



Different Levels of Certification Available in the EC Instructor/Coaching programs

There are currently 2 streams available when considering the certification process. The differences between instruction and coaching are explained below:

Instruction - This stream of certification would refer to the non-competitive or recreational context. Starting beginners and teaching those who enjoy their horses outside the competitive ring would be what an individual in this certification stream would cater to. It would be ideal for those who teach beginner riders in their backyard, riding schools or day camps.

NOTE: Only certified instructors may maintain amateur competitive status while receiving remuneration for instruction.

Coaching - This stream of certification would apply to competitive contexts. This would be for those individuals who work with students who compete. The certificates that are available for the coaching stream all specialize at different competitive levels with discipline specifics being introduced and maintained the higher the level the coach is at. At the higher levels, the coach's own competitive & training experience, as well as students' results are factored in as part of the certification process.

There are currently FOUR levels available within the two streams of instruction and coaching. These four levels cater to different levels of athletes. Each level offers different skillsets that are evaluated and required when going through the certification process:

Instructor

The certified Instructor provides beginner equestrians with an introduction to equestrian sport in a fun, safe and welcoming environment. The Instructor designs and delivers developmentally appropriate programming for Long-Term Equestrian Development stages Fundamentals, Learn to Train and Active for Life. This program is focused on those who wish to take on the instruction of children and adults learning to ride, establishing foundational riding skills with an eye on safety.

Competition Coach (CC)

The Competition Coach provides equestrians with an introduction to equestrian sport in a fun, safe and welcoming environment. The Competition Coach introduces equestrians and horses to entry-level competitions. The Competition Coach designs developmentally appropriate programs for Long-Term Equestrian Development stages Learn to Train and Train to Train with no discipline specialization. This program is focused on those who are interested in coaching riders in the competitive environment. More advanced skills in the development of a competitive training program and performance analysis and mental preparation for competition - are required to become certified at this level.

Competition Coach Specialist (CCS)

The Competition Coach Specialist provides equestrians with an introduction to equestrian sport in a fun, safe and welcoming environment with advanced specialized skill. The Competition Coach Specialist, like the Competition Coach, introduces equestrians and horses to entry-level competitions. The Competition Coach Specialist designs developmentally appropriate programs for Long-Term Equestrian Development stages Learn to Train and Train to Train with specialization. Candidates will specialize in one discipline; however, they are expected to be conversant in all English or Western disciplines. This program is a further progression of the Competition Coach program, focused on riders competing at the Provincial and National levels. Beyond the Competition Coach Level, this level requires a working knowledge of the Equestrian Canada competition rules for the level and discipline they're teaching.

High Performance Coach (HP)

This program is administered by Equine Canada. The High Performance 1 coach develops competition skill to advance the competitive equestrians performance. The High Performance 1 coach designs developmentally appropriate programming for Long-Term Equestrian Development stages Learn to Win and Train to Win.