



Background and Update on Developments

As you know this is being driven by the requirement to have all qualifications on the new Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) by 31st December 2017. The intention of the RQF is to improve consistency around how awarding organisations describe the size and challenge, or demand, of the qualifications they offer.

Last year Louise O'Reilly led a review of the current L1, L2 and L3 courses with coaches from the volleyball community. There were representatives from local, regional and national leagues, participation, talent and performance, adult and junior volleyball. The group identified topics which the coaches felt should be included in the Volleyball England Coach Education Programme and made a series of recommendations.

The review group recommendations:

- Level 1 should be pitched at the adult club volleyball (local, regional leagues)
- It should be based on 6 a-side
- There should be a game based philosophy
- The content should take into account the latest research about coaching

Subsequently Sofia Santos and José Castro from Cardiff Metropolitan University were appointed to lead the development of the new coach education programme. The new coach education pathway aims were agreed at a joint meeting of the Performance Commission and Coaches Commission [Appendix 1](#). Take time to familiarise yourself with these outcomes and philosophy they will underpin the content and delivery approach.

Discussions with 1st4sport about the Level 1 have been unable to resolve the wieldy and time consuming assessment process. Resultantly, Coaches Commission made the decision not to continue with the Level 1 as a qualification.

The new Level 1 will be a Volleyball England Award - Introduction to Coaching Volleyball (working title). This award will not be on the RQF. The new level 2 will remain as a regulated qualification.

Introduction to Coaching Volleyball – features to note:

- 2 practical delivery days: 8hrs with ½ hour for lunch and two 15 minute breaks
- Gap between Day 1 and Day 2 for and reflection and off course activities
- 5/6 hours home study: before Day 1 and between Day 1 and Day 2
- Continuous assessment – tutor professional judgment using a few key criteria
- No assessed written tasks. There will be activities for the learners to complete on and off course.
- The use of the Art of Coaching Volleyball for research, signposting and to build a community of practice
- No list of *how to* skills to teach
- Introduction to the importance of the coach-athlete relationship
- An approach that advocates coaching is as much about good teaching and social practice as it is about knowledge of volleyball and skills and tactics



- Tutor resources will be accessed via Art of Coaching

Tutors will have the following support materials:

- Learning programme – course delivery notes, timings, content etc.
- Tutor resources – these are materials you will use on the course with the learners e.g. question and feedback cards, cards with examples of volleyball activities for the learners to pick up and try out.

Learners will have:

- Learner Activity Record – to write down their answers and record their reflections
- Learner Resources – some printed, some in the on Art of Coaching. These might be video clips to watch and comment on, any practices from the Art of Coaching we think are relevant.

Operational

As you know we have a partnership with Art of Coaching. We will be using their platform in several ways to support the course administration for you as tutors and enhance the customer experience for the learners. There will be a bespoke Volleyball England section of the site.

We envisage a Workforce Toolkit on the Art of Coaching where you will be able to access all the material you will need to deliver a course. This will allow us to keep the Toolkit up to date with the latest version of any document. You can always get what you need when you need it.

Learners will have access to Art of Coaching included in their course fee. They will be directed to Art of Coaching during the course enrolment. We will have the welcome, course expectations, FAQs for them to read. There will be a couple of activities for them to do before they attend Day 1.

The will be much more about the course administration, which will follow in the next newsletter.