentals Workshop](#)

Designed for coaches of Boys U6-U9 and Girls U6-U8. It consists of completing 1.5 hours of online training followed by a 3-hour Practical On-Field Workshop. Coaches are also expected to complete the NCCP Make Ethical Decisions Workshop and Online Evaluation; the NCCP Making Headway Concussion Awareness Workshop, the NCCP Online Emergency Action Plan Workshop and the Respect in Sport Activity Leader Course. No pre-requisites required.

Learn to Train Workshop

Designed for coaches of Boys U9-U12 and Girls U8-U11. It consists of completing 2 hours of online training followed by a 4-hour Practical On-Field Workshop. Coaches are also expected to complete the NCCP Make Ethical Decisions Workshop and Online Evaluation; the NCCP Making Headway Concussion Awareness Workshop, the NCCP Online Emergency Action Plan Workshop and the Respect in Sport Activity Leader Course. No pre-requisites required.

Soccer for Life Workshop

Designed for coaches of Boys U13+ and Girls U12+. It consists of completing 2 hours of online training followed by a 4-hour Practical On-Field Workshop. Coaches are also expected to complete the NCCP Make Ethical Decisions Workshop and Online Evaluation; the NCCP Making Headway Concussion Awareness Workshop, the NCCP Online Emergency Action Plan Workshop and the Respect in Sport Activity Leader Course. No pre-requisites required.

Note: there is no evaluation in the Grassroots Coach Education Program. Coaches completing all of the expectations noted above will be classified as Trained Coaches.

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To assist with the new *flex-delivery* model, our Technical Director and Technical Lead, Grassroots, will facilitate the appropriate training and age-appropriate certification to those dedicated volunteers/coaches within the U4-U13 age categories, including First Kicks, Community League (Children's) Skill Centre, Sister Kicks and Super 8's programming.

The Technical Director, will facilitate the appropriate training and age-appropriate certification to those dedicated volunteers/coaches within the U13-Masters Soccer programming, including Divisional Youth and Adult teams.

The ASA Course Certification Calendar for 2025/26 is outlined below:

ASA Certification Calendar 2025/26

June 2 Soccer for Life 5:00 to 9:00 MRC Mini Field

June 9 Learn to Train 5:00 to 9:00

**June 16 Active Start Fundamentals 5:00 to 7:00 Active Start
7:00 to 9:00 Fundamentals MRC Mini Fields**

2026 (Tentative)

June 1 Soccer for Life 5:00 to 9:00 MRC Mini Field

June 8 Learn to Train 5:00 to 9:00

**June 15 Active Start Fundamentals 5:00 to 7:00 Active Start
7:00 to 9:00 Fundamentals MRC Mini Fields**

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Coaching Sisters

Women's Coaching Development Strategy

The ASA 'Coaching Sisters' initiative is rooted within the Sister Kicks program, dedicated to empowering young girls to be exceptional leaders, on and off the pitch. The program is run by devoted ASA leaders, who have implemented sessions that enrich the lives of players, youth leaders, and coaches alike.

Sister Kicks places immense value in offering game-based, interactive, and value-based session plans that challenge players to find creative solutions to nuances of the game. The Sister Kicks program provides a solid foundational training structure for both young female coaches and players by removing the access barriers women must often overcome when playing and working in sports.

There are four levels of opportunities for young women looking to get involved in mentoring, coaching, and leading young players in soccer (see club coach hierarchy). The coaching pathway begins with volunteerism. Youth Leaders (Gr:9 to Gr:12) accumulate 12 volunteer hours within the program where mentorship is provided by ASA staff, free training and coaching qualifications can be earned, and opportunities exist for professional development. ASA is happy to assist young women to achieve the volunteer hours they need for high school graduation and university prospects.

Once Youth Leaders have accumulated volunteer hours and completed relevant coaching certification,

remuneration begins as a paid coach. This pathway provides young women with the opportunity and access to coaching and leading in soccer which is typically a male dominated field.

By way of enhancing the role and impact of “Females leading Females”, the Sister Kicks program features a “Character Trait of the Week” whereby Youth Leaders and players focus on positive attributes such as honesty, courage, resilience, perseverance, and patience. Coaches and mentors elicit player responses by providing a safe space for players to talk about what traits motivate, inspire, and nurture them. This utilizes matriarchal and traditional indigenous principles of knowledge sharing as well as the sharing of responsibility, which in turn, teaches responsibility to youth leaders.

Through the Sister Kicks program, ASA is actively advancing gender equality in coaching by creating and promoting clear credible coaching pathways with support for women at each career stage.

In House Coach Development

Along with meeting mandatory age-appropriate certification (to align with respective Charter requirements), it is also essential that the ASA provides all coaches with ongoing ‘in-house’ development and education opportunities.

