

### **How do I start my training as a baseball coach?**

All coach training is through Baseball Canada and is now offered through an on-line module at <http://nccp.baseball.ca>. This site was developed by Baseball Canada as part of the *Initiation Coach* program and it is an inter-active self-directed training tool that you complete at your own pace and convenience. The cost is \$37.50 (including taxes) and with this you have access to on-line video drills, materials, practice plans and skill development tools, all in an easy to follow format. When you complete the on-line portion of the entry course you will continue to have access to the site. The focus of this module is on the “What to Coach?” side of coaching. Once you complete the course you will then be given a choice of workshops, where the focus will be on the “How to Coach?” side.

### **My kids are starting baseball and I want to start coaching at the entry level with my local association. How do I find the programs and training I need?**

An important part of the entry level coach training program is the *Rally Cap* program, introduced by Baseball Canada in 2006 and part of the new *Initiation Coach* program. The *Initiation Coach* is geared towards a coach who is entering the system with their children and will be coaching kids in a community or recreational setting. It stresses FUNdamental skill development with the emphasis on FUN. Entry to the training for this program and to *Initiation Coach* is through <http://nccp.baseball.ca>. Additional information on *Rally Cap* can be found through the provincial baseball association or on the Baseball Canada website – [www.baseball.ca](http://www.baseball.ca).

### **I want to become involved in coaching rep (travel) teams in my community. How do I start my training and what do I need?**

All coach training by Baseball Canada is now offered through a on-line modules at <http://nccp.baseball.ca>. This site was developed by Baseball Canada as part of the *Initiation Coach* program and is also being used as part of the new *Regional Coach* (competitive coaching stream that you want to enter). It is an inter-active self-directed training tool that you complete at your own pace and convenience. It costs \$37.50 (including taxes) and gives you access to on-line video drills, materials, practice plans and skill development tools in an easy to follow format. You continue to have access to the site after completing the on-line portion of the entry course. The focus of this module is on the “What to Coach?” side of coaching. Once you complete the course you will be given a choice of workshops where the focus will be on the “How to Coach?” side.

Baseball Canada formerly offered different technical levels of courses that coaches were required to take along with general coaching theory courses. In 2006, new programs were being introduced that integrated the theory components with the technical information. As an interim measure, coaches who complete the *Initiation Coach* follow-up Workshop will be granted the equivalency of the former Technical 1 level.

***Please note: If you want to coach at National Championships this year and require coach training, please contact the Baseball Nova Scotia office directly for more information.***

### **How do I check my certification and registration in the Coaching Association database?**

If you know your NCCP (or CC) number, go to [www.coach.ca](http://www.coach.ca). Click on the 'Check Certification' icon. Once you've entered your name and NCCP number, you can view your transcript (and print off a copy if you wish).

If you do not know your NCCP number, send an email to either Brad Lawlor (at) [baseball@sportnovascotia.ca](mailto:baseball@sportnovascotia.ca) or Dennis Woodworth (at) [dwoodworth@baseballnovascotia.com](mailto:dwoodworth@baseballnovascotia.com) and we will track down your number.

A new system of direct entry has been established and the coaches database is relatively recent. At one time, it used to take 2-3 months after a course was completed for the data to be entered. However, that system has now been improved and if you need confirmation in the meantime, please call Baseball NS as we retain course registration forms and we can confirm that you have taken the courses listed.

### **I already have coaching certification. What will happen to my certification under the new NCCP system? Will I have to take all my training again?**

Existing coaching certification will be 'grandfathered' into the new system. Equivalencies will be given for existing levels and if you meet the certification levels required today, you will continue to meet these requirements for the foreseeable future. Coaches who are entering the system and are progressing to their various levels will be given the option to progress under either system, with the exception of Level 1 Technical which has already been phased out and is being replaced by the *Regional Coach*. If you do not have any technical courses, you enter the system as a new coach and start with the on-line self-directed module at <http://nccp.baseball.ca>.

### **What are these equivalencies?**

Technical 1 only = No equivalency (continue in former stream)

Full Level 1 = Regional Coach – TRAINED

Full Level 1 + Technical 2 = Regional Coach – CERTIFIED

Tech 2 / Theory 2 / No practical = Provincial Coach – TRAINED

Full Level 2 = Provincial Coach - CERTIFIED

## **What will I have to do to maintain my certification?**

The coach training and courses already taken by coaches will continue to be part of the system. However, certification is now a renewable process. Previously somebody who took courses and achieved certain certification levels continued to hold that level forever, whether or not they actively coached and whether or not they were considered competent.

