

## Athletics Canada Coaching Education Update

Athletics Canada met with all provincial branch technical leaders November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Winnipeg. The purpose of the meeting was to provide all provinces with important updates regarding coaching education and the NCCP. The major changes and updates are noted below. Please contact your provincial branch coaching contact (they are listed below) or Donna Harris ([dharris@athletics.ca](mailto:dharris@athletics.ca)) at Athletics Canada with any questions or concerns.

### Provincial Branch Coaching Contacts

- BC – Jennifer Schutz ([jennifer.schutz@bcathletics.org](mailto:jennifer.schutz@bcathletics.org))
- AB – Brad Babiak ([bradbabiak@athleticsalberta.com](mailto:bradbabiak@athleticsalberta.com))
- SK – Sarah Junkin ([sjunkin@sasktel.net](mailto:sjunkin@sasktel.net))
- MB – Chris Belof ([chris.belof@shaw.ca](mailto:chris.belof@shaw.ca))
- ON – Roman ([roman.otfa@cogeco.ca](mailto:roman.otfa@cogeco.ca))
- QC – Serge Thibaudeau ([sthibaudeau@athletisme.qc.ca](mailto:sthibaudeau@athletisme.qc.ca))
- NB – Steve LeBlanc ([teamatlantic@yahoo.ca](mailto:teamatlantic@yahoo.ca))
- NS – Jonathan Doucette ([coach@athleticsnovascotia.ca](mailto:coach@athleticsnovascotia.ca))
- PEI – Colin MacAdam ([cmacadam01@gmail.com](mailto:cmacadam01@gmail.com))
- NL - George Stanoev ([athletics@nlaa.ca](mailto:athletics@nlaa.ca))

1. In the Old NCCP coaches worked their way through different levels. The perception with the old program was that the higher the level, the better the coach. That is no longer the case. The New NCCP program is focused on preparing coaches to be an expert in their specific context or coaching environment.

The Athletics Canada Coaching Education program is designed to prepare coaches to coach in specific contexts or settings. Once a coach completes the formal program, they will have the opportunity to continue to enhance their expertise within their context by engaging in professional development opportunities. Some coaches may choose to move with their athletes from context to context, while others will focus on one context, becoming an expert coach in that area. It is important to note that no context is superior to another. The development of a sustainable and successful athlete development continuum depends on competent, experienced and enthusiastic coaches in each context. Athletics Canada values the contribution of coaches at every level of the sport. An outline of the contexts can be found below (this information will appear on <http://nccp.athletics.ca> in January). To see an overview of the Athletics Canada [programs click here](#).

### ATHLETICS CANADA NCCP CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<b>RUN JUMP THROW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Coaching season is short ranging from 1 day fun days, to day camp programs to once a week programs offered over a few months</li> <li>· Targeted at coaches/instructors who have little to no sport experience</li> <li>· Program is targeted at young participants ranging in age from 6 to 13</li> <li>· Introduction of fundamental movement skills with games to reinforce skills</li> <li>· No competition</li> <li>· Focus is on FUN</li> </ul>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SPORT COACH</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Coaching is seasonal 4 – 10 weeks a year and/or 2-3 sessions a week</li> <li>· Introducing athletes to Athletics</li> <li>· Not just about participation; athletes will compete regionally and provincially</li> <li>· There is a continued focus on physical literacy</li> <li>· Athletes should be exposed to all event groups</li> <li>· Planning a Practice is a key skill</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CLUB COACH</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Coaching is seasonal 12 – 24 weeks a year and/or 3-5 sessions a week</li> <li>· Athletes have a foundation in Athletics or come from a multisport environment</li> <li>· The focus is on developing athletics skills in an event group area</li> <li>· Understanding combined events</li> <li>· Introduction to national level age group competition</li> <li>· Seasonal planning is a key skill</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PERFORMANCE COACH</b> (Competition Development)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Coaching is year round 40 + weeks a year and 5-10 sessions a week</li> <li>· Athletes are competing at national level</li> <li>· Athletes are focused on one or two events within an event group</li> <li>· Introduction to international competition</li> <li>· Annual Planning and Periodization are key skills</li> <li>· Working with IST</li> </ul>

2. In order to better manage course registration and the evaluation process for current NCCP coaching courses, a new coaching area of the Athletics Canada website has been created. To view it you can visit <http://nccp.athletics.ca/> or go to [www.athletics.ca](http://www.athletics.ca) and click on coaches and then on coach education information. This site is for Athletics coaches only. It does not track NCCP completions from other sports or any multisport segments.

This site will list all coach education information, including all coach education events in each province (under clinics) and track a coach's progress through certification from course registration through the evaluation process. The course outlines of all courses, evaluation requirements as well as general NCCP information can be found on the site.

PLEASE NOTE: The site is new and not retroactive. If you are a coach who was certified or took courses prior to 2012 your credentials will not be listed on this site. All coaching certification credentials for all coaches are still tracked on the Locker (the NCCP database). To view your coaching certification transcript visit <https://thelocker.coach.ca/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fEvent%2fWorkflow> .

3. As of January 1, 2014 all coaches who are certified in the New NCCP (RJT, Sport Coach, Club Coach or Competition Development) will be required to participate in professional development activities to maintain their certification. Certification is good for a period of 5 years. It will be very easy to maintain certification. During the 5 year period coaches will be required to collect a number of points. The professional development points will be tracked in the NCCP database (The Locker). If a coach does not collect the required number of points in the 5 year period, their status will change to trained. Once the required number of points are met the coach will return to certified status. For a complete overview of professional development requirements and processes, visit <http://nccp.athletics.ca/index.php?page=248> . PLEASE NOTE: The professional development policy currently only applies to coaches certified in the NEW NCCP (RJT, Sport Coach, Club Coach and Comp Dev). If you are certified in Level 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 you will be required to complete professional development to maintain certification beginning in 2015.

4. All evaluations must be completed online through the Athletics Canada NCCP management site (<http://nccp.athletics.ca>). There are no exceptions to this requirement. For assistance in completing or beginning your evaluation, please contact your provincial branch coaching contact or Donna Harris ([dharris@athletics.ca](mailto:dharris@athletics.ca))
5. If you are CERTIFIED at level 1, 2 or 3. Your credentials will transfer to the New NCCP as a certified coach in an equivalent course (Level 1 = Sport Coach; Level 2 = Club Coach and Level 3 = Competition Development). Beginning in 2015 your certification will be good for 5 years and you will be required to maintain your certification through professional development. The transfer plan for Level 4 and 5 coaches has not been outlined. At the moment there are no changes for coaches certified at these levels.

If you have elements of levels 1, 2 or 3 but are not certified there is a process to get your credentials transferred to the New NCCP. Please check your coaching transcript on the locker to determine what credentials you have through this link: <https://thelocker.coach.ca/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fEvent%2fWorkflow>. If you are not certified or there are pieces missing from your transcript you should contact your provincial branch and review the transfer of qualifications process for Athletics coaches here <http://nccp.athletics.ca/index.php?page=225>

6. The provinces voted unanimously to give the Competition Development course for Athletics a specific name. Competition Development for Athletics will now be referred to Athletics Canada Performance Coach. Our website, the Locker and all evaluation tools will be updated to reflect this change by the end of January 2014.