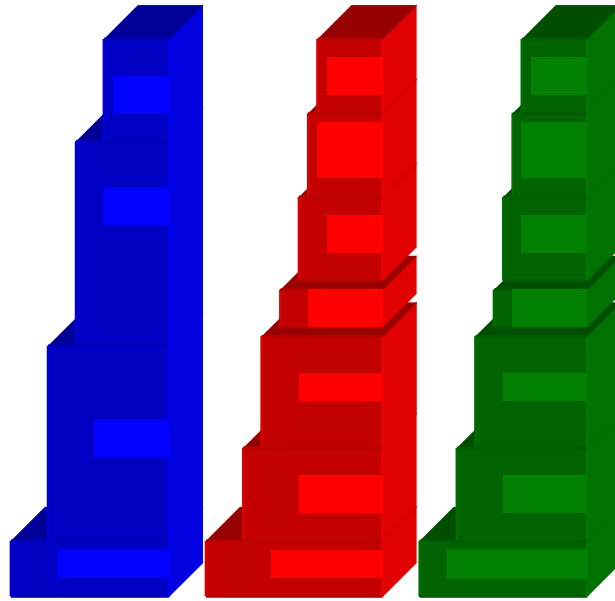


RFU COACHING STRUCTURE

“MAKING IT FIT TO NATIONAL COACHING CERTIFICATE & NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS”

BACKGROUND

The RFU Coaching Structure has evolved in the last few years from a 3 tier Mini/Midi, Youth and Adult structure to a 4 Level structure with game specific courses underpinning eg Mini/Midi and Tag.



Structure used from 1997 - 2003

Historically, the RFU courses have been designed, delivered and assessed by the RFU with little quality assurance and no outside verification. Whilst we have produced some excellent courses and coaches, the qualification has limited credence in the wider sporting and industrial worlds.

The Government have invested £28m into developing a National Coaching Certificate. The RFU has been selected as one of 20 sports to have our coaching awards included in a National Coaching Certificate (NCC).

The National Coaching Certificate will be aligned to National Occupation Standards and will become part of the National Qualifications Framework.

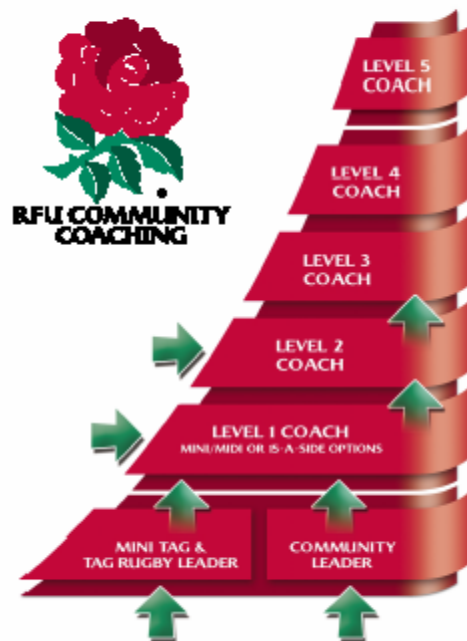
SIMPLY: this means that, for example, a Level 3 coaching award will be recognized throughout sport and wider industry.

The development of national standards for sport across 5 levels has begun to guide sports who wish to put qualifications on the National Qualifications Framework. This has led to developments in the RFU structure as seen below.

CHANGES TO STRUCTURE

The RFU Coaching Structure will move to 5 levels with TAG and Community Leaders Award (CLA) being viewed as Leadership courses and then Levels 1 to 5 fitting with National Occupational Standards.

COACHING STRUCTURE



New Structure 2004

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

The following factors have influenced the change:

- RFU has been selected as one of 6 “fast track” sports to pilot National Coaching Certificate. We needed to demonstrate a commitment of working towards the standards.
- Direct alignment of RFU courses to NOS and NCC levels will have many benefits, not least of which is the clarity for community coaches.
- Key partners for RFU i.e. 1st4sport and scUK both preferred this change.

- Agreement was quickly reached that the new Level 4 being produced was of such quality that it would be more suited to Level 5 and that would allow for the development of a new Level 4; thereby filling a recognized void in course provision.
- Initial consultation with RDOs, RRDMs and key volunteers has suggested that this realignment is more preferable (in the long term) than the previous structure.
- The ongoing course development and re-writing work can cater for changes in title e.g.
 - Level 1 – will comprise the best elements of the Mini/Midi course along with NOS standards and a generic format to make it open to all coaches with one unit allowing age grade specialisms.
 - Level 2 – presently being written and matching NOS standards.
 - Level 3 – recently formed re-write group will produce a course which is again matched to NOS standards.
 - Level 4 – a new upgraded course to replace old Senior Coach course.
 - Level 5 – new course developed in conjunction with Loughborough University.

NB During rewriting, courses from the old structure will continue to be delivered and will have equivalency of status to the new courses.

STILL CONFUSED?

Please contact your local RDO or go online to the coaching forum page and ask questions directly. A Glossary of Terms is written below which explains the meaning of some of the many acronyms the Government and education authorities use.

N.G.B. National Governing Body. In our case the Rugby Football Union.

N.C.C. National Coaching Certificate. To be offered at 5 levels.

N.O.S. National Occupational Standards. For coaching, they are NOS for Coaching, Teaching and Instructing available at present for levels 2 and 3. In the future NOS for levels 4 and 5 will be developed.

Q.C.A. Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. QCA are the guardian of standards in education and training. They recognise and regulate qualifications onto the National Qualification Framework (NQF).