



# NATIONAL COACHING ACCREDITATION SCHEME







# THE AFL NATIONAL COACHING ACCREDITATION SCHEME

The AFL is a participant in the Australian Sports Commission's National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS).

AFL coaching courses provide participants with quality training and resources that will assist them to effectively fulfil the important roles of an Australian Football coach.

## WHY ACCREDITATION?

The NCAS is one of the AFL's key development programs. Coaches deserve to be accredited. Whether in paid or voluntary positions, accreditation illustrates their commitment to the game. Their time commitment and enthusiasm contributes to the sporting and personal development of players and to the community at large. Accreditation demonstrates a coach's respect for the game through:

- » Commitment to improving personal coaching knowledge
- » Good practice that deserves to be recognised
- » Responsibility to the welfare of the players, the team, and the club
- » Preparedness to share knowledge for the betterment of the game
- » Attendance, participation, and presentation at workshops and seminars

Accreditation provides 'best practice' modelling for the game through:


- » A well-constructed coach education program
- » Coach registration and the development of a coaches' network
- » Qualified, thoughtful and effective coaching for players
- » Attention to safe participation
- » Mentor support
- » Appointments of coaches with sound backgrounds
- » Opportunities for coaches to be recognised and rewarded
- » Provision of a valued service to the community

Overall, accreditation raises the standard of coaching and ensures a more satisfying and enjoyable experience for both players and coaches.

## MANDATORY ACCREDITATION

In line with AFL policy, accreditation is mandatory for coaches in all affiliated leagues and programs throughout Australia. Participating coaches **MUST** complete an AFL-approved coaching accreditation course.

On completion of an AFL coaching course, coaches will be recognised through registration on the AFL national coaching database and automatically become a member of the Australian Football Coaches Association (AFCA) for the first year.





## **AFL COACHING ACCREDITATION COURSES**

The AFL, through its Development Department and state affiliates, develops, implements and conducts training programs for the development of coaches. Courses are largely practical with an emphasis on planning, organisation of training sessions, appropriate methods of teaching and correcting techniques, developing skills and preparing players for safe participation in the game.

At all levels of football, from NAB AFL Auskick to senior, coaches have a significant influence on players' enjoyment and participation. Coaches are a primary reason why players either continue to participate or leave football. Therefore, it is crucial that coaches are accredited at an appropriate level and for the appropriate playing group. The AFL has developed different

courses for coaches according to the playing group they are working with – junior (under-12s), youth (13-17) and senior (18+). Specific Level 1 courses are offered for primary and secondary teachers and in some university and college programs.

### **LEVEL 1**

Courses are designed to cater for beginner coaches, providing them with basic coaching skills, appropriate to the age group they are coaching.

### **LEVEL 2**

Courses provide opportunities for serious coaches to develop their coaching competencies to a higher level.

### **HIGH PERFORMANCE (LEVEL 3)**

Course is designed for current Level 2 coaches involved in or aspiring to coach in the AFL, state leagues, AFL Academies or other elite programs.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF THE AVAILABLE COURSES

### AFL LEVEL 1 JUNIOR COURSE

Coaching children at NAB AFL Auskick centres and local clubs is a most important aspect of the AFL development program. It is where the basic skills that will determine their future participation in the sport are developed. The Junior Course is the minimum accreditation required for coaching children 5-12 years of age.

### AFL LEVEL 1 YOUTH COURSE

The Youth Course is suitable for coaching participants aged 13-17 years of age.

### AFL LEVEL 1 SENIOR COURSE

The Senior Course is suitable for coaching participants aged 18 years and older.

#### Requirements

A minimum of 16 years of age.

#### Course duration

14 hours.

#### Assessment

Participants are assessed practically either during the course or on the job.

#### Accreditation

Successful participants receive an AFL Level 1 (NAB AFL Auskick, Youth or Senior) Coaching Certificate, an AFL Coach ID card and are entered onto the national coaching database.

### AFL LEVEL 2 YOUTH/SENIOR COURSE

The Level 2 courses cater for those who wish to coach at a higher level or who have a genuine interest in improving their current coaching skills. It is the minimum requirement of talent programs and state leagues.

#### Requirements

Hold a current AFL Level 1 Coaching Accreditation.

#### Course duration

30 hours.

#### Assessment

Participants are assessed practically either on the job or in a match environment.

#### Accreditation

Successful participants receive an AFL Level 2 Coaching Certificate, an AFL Coach ID card and their new accreditation is entered onto the national coaching database.

### AFL HIGH PERFORMANCE COACHING COURSE (LEVEL 3)

This course is designed for Level 2 coaches involved in or aspiring to coach in the AFL, state leagues, U16 and U18 championship teams, AFL Academies or other elite programs. Coaches must apply to be invited to participate in the week-long live-in program. This is the highest accreditation offered by the AFL and covers in greater depth some of the competencies developed in Level 2, while also covering up-to-date issues such as emerging technology, media relations and coaches as program managers and mentors in the high performance environment.



