



Grassroots Standards Coaching Requirements – One-Pager



Who This Is For: Coaches, Club Technical Staff, Districts

Why It Matters: Coaches are the cornerstone of a positive grassroots soccer experience. They shape not only the technical development of young players but also their enjoyment, confidence, and long-term engagement with the sport. By ensuring coaches are properly trained and supported, we create a safe, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate environment where every child can thrive.

Purpose: To outline the minimum coaching qualifications and registration requirements for grassroots soccer programs.

Key Standards:

- All coaches must complete the Canada Soccer Grassroots Coach Education Program relevant to the age group they coach:

Active Start		Fundamentals		Learn to Train	
U4	U6	U6-U7	U8-U9	U10-U11	U12-U13
Active Start – Online Theory Module and Practical Workshop		Fundamentals – Online Theory Module and Practical Workshop		Learn to Train – Online Theory Module and Practical Workshop	

- Mandatory completion of Safe Sport training modules including [NCCP Make Ethical Decisions module and Online Evaluation](#), [Respect in Sport Activity Leader Program](#), [NCCP Making Headway Module](#), [NCCP Emergency Action Planning Module](#), Canada Soccer Coaching Soccer in Canada Online Module, and [NCCP Rule of Two Module](#).
- Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Screening is required.
- Coaches must be registered with their provincial/territorial soccer association.
- Player-to-coach ratios must be developmentally appropriate:

Active Start	Fundamentals		Learn to Train		
U4	U6	U6-U7	U8-U9	U10-U11	U12-U13
One-with-One (child-with-adult informal play)	Ideal: 4:1	Ideal: 6:1	Ideal: 8:1	Ideal: 8:1	Ideal: 8:1
	Maximum: 8:1	Maximum: 9:1	Maximum: 10:1	Maximum: 12:1	Maximum: 14:1

Implementation Tips:

- Host regular coaching workshops and mentorship sessions.
- Track coach certifications and provide reminders for renewals.
- Encourage coaches to complete additional modules for continuous development.
- Use onboarding checklists to ensure all compliance requirements are met before the season starts.



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