

FHC Minimum Standards for Coach Training and Certification

Effective September 1, 2025

Updated January 2025

Following the notice and 5-year staged approach to qualification which was provided in 2020, Field Hockey Canada is delighted to announce that Minimum Standards for Coach Training and Certification will be enforced from September 1st, 2025.

All coaches regardless of context or age group must have the following prior to working with athletes.

- A. Making Ethical Decisions Workshop: a 4-to-5-hour workshop offered by the provincial/territory coaching association \$ varies by province
- B. Making Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation: Complete online at no cost (coach.ca)
- C. Coaching Association of Canada Safe Sport: online, at no cost (coach.ca)
- D. Making Headway online at no cost (coach.ca)

Any coach regardless of context who coaches athletes under the age of 18 and/or any vulnerable person regardless of age must complete a VSC police reference check, prior to coaching.

Coaches who coach ID hockey must also complete Special Olympics Introductory coaching workshop.

Unless otherwise noted: There must be one coach actively coaching the team and present at practices and games that meets the standards outlined below.

PSO to monitor and ensure compliance in local and regional, provincial environments. FHC to ensure compliance for all FHC assets and events. It should be noted that FHC similarly must ensure compliance of coaches involved in the national pathway to Government of Canada, Canadian Olympic Committee and FIH standards. In an aligned system where FHC typically identifies NTC hub coaches from the provincial pathways, all coaches coming into FHC environment should already be trained or certified in appropriate context as outlined in the table below.

Note that each individual province will apply their own environmental lens to describe in more detail the specific context and ages details that are contained within column 1 and 2 of this table.

CAC NCCP Coach Education Context	Age Group / Team / Context	September 1, 2025	September 1, 2026	September 1, 2027	Party Responsible for Ensuring Compliance	Notes
Community					PROVINCE	Community includes house leagues, inter club play.
	All ages community leagues	FHC Community Coach Trained	FHC Community Coach Trained	FHC Community Coach Trained	PROVINCE	
Competitive Club teams that participate as a member of a PSO and FHC or in a tournament/event sanctioned by either or both					PROVINCE	This includes club teams that travel within province, Canada and/or abroad. This also includes melded club teams.
	U 12 – U14	Comp Intro Field Hockey Specific Workshop Completed	Comp Intro Trained	Comp Intro Trained	PROVINCE	
	U16, U18 and over	Comp Intro Certification application complete	Comp Intro certified	Comp Intro certified	PROVINCE	
Regional/Provincial Championships or Multi sport Games- Regional - summer games,					PROVINCE	
	U12	Comp Intro Field Hockey Specific Workshop Completed	Comp Intro Trained	Comp Intro Certified	PROVINCE	
	U14	Comp Intro Field Hockey Specific Workshop Completed	Comp Intro Trained	Comp Intro Certified	PROVINCE	
	U16	Comp Intro Field Hockey Specific Workshop Completed	Comp Intro Trained	Comp Intro Certified	PROVINCE	
	U18	Comp Intro Field Hockey Specific Workshop Completed	Comp Intro Trained	Comp Intro Certified	PROVINCE	
National Championships and Domestic Competition under FHC's Governance					FHC	Coaches full name and NCCP number to be submitted to FHC with registration to any National championship
	U16	Comp Intro Certified	Comp Intro Certified	Comp Intro Certified	FHC	

	U18 & U21	Comp Dev Analyze Performance Field Hockey Specific Workshop (2.5 hr online)	Comp Dev Trained	Comp Dev Certified	FHC	
	USports	Comp Dev Certified	Comp Dev Certified + PD	Comp Dev Certified + PD	FHC	Chartered Professional Coach status should be sought through CAC.
	Masters	Comp Intro Certified	Comp Dev Trained	Comp Dev Certified + PD	FHC	
National and International Training and Competition	NTC / NG Hubs	Comp Dev Trained	Comp Dev Certified	Comp Dev Certified + PD	FHC	
	Youth National Teams	Comp Dev Trained	Comp Dev Certified	Comp Dev Certified + PD	FHC	Chartered Professional Coach status should be sought through CAC.
	Junior National Teams	Comp Dev Trained	Comp Dev Certified	Comp Dev Certified + PD	FHC	Chartered Professional Coach status should be sought through CAC.
	Senior National Teams – WNT&MNT	Comp Dev Certified	Comp Dev Certified	Comp Dev Certified + PD	FHC	If international – NCCP equivalency must be achieved
	Masters National Teams	Comp Intro Certified	Comp Dev Trained	Comp Dev Certified + PD	FHC	Chartered Professional Coach status should be sought through CAC.

Community Coach

Note there is no certification in Community Coach context.

Coaches must successfully complete the following three workshops to achieve the required 'Trained' status:

- FHC Community Field Hockey Specific – online self-guided (on CAC website)
- CAC Making Ethical Decisions

- CAC Fundament Movement Skills

This is all online and there is no in-person component.

Competition Introduction

To achieve 'trained' status in this context, coaches must successfully complete the following 8 workshops/modules

- FHC Competition Introduction Field Hockey Specific (cost as outlined by your PSO)
- Making Ethical Decisions
- Emergency Action Plan online module
- Nutrition online module
- Planning a Practice
- Designing a Sport Program
- Teaching and Learning
- Basic Mental Skills

To achieve 'Certified' status in this context, coaches must also complete the following steps:

- Successful completion of portfolio
- Successful completion of on pitch assessment
- Submit signed Action Card

The cost of certification in 2025 is \$165. Note this includes an initial portfolio review and one additional review if required, plus one practice assessment. Travel expenses may be assessed.

Provinces are responsible for the delivery of courses.

Competition Development

To achieve 'trained' status in this context, coaches must successfully complete the following:

Field hockey specific:

- FHC Analyze Performance Module (cost \$40 includes FHC admin fee)
- FIH prerequisites for Level 3 – as of 2025 – 4 workshops to be taken as a facilitated online workshop (cost varies)
- FIH Level 3 in person course (3.5-day pitch and classroom course lead by FIH Educators and FHC Learning Facilitators)

Multi-sport courses offered by provincial and territorial coaching associations (note price varies per course per province):

- Performance Planning
- Advanced Practice Planning
- Coaching and Leading Effectively
- Psychology of Performance
- Leading Drug-Free Sport
- Manage a Sport Program
- Prevention and Recovery
- Developing Athletic Abilities
- Managing Conflict

To achieve 'Certified' status in this context, coaches must also complete the following steps:

- Submission of portfolio
- Practice assessment
- Game assessment

Please note charges apply. Check here for updates or contact FHC for further information.

Apply and submit fee for portfolio

1. Successfully complete portfolio

2. Submit fee for practice assessment & successfully complete practice assessment
3. Submit fee for game assessment & successfully complete game assessment
4. Submit signed action card