

Introducing the UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC)

In July 2002, the Coaching Task Force final report was published. This report was in response to the Government's *Plan for Sport* and reflected the first real opportunity for coaching to get on the political radar. The report identified that:

Coach development in the UK is variable in quantity and quality. Whilst a great deal of good work relating to the education and development of coaches can be identified there is no overall leadership, direction and quality assurance and the whole area is under resourced. As a result the UK has an ad hoc system that allows organisations and individuals to choose whether to opt in or out. Consequently coach education and qualification schemes vary enormously in terms of the quality of content, delivery and assessment both within sports and across sports. This creates a confusing picture for employers of coaches and the end consumers of coaching services.

Coaching Task Force Report, 2002

The UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC, initially known as the National Coaching Certificate) was one of the recommendations from the Coaching Task Force to reverse this trend.

So what is the UKCC?

The UKCC will be an endorsement of sports specific coaching qualifications and systems against standard criteria across five levels. This means that all sports will have to include the same core content at each distinct level and meet minimum standards with regards to delivery and assessment for each qualification. The development process has involved consultation with partners and sports across the UK.

THE FIVE COACHING LEVELS OF THE UKCC

Level	What the coach will be qualified to do
5	Generate, direct and manage the implementation of cutting-edge coaching solutions and programmes
4	Design, implement and evaluate the process and outcome of long-term/specialist coaching programmes
3	Plan, implement, analyse and revise annual coaching programmes
2	Prepare for, deliver and review coaching session(s)
1	Assist more qualified coaches, delivering aspects of coaching sessions, normally under direct supervision.

The five levels provide coaches with a progressive development pathway from being a beginner coach (Level 1) through to being a highly evolved *expert* coach. The levels are reflective of the coaching skills and not the level of performer being coached.

Rugby Union has been selected as one of six Phase 1 sports to implement the UKCC. As a result coach development staff from Scottish Rugby, The Rugby Football Union and the Welsh Rugby Union have been working together to develop coaching resources which meet the required qualification standards in each country. This has provided a unique opportunity for each country to share best practice and develop a set of resources which are well presented and enable coaches to have a quality learning experience.

Want to know more?

Visit www.ukcoachingcertificate.org for more information and the latest news on the UKCC.