These sessions are hugely important and cover a range of issues/topics, from an internal club perspective and for any updates and changes from various leagues, district/provincial bodies and other affiliated organizations and stakeholders.

It is only through the development, participation, and support of these in-house coach development sessions that a coaching community can really come together and can influence the culture of a club.

In understanding the critical need for this on-going education requirement, the ASA has produced the following ***In-House Coach Development Calendar***, which all ASA Coaches should be made aware of and informed as to their required attendance, given its alignment with coaching rebate/credit program.

Coach Support and Compensation

The coaching certification mandate is a critical component of the Canada Soccer, National Youth Club License, and is administered via the [BC Soccer Coach Requirement Policy 2023](#)

As a Canada Soccer National Youth Club License holder, it is essential that all ASA coaches maintain this requirement.

Recognizing the time, effort and commitment from Parent-Volunteers to step up and provide each player with a certified Coach, the ASA established this program in 2021 and updates the policy annually regarding the **Coach Support and Compensation** program that provides best practice in respect to on going educational coaching support and compensation. Parent-Volunteers participating within a team environment can expect to receive the following Coach Support & Compensation:

- ✓ **100% FREE child (1) registration**** (*Received as a credit, equivalent to one child registration fee, towards the subsequent season. Once the coach agrees to continue to coach the credit shall be applied to the current program/season of coaching – Conditions apply, see below*) Applications to utilize the coach's credit shall be made to the Program or Technical Lead within 10 days of registration being opened up with the registration software.
- ✓ **100% FREE Coach Certification**
- ✓ **ASA will provide kit** (budget approval) for the coach and assistant coach(s) shall wear this during training and games

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- ✓ **Staff Coach Mentorship Program** (provided by appointed Program/Technical Lead Staff Coach.)
- ✓ **In-House Coach Development – Seminars & Workshops** (minimum attendance of 60% is required to aligned with rebate/credit program) The Technical Director or assigned staff coach shall submit attendance within 24 hours of seminar or workshop to the Director of Operations)

** Registration rebates/credits can be claimed when a Parent-Volunteer in a head coach capacity attains or completed the following:

- **Meeting all elements of the [BC Soccer Coach Requirement Policy 2023](#)**

Youth Team Head Coaches

All Youth Team Head Coaches of any youth team and/or soccer program must:

- Comply with the BC Soccer Criminal Record Check policy prior to participating in their role/activity.
- Complete the following safety training modules prior to the respective season start date:
 - o Respect in Sport - Activity Leader Program online module (certificate expires after 5 years requiring a renewal).
 - o NCCP Make Ethical Decisions Training module and/or online evaluation.
 - o NCCP Making Headway in Soccer online concussion module.
 - o NCCP Emergency Action Plan online module.
 - o NCCP Rule of Two online module.
- Complete the following technical training modules:
 - o Canada Soccer Grassroots online theory module (Part 1) for the age group(s) they are coaching in prior to the respective season start date.
 - o Canada Soccer Grassroots on-field practical workshop (Part 2) for the age group(s) they are coaching within six (6) months of the respective season start date.

The age groups for the Canada Soccer online theory (Part 1) and on-field practical workshop (Part 2) components shall be defined as follows:

U6 - Active Start
U7-U9 - Fundamentals
U10-U13 - Learn to Train
U14-U18 - Soccer for Life

Youth Team Assistant Coaches

All Youth Team Assistant Coaches of any youth team(s) and/or soccer program(s) must:

- Comply with the BC Soccer Criminal Record Check policy prior to participating in their role/activity. • Complete the following safety training modules prior to the respective season start date: o Respect in Sport - Activity Leader Program online module (certificate expires after 5 years requiring a renewal).
- All other training components are recommended for all coaches.
 - **Attended the minimum requirement of ASA in-house coach development sessions.** *Coaches must attend 60% of the in-house coach development sessions. In-house sessions attendance is required to be completed by the Technical Director or assigned staff coach who shall submit the attendance within 24 hours of the session to the Director of Operations.*
 - **Returned all club equipment issued at the end of the season.**

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****IMPORTANT NOTE****

• Parent

Volunteers: Team Head Coaches (U11-U18)

- **Parent Volunteers In-Club/Grassroots programs(U4-U10)**
- **All appropriately registered coaches leading a team for a full season (as noted by the Technical Director or Program Technical Lead), can claim one registration credit, once a coach has completed the requirements a coach's credit can be applied to the current registration period, for the same player, in the same program. For players graduating into a new program or for those who choose to transfer to a different program, any differential in the program fees will be payable (including any new kit requirements).**
- **No cash credits are applicable if a player drops to lower level of programming.**
- **If multiple parent-volunteers are assigned to the same team (co-coaches), the one registration credit will be**

divided equally. This must be submitted to the Technical Director or Program/Technical Lead prior to the commencement of the season. Coaches are responsible to satisfy the credit equally without any guidance or direction from ASA administration.

