



Australian Government

Australian Sports Commission

Entry Policy  
for the  
National Coaching  
Accreditation Scheme (NCAS)  
and  
National Officiating  
Accreditation Scheme (NOAS)

Updated July 2006



# Introduction

---

## Purpose of the policy

This policy provides criteria for organisations seeking entry to the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS) and/or the National Officiating Accreditation Scheme (NOAS).

## Background information:

### Overview of the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS)

The National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS) was established in 1978 as a progressive coach education program. The NCAS aims to offer education and a nationally recognised qualification to people coaching at all levels. Coaches of children, adults, veterans, athletes with a disability or elite athletes at club, school, regional, state or national level can become more effective coaches through participation in the NCAS. NCAS training programs are based on competency based training principles, and involve assessment of the coach to ensure that they have met the required standards for each level. Approximately 80 sports participate in the NCAS.

#### The NCAS aims to:

- increase confidence and competence in coaching ability
- promote an ongoing progressive improvement of knowledge and expertise
- incorporate the basics of sports science, enabling a more in-depth approach to coaching
- promote the use of safe and correct techniques
- provide a structure to improve communication skills
- encourage the development of innovative coaching techniques
- provide quality controlled learning in all training programs
- increase the enjoyment of sport for coaches and athletes.

#### NCAS training programs include the following components:

- **Coaching principles** – fundamentals of coaching and athletic performance
- **Sport specific** – skills, techniques, strategies and scientific approaches to the particular sport
- **Coaching practice** – practical coaching and application of coaching principles.

### Overview of the National Officiating Accreditation Scheme (NOAS)

The National Officiating Accreditation Scheme (NOAS) was established in January 1994 to assist national sporting organisations develop a group of skilled officials. While there is no formal levels structure for the NOAS, a General Principles Training program is available for use by NSOs.

The NOAS aims to develop and implement programs which will improve the quality, quantity, leadership and status of sports officiating in Australia.

#### Who are officials?

Officials are people who control the actual play of a competition by the application of the rules and laws of the sport to make judgments on rule infringement, performance, time or score. Officials are needed to ensure all observe the spirit of the game/event.

#### NOAS training programs include the following components:

- **General Principles** – fundamentals of officiating and event management
- **Sport Specific** – technical rules, interpretations, reporting and sport specific roles for officials
- **Officiating Practice** – practical officiating and application of officiating principles.

### Structure of the NCAS and NOAS

The levels within the NCAS have undergone some fundamental changes in recent years. The previous NCAS framework required sports to conform to a three-tier structure (Level 1–3). The

NCAS now has a more flexible approach that allows each national sporting organisation to determine the number of levels in their coach accreditation pathway. This flexible structure also applies to the NOAS.

NCAS and NOAS programs utilise competency based training principles. This includes:

- competency standards that specify the levels of knowledge and skill required
- flexibility in education training delivery
- equitable access to the program and equitable training methods
- assessment that measures the identified competencies
- a mixture of theory and practical training
- currency – coaches and officials must update their accreditation at least every 4 years

### **Who delivers and assesses NCAS and NOAS training programs?**

NCAS/NOAS training programs are conducted by the appropriate national, state or regional sporting organisations. The ASC's network of state coaching and officiating education centres also conduct general principles courses and assist state sporting organisations to conduct training programs.

The national or state sporting organisation is responsible for assessing whether a coach or officials has met the requirements for accreditation at a particular level of training.

### **NCAS/NOAS Database**

The ASC maintains a national register of coaches and officials who have been accredited through the NCAS/NOAS.

All NSOs that are part of the NCAS and NOAS are required to select from a range of database registration and servicing models for their coaches and officials.

Under the full servicing option, NSOs choose to have the ASC take on full responsibility for registration and servicing of coaches and officials. In these cases, the names and addresses of coaches/officials who have met accreditation requirements are sent to the ASC for entry to the database and the ASC provides full servicing, including an NCAS/NOAS identification card, a twice yearly newsletter and discounts on a range of resources.

At the other end of the scale, NSOs can choose to undertake full servicing of their coaches and officials in house. In these cases the details of coaches and officials are uploaded to the NCAS or NOAS database electronically, but there is no direct servicing of the coaches and officials by the ASC.

### **NCAS/NOAS Training Program requirements**

Organisations who are eligible to be part of the NCAS and NOAS must submit training programs that meet the requirements of the ASC's *Guidelines for the Design and Registration of NCAS & NOAS Training Programs*.

## Process for Entry to the NCAS and NOAS

Step	Action
1. Contact the ASC Coaching & Officiating Unit	Discuss application and obtain the <i>Entry Policy for the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS) and National Officiating Accreditation Scheme (NOAS)</i> (this document).
2. Be an ASC recognised National Sporting Organisation	<p>Meet the eligibility criteria for recognition by the ASC. Information is available on the ASC website at <a href="http://www.ausport.gov.au/nso/recognition.asp">www.ausport.gov.au/nso/recognition.asp</a>.</p> <p>Recognised NSOs are only able to register NCAS/NOAS programs for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sporting activities for which the NSO recognition is granted</li> <li>• Sporting activities that the NSO has primary responsibility for.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> If an organisation does not meet these criteria, they may wish to become an endorsed coaching/officiating delivery organisation through an NSO who meets these criteria. NSOs will be required to assess applications from interested potential coaching/officiating delivery organisations using the <i>ASC Coaching/Officiating Delivery Organisation Endorsement Guidelines</i>.</p>
3. Prepare and submit an entry level training program.	Prepare and submit a training program that meets the ASC's Guidelines for the Design and Registration of NCAS & NOAS Training Programs.
4. Training program reviewed	Independent reviewers as well as ASC staff will review all training programs. The NSO will be advised in writing if the submission is approved or requires amendments.
5. Selection of a database registration and servicing model	The NSO selects a database registration and servicing model for its coaches and officials, and may sign a service agreement with the ASC.
6. Coach and Official Accreditation	Coaches/officials who complete all training and assessment requirements can be accredited through the NCAS/NOAS for a four year period. Coaches/officials are entered onto the NCAS/NOAS database in line with the database registration model selected by the NSO.

# Criteria for Entry to the NCAS/NOAS

---

The following criteria will be used to determine entry into the NCAS/NOAS.

## **A. Be an ASC Recognised National Sporting Organisation**

An organisation wishing to gain entry to the NCAS/NOAS must provide evidence that it is a **recognised National Sporting Organisation (NSO)** by the Australian Sports Commission.

Eligibility criteria for recognition by the ASC can be accessed through:

[www.ausport.gov.au/nso/recognition.asp](http://www.ausport.gov.au/nso/recognition.asp).

Recognised NSOs are only able to register NCAS/NOAS programs for:

- Sporting activities for which the NSO recognition is granted
- Sporting activities that the NSO has primary responsibility for.

Note: If an organisation does not meet these criteria, they may wish to become an endorsed coaching/officiating delivery organisation through an NSO who meets these criteria (refer to the ASC's *Coaching/Officiating Delivery Organisation Endorsement Guidelines* for further information).

## **B. Develop training programs for entry level of coach/official education**

Training programs must meet the requirements of the ASC's *Guidelines for the Design and Registration of NCAS & NOAS Training Programs*. The guidelines are available from ASC website at

[www.ausport.gov.au/coachofficial/education/trainingprogdesign/design\\_guidelines.asp](http://www.ausport.gov.au/coachofficial/education/trainingprogdesign/design_guidelines.asp)