

National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS)

Background

NCAS is the coaching framework of the Australian Sports Commission(ASC). It provides general guidelines for course structures and accreditation pathways for recognition of coaching qualifications. Coaches who are accredited through NCAS are recognised by national and state sporting organisations and the ASC. Currently over 70 sports participate.

Structure of the NCAS

NCAS has a flexible approach that allows each national sporting organisation to determine its coach accreditation pathway. NCAS training programs include the following components:

- coaching general principles - generic principles of coaching and athletic performance that apply to all sports
- sport-specific - skills, techniques, strategies and scientific approaches to that particular sport
- coaching practise - practical coaching and application of coaching principles

NCAS courses utilise competency based training principles. This includes:

- competency standards that specify the levels of knowledge and skills required
- flexibility in education training delivery
- equitable access to the program and equitable training methods
- assessment that measures the identified competencies
- a mixture of theory and practical training
- currency - coaches must update their accreditation at least every **4 years**.

NCAS Pony Club Accreditation

The Pony Club Australia (PCA) course structure and delivery methods make the system very attractive and affordable for coaches. Prospective coaches from the absolute beginner to the more experienced can work through the course at their own pace depending on their level of experience and access to assistance. The main features are:

- Flexible Course Delivery - work at your own pace, work with a mentor, attend workshops and clinics etc
- Competency Based Assessment including by video
- Recognition of Current Competency - people gain skills and knowledge in many ways, by formal training or life and work experience
- Senior First Aid Certificate is not mandatory but does carry points when updating your accreditation.

PCA NCAS Accreditations

There are currently 2 levels:

- Preliminary - this is the entry level and set at the D/D* Efficiency Certificate level and is a pre-requisite for Level 1
- Level 1 - this is at C/C*/K Efficiency Certificate level
 - Level 1 Mounted Games Specialist - coaches must have Preliminary PCA Coach qualification and complete Modules 1,2, Module 3 (3.1 to 3.5 only) of Level 1.

Level 2 is currently under development.