



Frequently Asked Questions When Considering Instructor/Coach Certification

As the AEF deals with many inquiries about instructor/coaching certification, there are many frequently asked questions, which have been compiled with answers below. Still have questions? Contact us directly at coaching@albertaequestrian.com

- **Q. Can I attend a course and get my coaching certification?**
 - A. No, the Instructor/coaching certification programs require candidates to prepare well ahead of time by mentoring with already certified coaches, completing rider level tests, studying rubrics, and attending training courses ahead of their evaluation
- **Q. Do I have to have my own horses to test for my coaching certification?**
 - A. No, the AEF tries their hardest to book instructor/coaching evaluations at facilities with available and appropriate level demo riders and horses. We do allow the option of providing your own horses and students though if you so wish.
- **Q. Do I have to complete rider level testing for my coaching certification?**
 - A. If you wish to test for your Instructor of Beginner Certification yes you MUST complete up to Rider 6 in English or Rider 4 in Western. If you wish to complete the Competition Coach Certification, yes you MUST complete up to Rider 8 in English and Rider 4 in Western plus the Basic Training of the Western Intermediate Rider Program. If you wish to complete your Coach Specialist or High Performance Certification, you do not need to complete rider level testing, however professional portfolios are required.
- **Q. Do I have to have my own horse to test for my rider levels?**
 - A. No, there are facilities within the province that do provide either lesson or lease horses available for use when testing rider levels. It is up to the candidate and coach to make the appropriate arrangements for this. Please note that some facilities will however require you to have your own horse.
- **Q. Is there a time limit to which I have to complete my certification within?**
 - A. No there is no time limit in which your certification needs to be completed; it is flexible enough that you can work at your own pace.
- **Q. What age do I have to be to get certified?**
 - A. Depending on which level of certification that will determine the age required:
 - Instructor of Beginner: 16 years of age minimum
 - Competition Coach: 18 years of age minimum
 - Competition Coach Specialist: 20 years of age minimum

- **Q. How do I know which level of certification I should choose and is suitable for me?**
 - There are 4 levels of certification available:
 - Instructor of Beginner- Minimum 16 years of age; those who wish to teach beginner riders, recreational riders, and non-competitive riders
 - Competition Coach- Minimum 18 years of age; those who wish to introduce riders/horses to competition and refining equestrian skills of participants of all ages who wish to compete at regional/provincial competitions; no specialization
 - Competition Coach Specialist: Reining, Speed, General Performance, Jump, Dressage, Eventing- Minimum 20 years of age; Those who actively work with the competitive rider. Coach must stress basic riding horsemanship and safety skills but is expected to be capable of advancing students to silver or gold EC competitions.
 - High Performance: Reining, Speed, General Performance, Jump, Dressage, Eventing- Specialize in developing athletes; refining basic sport skills, developing more advanced skills and tactics, and preparing for performance in national to international level competitive standards.

- **Q. Where do I get started for my Instructor/Coach certification?**
 - A. If you are testing for your Instructor of Beginner or Competition Coach levels then it is recommended to first start with completing the Learn to Ride Program requirements. If you are testing for your Competition Coach Specialist or High Performance coach levels then you must start by completing your application/portfolio.

- **Q. Can I book my own Instructor/Coach Evaluation?**
 - A. No the Instructor/Coach evaluations are determined by the Alberta Equestrian Federation. The High Performance Evaluations are determined by Equine Canada. You may contact the AEF to be placed on a waiting list for evaluations within your chosen discipline.

- **Q. Can I still attend an Instructor/Coach evaluation if all my prerequisites are not submitted?**
 - A. No, all prerequisites must be submitted ahead of time – no exceptions.

- **Q. Can I watch an evaluation or others be evaluated before I am to prepare for my evaluation?**
 - No, evaluations are closed events. The only people that should be present is the candidates being evaluated and the evaluators, unless otherwise organized by the Alberta Equestrian Federation for evaluator training purposes only.

- **Q. What happens if I do not pass a certain part of my Instructor/Coach Evaluation?**
 - A. If you attend an Instructor/Coach Evaluation and do not pass a certain component, you are able to attend the next available evaluation to test that component only. It must be completed within 2 years of the original testing date.

- **Q. What is the average wage if you get your Instructor/Coach certification?**
 - A. Unfortunately the Alberta Equestrian Federation does not pay instructors/coaches, so we are unable to comment on the wage that is provided across the province as it varies.

- **Q. Are there certain requirements to stay certified?**
 - A. Yes, once you become a certified Instructor/Coach you are required to keep a current criminal record check, first aid certificate, current AEF membership, current EC sport license, pay EC coaching levy, and continually be submitting professional updating
- **Q. I got my coaching a long time ago, do I have to re-certify to become current again?**
 - A. If you were granted your certification a long time ago, and have since let it lapse, you will need to contact the AEF office directly for further instruction.
- **Q. I am from another province in which I completed Rider levels or achieved Instructor/Coaching Certification. Is it valid in Alberta?**
 - A. Yes the EC Learn to Ride Programs and Instructor/Coaching programs are national programs. They are recognized across the country.
- **Q. How do I get insurance after I am certified? Does my AEF membership cover me to teach lessons?**
 - A. Coaching Insurance is considered commercial insurance, which goes above and beyond your AEF membership. Commercial insurance can be purchased through the insurance company directly. It is, however, a requirement that as a current coach you hold a current AEF membership and also a good idea to have your students possess this as well if they are handling or around horses. Capri Insurance provides preferred rates for EC certified instructors/coaches looking to purchase a commercial policy.
- **Q. How much does it cost to become certified?**
 - A. For Instructor certification the evaluation fee is \$400 + GST as of 2013 and is subject to change without notice. For Competition Coach certification the evaluation fee is \$500 + GST and is subject to change without notice. Please inquire for Competition Coach Specialist fee's. **Note:** the total cost for becoming certified will also depend on if you invest any moneys on training courses, or mentoring or lessons etc. You also need to complete items such as a first aid course and criminal record check, and rider level testing all of which incur fee's.
- **FAQ. There are other certifications available such as CanTRA for therapeutic riding, Vault Canada for vaulting certification, and Certified Horsemanship Association, a US certification for instructors as well.**
 - To visit CanTRA – <http://cantra.ca/>
 - To visit Vault Canada – <https://vaultcanada.org/>
 - To visit CHA – <http://www.cha-ahse.org/>
- **Are you a CanTRA certified therapeutic instructor/coach, do you hold credentials through AEVA or Vault Canada, or are you an International Trainer Passport holder?**
 - Please contact the AEF office to find out how you can be listed on the instructor/coach directory.
- **Q. How do I file a complaint about an instructor/coach?**
 - To file a complaint please view the AEF [“Governance”](#) tab located under the “About” section of the AEF Website.