

CRICKET IRELAND COACH EDUCATION: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is there no longer a ‘generic’ Level 2 qualification, and why has a distinction been made between coaching children and young people/ adults?

From September, 2013 coaches will access qualifications by following a children’s coaching pathway or young people and adult coaching pathway. There is a big distinction between how children learn and how adolescents and adults learn. In order to help all players take the most from coaching sessions, it is vital for the game to recognise how to create coaching sessions which **are entirely centred around the needs of players and maximise learning and enjoyment.** To help coaches have the best chance to learn the skills they need to do this, the new Coach Education pathway will focus a coaches attention on the types of player they work with, this means the new qualifications will grow all coaches understanding of how to create and run coaching sessions which are more focussed than ever on their own players.

Due to the fact that ECB Coaching Assistant (L1/ UKCC1) is no longer part of the new Coach Education pathway, what is available for young coaches, or people who want to support coaches?

Cricket Ireland is now offering two new introductions to cricket courses: ‘Welcome to Cricket’ or ‘Welcome to Coaching.’ This is either a three hour or six hour introductory course, depending upon the knowledge level of the participant.

16 year olds will be able to complete the introduction courses.

17 year olds can complete the certificates in coaching children or young people and adults.

Are my “old” qualifications still valid?

Yes. As long as your supporting documents are in place (police check, child protection or safeguarding children, and basic first aid) your original qualification is still valid. **NB:** the former Coaching Assistant course (Level One) only qualified participants to assist qualified coaches, so Cricket Ireland is encouraging people to attend a **certificate** course if they want to lead sessions.

What are the new course features?

- Howzat! – this fantastic resource is the course resource for all courses from Certificate upwards, and full awareness of it and its features by our tutor workforce will enhance the learning experience for candidate coaches. It will be made available on course as a USB plug in, and provides the opportunity for candidates to witness so many more scenarios and activities on course than ever before.
- E-Platform – it is recognised that not all of the course delivery needs to be done face to face and that for quality, consistency, and cost reduction implications, ECB are developing an e-learning resource to support workforce development, and Coach Education courses in the first instance.
- Online SPC – to support the pre-requisite of Safeguarding as a qualified coach, we have developed an online e-learning module around Safeguarding and Protecting Children. This course will be accessed through a new ECB e-platform.

Already a Coach?

Whilst the new structure creates opportunities for new coaches to access the game of cricket it is also crucial that the structure helps to re-engage existing coaches and even those who may once have been involved but now, no longer are.

A range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) options as well as more clearly defined guidance for coaches working in different environments means that existing coaches are well catered for by both courses and resources which will offer opportunities for them to learn more about the thing they love, coaching.

Existing coaches (all existing qualifications will continue to be recognised) will have many more opportunities to continue to engage or re-engage with coach education. Existing coaching roles will be examined in light of the new system, we will attribute minimum operating standards to coaching roles for coaches qualifying in the new structure.

Those coaches with existing qualifications will be offered routes back into coach education by virtue of a combination of their coaching role, the qualification they hold and their coaching experience.

Existing Coaching Assistants and Level 1 Coaches will be prompted to take either the Certificate in Coaching Children or the Certificate in Coaching Young Players and Adults. Existing Level 2 coaches and beyond will be signposted to the appropriate coach education based on their current coaching role and experiences (accessing relevant Child or Young Person and Adult CPD, or a combination of both).

Current Qualification	Next Available Qualifications
ECB Coach Assistant	ECB Certificate in Coaching Children (UKCC2) or ECB Certificate in Coaching Young People & Adults (UKCC2)
ECB Level 1	ECB Certificate in Coaching Children (UKCC2) or ECB Certificate in Coaching Young People & Adults (UKCC2)
ECB Coach Award, ECB Level 2	ECB CPD in Coaching Children or ECB CPD in Coaching Young People & Adults or ECB Coaching in Schools
ECB Club Coach Award	ECB Performance Coach (UKCC3)
ECB Level 3	ECB Performance Coach Modules or ECB Master Coach (UKCC4)