



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

NCAS / NOAS Entry Level Accreditation Models

National Coaching and Officiating Accreditation Schemes (NCAS and NOAS) entry level training programs aim to introduce teachers, parents, participants and volunteers to coaching and officiating and is often the first step along the path to becoming a qualified coach or official.

This overview of entry level models has been developed to assist National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) make their first level of training simple and accessible for beginner coaches and officials. The models outline sport specific examples of good practice and options available to NSOs when revising their entry level training programs.

The key elements to designing simple and accessible training for beginner level coaches and officials include:

- No pre-requisites
- Short duration (for example, one day)
- Low or subsidised course fees
- Running the program at a time and place to suit parents, teachers, participants and volunteers
- Simple competencies aimed at the basic skills that a beginner coach or official
- Good balance between practical and theory
- Flexible delivery (alternative learning and assessment methods, for example, online training)
- In-course assessment (this prevents people not completing post course requirements)
- Mentoring and support during coaching or officiating practice
- Clear pathway for ongoing development
- Simple updating and reaccreditation processes.

Background

- As a result of an Australian Sports Commission (ASC) Board review in 2002, the NCAS structure (Level 1 – 3) was revised. An 'Orientation to Coaching' or 'Level O' course operated in a small number of sports, but did not offer an accreditation.
- From 2003, the NCAS adopted a 'flexible framework' approach enabling NSOs to determine their accreditation framework, including number and type of accreditation levels. This flexible structure also applies to the NOAS. (Note: the NOAS has never stipulated a levels structure due to the diverse types of officials involved).
- In 2005, the Beginning Coaching General Principles and Introductory Level Officiating General Principles were introduced as the general principles required for entry into the NCAS and NOAS respectively, aiming to reduce barriers and encourage more coaches and officials into the accreditation system.

Naming of entry levels

There is now flexibility in the naming of entry levels to better reflect the needs of the sport.

Examples include:

- Numeric titles (Level 1)
- Descriptive names (Club Level Coach, Introductory Official, Community, FUNdamental, Foundation etc)
- Colours (Bronze)

Is there a 'minimum standard' for the NCAS and NOAS?

The ASC has set minimum standards for the entry level of accreditation for both the NCAS and NOAS. NSOs must meet the minimum competency standards outlined in the Beginning Coaching General Principles for the NCAS, and the Introductory Level Officiating General Principles for the NOAS. This requirement is to ensure that there is a minimum standard of competency set for

coaches and officials across the NCAS and NOAS. The Beginning Coaching General Principles and the Introductory Level Officiating General Principles can be downloaded from the ASC Website.

Sport Specific Models

Touch Football

The Touch Football Community Coach Training Program makes the entry level qualification much more accessible than the previous Level 1, as it is a short course with in-course assessment. The Community Coach Training Program is a practical six hour course which costs \$25 and is aimed at parents, teachers, students and park-level players. The in-course assessment involves the completion of a workbook and conducting a minimum of 15minutes practical coaching session during the course.

Softball

The Softball Australia NCAS offers a six level sequential development program, based on the long term athlete development philosophy whereby the coach and athlete development pathways run parallel with each other.

Level I – FUNdamental Skills of Softball Course for parents and teachers - is an introduction to softball coaching for the beginner softball coach, providing the individual with the expertise to coach fundamental skills of softball to the beginner player (for example, school and junior levels). The Level 1 course consists of six and a half hours of instruction and in-course assessment. Successful participants are awarded a Level 1 Softball Course Certificate at the completion of the course. The course may be conducted in one block session or in smaller sessions. The CD package, "FUNdamentals to Softball", contains the information required for the participant to obtain accreditation for Level 1.

Rugby Union

The Australian Rugby Union (ARU) has combined its introductory level coaching & officiating training programs and incorporated a compulsory OH&S program called SmartRugby. Combining the course gives coaches a better understanding of refereeing and visa versa. The ARU hopes that changing the 'them v us' culture will reduce isolated poor sideline behaviour.

Table Tennis

Table Tennis Australia has developed a TOPS Coaching Course which is part of the Level 1 course, but can also be delivered separately. The six hours TOPS Coaching Course is aimed at teachers, parents and players who want to coach pre-club, school, community and social players.

Online Training

Some sports are incorporating online training programs into their entry level accreditations to improve accessibility and save time during the face to face components. The Beginning Coaching General Principles online course has been integrated by a number of sports. Squash Australia has used the Officials Survival Pack from the ASC Tools and Tips for new coaches and officials website as pre-reading for their Introductory Level Official course. Weightlifting has also incorporated the online Play by the Rules Course into their Club Coach Licence –

www.playbytherules.net.au

Further information:

The Coaching and Officiating unit can assist NSOs in various aspects of the development process for their coaches and officials including; reviewing frameworks, developing training programs, implementation of the programs for example, through the training of presenters and assessors. Please contact your Sports Consultant for more information.

