

ALBERTA EQUESTRIAN — F E D E R A T I O N —

Available Levels of EC/NCCP Equestrian Instructor/Coach Certification

There are currently 2 different streams of certification available when considering becoming a certified equestrian instructor/coach. The differences between the two streams (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 – Instruction Stream

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) – Coaching Stream

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) – Coaching Stream

Competition Coach Specialists are capable of teaching the competitive equestrian in the candidate's area of specialization. Competition Coach Specialists will work with intermediate and/or more advanced riders to further develop basic riding, horsemanship and safety skills. They are working to advance students from Provincial/Territorial to National level competitions. The Competition Coach Specialist should also be able to evaluate a horse and its suitability for a student, supervise stable operations and routines, and have experience training and preparing horses for competition. LTED-Learn to Compete, Train the Competitor and the Learning and Training to Win stages. Candidates will specialize in one discipline; however, they are expected to be conversant in all English or Western disciplines. Candidates must have had competitive experience.

High Performance Coach (HP) – Coaching Stream

The High Performance 1 coach develops competition skill to advance the competitive equestrians performance.

High Performance 1 (HP1) Coaches will be working with riders and horses in the late Learning and Training to Compete and early learning and Training to Win stages of LTED and in the following context:

- Riders will be competing at Provincial and National Championships, entry level International Competitions, North American Junior and Young Rider Championships (team & individual) etc.

HP1 coaches will work with riders who:

- Have an increased commitment to training and competition while maintaining a balance with school.
- Further develop new and consolidate and refine basic technical skills (discipline specialization).

This program is administered by Equestrian Canada.