



2023 Advanced Coach Education Program - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Concacaf Coaching Convention?

The Concacaf Coaching Convention is the agreement between Concacaf and its Member Associations which serves as a regulatory framework intended to standardize and raise the quality of coach education programs across the Concacaf region and its Member Associations.

Why does Canada Soccer have to align to the Concacaf Coaching Convention?

The Concacaf Coaching Convention establishes the minimum requirements for Concacaf Member Associations, like Canada Soccer, to deliver their Coach Education Programs. By aligning the standards of our Coach Education Program to the requirements of the Coaching Convention, Canada Soccer's Coach Education courses will be recognized by Concacaf across all Concacaf Member Associations. This means that once Canada Soccer is an approved member of the Concacaf Coaching Convention, a coach who possesses a current and valid Canada Soccer A Licence, for example, will be permitted to coach in any Concacaf Member Association where an A Licence is required.

I hold a current and valid Canada Soccer Youth Licence. Why is this course no longer offered by Canada Soccer?

The Canada Soccer Youth Licence was conceived in 2017, before the work to create the Concacaf Coaching Convention had begun. At that time, the Canada Soccer B Licence was targeted towards coaches working with senior amateur players, and the Youth Licence was created to meet the needs of coaches who were working with youth players.

The Concacaf Coaching Convention states that the B Licence is targeted towards coaches working with youth and senior amateur players. This effectively replaces the Canada Soccer Youth Licence. Rather than delivering two similar courses targeted towards the same coaches, the Youth Licence is being phased out and replaced by the new B Licence.

How do I renew my Youth Licence when it expires, and what Licence will I receive when I renew?

When a Canada Soccer Youth Licence is due to expire, the coach will go through a renewal upgrade process. Upon successful completion of this process, the coach will receive a Canada Soccer B Licence Diploma in place of the expired Canada Soccer Youth Licence.

If I hold a current and valid Canada Soccer Youth Licence, does this mean I have to take the new B Licence course?

No. Coaches who hold a current and valid Canada Soccer Youth Licence will still be able to use that Licence to coach in environments where it is required, such as standards-based youth leagues.

****Note**** When a Licence expires, it is no longer considered current and valid and cannot be used to coach in a standards-based league.

Will there be changes to other Canada Soccer Coach Education courses?



To align to the requirements outlined in the Concacaf Coaching Convention, all Canada Soccer Advanced Coach Education Program courses are being updated in 2023.

What Licence do I need to coach in a standards-based youth league?

In the short term, to provide clubs with maximum flexibility, coaches will be permitted to coach in standards-based youth leagues like the BCSP, AYSL, OPDL and PLSJQ with a current and valid Canada Soccer Youth Licence or a current and valid Canada Soccer B Licence. When those Licences expire, the maintenance and renewal of both the Canada Soccer Youth Licence and B Licence will require an upgrade to transition those licences to the new B Licence recognized by the Concacaf Coaching Convention, which will become the requirement for coaching in a standards-based league.

I hold a current and valid Canada Soccer B Licence. Does the introduction of the Concacaf Coaching Convention mean that my B Licence is now recognized across all Concacaf Member Associations?

No. All current and valid B Licences are currently recognized only in Canada. Once Canada Soccer is approved by Concacaf as a member of the Coaching Convention, all approved coaching Licences (C, B, A, Pro) granted by Canada Soccer after that date will be recognized across Concacaf.

When current and valid Canada Soccer B Licences expire, there will be a renewal upgrade process in place to ensure that renewed Licences meet the requirements of the Concacaf Coaching Convention.

I hold both the Canada Soccer Youth Licence and B Licence; it seems like the training that I've done is not being recognized with these changes?

The training delivered through the current Canada Soccer Youth Licence and B Licence was designed to prepare participants to coach youth players and senior amateur players respectively. With the new B Licence targeted towards coaches working with youth and senior amateur players, coaches who have completed both the Canada Soccer Youth Licence and B Licence will follow a different renewal process to receive the Concacaf-approved B Licence.

I applied for the B Licence because my goal is to be a professional coach one day, but I was told I had to complete the Youth Licence first because I was coaching youth players at the time. Does this mean I now have to complete the B Licence before applying for a place on the A Licence?

Not necessarily. Canada Soccer is working with Concacaf to ensure a seamless introduction to the Concacaf Coaching Convention. Circumstances like this will be treated on a case-by-case basis and may require coaches to complete additional modules to receive a B Licence Diploma.

Please contact Canada Soccer's Coach Education Department by emailing Sarah Ouellette, Development Department Administrator at souellette@canadasoccer.com so that your case can be reviewed.

What is the difference between a Coaching Diploma and a Coaching Licence?

A Coaching Diploma is an award granted to someone who has successfully completed a coaching course. A Coaching Licence is a permit authorizing someone to coach within the Concacaf jurisdiction.



When is the Canada Soccer Pro Diploma going to start?

The implementation of the Canada Soccer Pro Diploma was delayed due to COVID-19 and is now scheduled to accept its inaugural class in the fall of 2023 for completion in 2024.

I hold a current and valid Canada Soccer Youth Licence. Does this mean I now have a Canada Soccer Youth A Licence?

No. The current Youth Licence is being phased out and replaced by the new B Licence.

The Youth A Licence is a new course that will begin in 2024. The Youth A Licence will be targeted towards coaches working in full-time professional academy environments.

What are the pre-requisites to apply for a place on the various Advanced Coach Education Program courses?

The pre-requisite Diploma, including the minimum duration the coach must hold the pre-requisite Diploma, for each course is as follows:

Diploma	Pre-Requisite Diploma	Minimum Duration Holding Pre-Requisite
C Diploma	Grassroots Coach Education Program (Active Start, Fundamentals, Learn to Train, Soccer for Life)	N/A
B Diploma	C Diploma	6 months
Youth A Diploma	B Diploma or Youth Licence (2019-2022)	12 months
A Diploma	B Diploma	12 months
Pro Diploma	A Diploma	12 months