- *Technical Director or Program/Technical Lead are responsible to maintain and submit coaches who are applying for credits based on the required criteria listed. There shall be no exceptions to this rule.* •

Staff Coaches shall not be eligible to this program unless approved by the Director of

Operations **Club Coach Hierarchy**

ASA has four (4) levels of club coaching opportunities supporting ASA age group soccer programs.

They are formalized below in a 'staircase' approach to Club Coach Development.



All Coaches 16 years of age and older must obtain age-appropriate certification within 3 months of coach selection/appointment. The Club will make every effort to host the required age-appropriate course or find opportunities offered by surrounding regional club(s).

Club Coach Profiles

Youth Leadership Coach (YLC)

Grade 9-12 attending Secondary or Post-Secondary school and playing in ASA or affiliated soccer programs, such as FV Selects (Metro).

<16Yrs: Not of age to attend courses but, are still able to support First Kicks and Discoveries. They can earn

Volunteer Leadership School credits. No compensation.

16 to 18Yrs: They are of age to attend age-appropriate certification courses and should make every effort to obtain. Depending on their level of coaching ability combined with their playing level, they support First Kicks, Community League or Sister Kicks programming. If they do not possess age-appropriate certification, they earn Volunteer Leadership School credits. If they do possess age-appropriate certification, they earn both Volunteer Leadership School credits and receive an honorarium. Depending on their coaching development, Youth Leaders can also find additional opportunities within the club such as potential annual ASA Tournament.

Volunteer Coach (VC)

Qualifications: May or may not have child in program.

Experience: Minimal to no coaching and/or playing experience. Committed to learning and attaining required Certification

Compensation: See Club Coach Matrix

Apprentice Coach (AC)

Qualifications: Working through Community Stream certification and onto Licensing Stream. Experience: Minimal coaching experience. Medium-High level of playing background. Committed to learning.

Compensation: See Club Coach Matrix

Staff Coach (SC)

Qualifications: Canada Soccer C License or higher.

Experience: High level/advanced coaching background, with a proven record of player development.

Compensation: See Club Coach Matrix

Club Coach Matrix

The table below offers a breakdown of the In-Club Coach Development program.

COACHING

CERTIFICATION

TIME

REQUIREMENT

Youth Leadership	First Kicks (U4 - U6)	Not Attainable	Assist Lead program coach.	Sessions are 45-60mins. Program	Volunteer Leadership School credits
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Coach (YLC) <16 Yrs	Children's Community League & Sister Kicks (U7 - U10)			runs in Spring & Fall	
Youth Leadership Coach (YLC) 16 to 18 Yrs	First Kicks (U4 - U6)	Active Start U4-U6	Assist Lead program coach.	Sessions are 45-60mins. Program runs in Spring & Fall	Volunteer Leadership School credits + honorarium if they obtain required certification
	Children's Community League & Sister Kicks (U7 - U10)	Fundamentals U7/U8			
		Learn to Train U9/U10			
Volunteer Coach (VC)	First Kicks (U4 - U6)	Active Start U4-U6	Assist Lead program coach. Oversee game/stations	Sessions are 45-60mins. Program runs in Spring & Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 100% FREE child (1) registration (conditions apply) ✓ 100% FREE Coach Certification ✓ Staff Coach support program ✓ In-House Coach Education (seminars / workshops)
	Children's Community League & Sister Kicks (U7 - U10)	Fundamentals U7/U8	Oversee games and manage game time.	Sessions are 60mins. Program runs in Spring & Fall/Winter	
		Learn to Train U9-U12			
	Skill Centre Team (U8-U12)	Learn to Train U9-U12	Deliver 2x/wk training + game each week.	Sessions are typically 75mins. Program runs in Spring & Fall/Winter.	
	Divisional Team (U13-U18)	Soccer for Life U13+			
	Youth Community League (U11 - U18)	Soccer for Life U13+	Oversee games and manage game time.	Sessions are 60mins. Program runs in Spring & Fall/Winter	
Apprentice Coach (AC)	Skill Centre (U8-U12)	All relevant Community Stream	Work alongside appointed Team or Program Head Coach in delivery of all aspects.	Sessions are typically 75mins. Programs run in Spring & Fall/Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Remuneration inline with experience ✓ 100% FREE Coach Certification ✓ Staff Coach support program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In-House Coach Education (seminars/workshops)
	Super 8's (U11-U12)	C License			
	Divisional Team (U13-18)				
	Excel Development Academy (U11-U18)				

<p>Staff Coach (SC)</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>C License Children's License Youth License National A/B License</p>	<p>Lead in any/all programming</p>	<p>As determined by program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Remuneration inline with experience ✓ 100% FREE Coach Certification ✓ Coaching attire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In-House Coach Education (seminars/workshops)
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