## RE-ACCREDITATION

An AFL coach accreditation is valid for four years from the date that the accreditation was granted – usually December 31 in the year of completing the course.

### LEVEL 1

Application to re-accredit should be made direct to the coach's local regional development manager or state coaching manager by the due date.

To maintain accreditation, coaches must demonstrate that they:

- » Continued to coach during the four years;
- » Were a registered member of their Australian Football Coaches Association branch throughout the four years;
- » Are prepared to sign the AFL Coaches' Code of Conduct when seeking reaccreditation;
- » Are prepared to submit to any screening procedures required at the time of re-accreditation;
- » May have continued to undertake further education, formal or informal, to enhance their coaching abilities.

### LEVELS 2 AND 3

Application to re-accredit at Level 2 must be made direct to the State Coaching Manager or to the AFL National Coaching Manager.

To maintain Level 2 HP accreditation, coaches must demonstrate the same requirements as above and provide:

- » Evidence of further coach development undertaken. In the form of:
  - » Courses undertaken, whether football specific or generic
  - » Presentations made (e.g. as part of a Level 1 or Level 2 coaching course)

- » Articles written or submitted on coaching topics
- » Working with a mentor coach throughout the four-year period
- » Mentoring of other coaches
- » Any other evidence of coach development/improvement in a 'log book' format

**Note:** Re-accreditation is not automatic and the re-registration process must be completed by the due date.

## AFL COACHES' CODE OF CONDUCT

The AFL Coaches' Code of Conduct is to be signed and conformed to as part of the accreditation requirements of the AFL. The AFL Coaches' Code of Conduct provides a process through which leagues, clubs and schools can expect that basic standards of behaviour by the coach are maintained at all times. Coaches should be aware that, in addition to this code, they may be obliged to sign a further code of conduct/ethics with their club and/or league.

Coaches must also agree to submit to police screening to ensure that the quality and integrity of the program and the wellbeing of players is assured.



## RECOGNITION OF CURRENT COMPETENCIES (RCC)

All applications for RCC must be forwarded to the relevant state coaching manager, complete with supportive documentation. The onus of proof of RCC is on the applicant to clearly demonstrate which competencies are possessed against the stated competencies outlined in the relevant course.



## AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

The Australian Football Coaches Association is operational in all states and territories of Australia, managed by the state coaching managers in each state.

Coaching Edge is a continuation of the respected magazine Coaching Update and contains interviews with significant coaches, skills, drills, information from

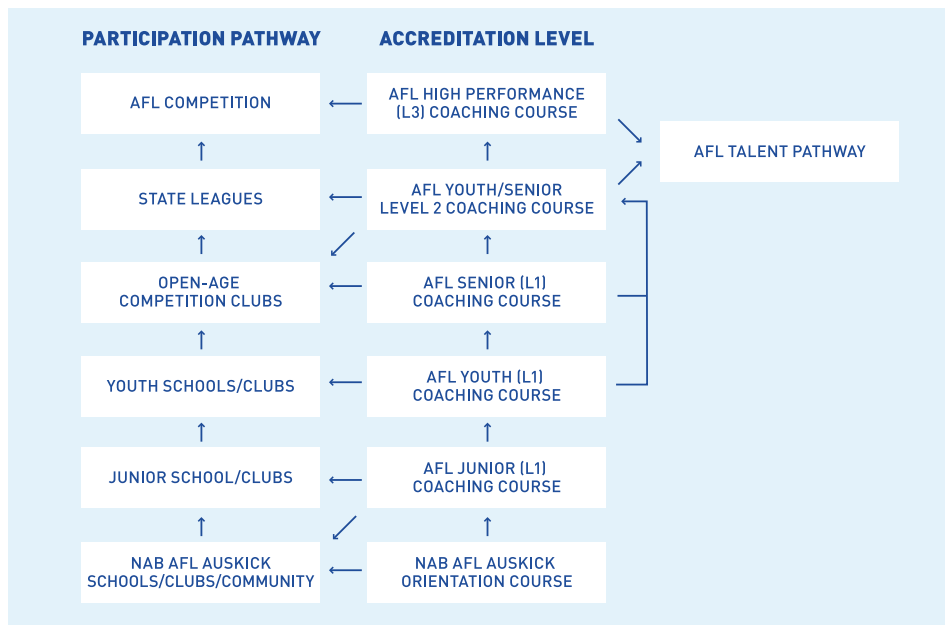
the AFL Academies program, research-based information and a range of views about football and coaching.

The state and regional AFCA branches perform the following services for their members:

- » Annual Coach of the Year Awards and recognition
- » Local coaching newsletters
- » Regional workshops and seminars
- » Resourcing and maintaining coaches' resource centres

## AFL COMMUNITY CLUB WEBSITE

The AFL Community Club website contains information about coaching courses, drills, coaching tips and other coaching resources. Visit the AFL Community Club website at [aflcommunityclub.com.au](http://aflcommunityclub.com.au) and click on the coach AFL logo.



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