A feature of the new NCCP, is that Baseball Canada will renew the certification status of coaches every 3-5 years (to be defined for each context) upon the confirmation that the coach is actively coaching at that level / context and the coach has continued to take continuing coaching education (such as attendance at regional conferences, coaching sessions or other development activities), and therefore, the certification will be renewed. Coaches who let their certification lapse will be able to re-enter the system by meeting certain criteria, such as a refresher session or update (may be on-line, or may be an update evaluation). If you continue to actively coach and attend an update session(s), you will maintain your certification.

## **I hear the discussion of ‘In Training’, ‘Trained’ and ‘Certified’. What do these mean to me?**

A feature of the new system is that the old status of ‘Certified’ is taking on a new meaning. Coaches will progress through different stages for each context in which they coach. The new system designates a coach as ‘In Training’ for a context when he enters the system and starts taking the units, then when the coach finishes the required modules that apply to that context they are designated as ‘Trained’. To become ‘Certified’ then a coach goes through an evaluation process that will include completion of a Making Ethical Decisions on-line module and testing (done completely on-line inter-actively), a review of a Coaching Portfolio or Workbook that you maintain and an observation session with a trained evaluator at a practice and/or competition.

## **Do I have to be ‘Certified’?**

It depends.

You should be aware that certification is not necessarily required for some coaching contexts. For example, the Initiation Coach program only requires that you be ‘Trained’ or ‘In Training’. There is no requirement for evaluation (or ‘Certification’) for this context. As a matter of fact, most associations do not have a mandatory requirement for any training for their entry level programs. For some of the lower levels, it may only be required that you are ‘In Training’ or ‘Trained’ depending on the age level and the program. We are developing a tool for you to determine what you have to do at each stage.

If you are coaching certain of the advanced levels or at the highest competitive level in any division above Mosquito, at least one of the coaches on a staff will have to be certified at certain levels under either the 'old' or 'new' system.

If you are advancing to Nationals, all coaches will require the equivalent of the current standard: either Full Level 1 + Tech 2 under the old system, or *Regional Coach CERTIFIED* under the new.

### **Do I have to take the 'old' Theory Courses or the new MultiSport Modules Part A and Part B?**

If you are already in the old system and want to continue to get certification through to Level 2 and Level 3 – you can take the new MultiSport Modules (the old Theory courses are no longer offered). Taking both Part A and Part B will give the equivalency of Theory 1 and 2.

If you are new to coach training and coach a competitive team, we would recommend that you take part in the new *Regional Coach* program being introduced this year. The MultiSport modules of Teaching & Learning, Practice Planning, Making Ethical Decisions, Nutrition, Mental Training and Program development are all integrated into the new baseball-specific training. If you choose this path, you will not have to attend the separate theory sessions.

If you are not sure, contact either Brad Lawlor [baseball@sportnovascotia.ca](mailto:baseball@sportnovascotia.ca) or Dennis Woodworth at [dwoodworth@baseballnovascotia.com](mailto:dwoodworth@baseballnovascotia.com)

### **Where do I find info on *RallyCap* or *BlastBall*?**

Go to the Baseball Canada website at [www.baseball.ca](http://www.baseball.ca) or the direct link at [http://www.baseball.ca/eng\\_doc.cfm?DocID=212&Related=13](http://www.baseball.ca/eng_doc.cfm?DocID=212&Related=13). Additional information is available at Baseball NS.

### **Where can I find useful baseball coaching info on-line?**

We recommend the following sites:

1. The Baseball Canada entry to coaching module at <http://nccp.baseball.ca>. We recommend this highly. You receive training credit and gain access to the BC Baseball Library of on-line resources including videos, drills and practice plans. It is linked to [www.bettercoaches.com](http://www.bettercoaches.com).
2. The BC Baseball library at [www.bettercoaches.com](http://www.bettercoaches.com) – if you don't want to go through the on-line training.
3. Baseball Canada at [http://www.baseball.ca/eng\\_cat.cfm?CatID=25](http://www.baseball.ca/eng_cat.cfm?CatID=25). There are articles and suggestions at the bottom of the page.

4. Check out [www.webball.com](http://www.webball.com) – another BC site with excellent information and resources.
5. Newsletters include: Coach John Peter at [www.baseballtips.com/newsletter](http://www.baseballtips.com/newsletter) and great pitching sites and newsletters at [www.thecompletepitcher.com](http://www.thecompletepitcher.com) and [www.letstalkpitching.com](http://www.letstalkpitching.com).
6. There's always Skilton's Links at [www.baseball-links.com](http://www.baseball-links.com) – your pathway to over 10000 baseball links.
7. If you come across any that really interests you, pass them along and we'll let people know.
8. Baseball Nova Scotia will be launching a Coaching association website which will be launched April 4<sup>th</sup> and will be located at [www.bnscoach.com](http://www.bnscoach.com).