UK Coaching Certificate

The UK Coaching Certificate was initiated by The Government to introduce a tiered level of coaching qualifications. It is a nationally recognised qualification and is on the National Qualifications Framework.

The Pony Club is now offering Levels 1 and 2 with part funding from Sport England & SportScotland. The Pony Club Coaching Development Officer, Nicola Fitter, is about to pilot Level 3.

The UKCC is designed to raise the level of coaching skills throughout the UK in all sports, with the emphasis on making coaching more rider centred ie. the “HOW TO COACH” skills, as well as the “WHAT TO COACH”.

**Level 1**
Is “Assistant to the Coach”. Holders of this are only able to coach under direct supervision to take a lesson. They are not qualified or accredited to do more than this, and will not be insured for more, although they will be covered under The Pony Club insurance at Branch rallies. In many Branch and Centre situations, their help can be extremely beneficial when coaching alongside experienced coaches. The technical knowledge required is from C to B Test. This qualification is a great start to the coaching ladder.

**Level 2**
Is the general practical coach who can work unsupervised. The technical equestrian knowledge required is from C+ to B Test level, and this coach will be able to plan a short series of linked lessons, e.g. for Camp or similar. If you haven’t any previous coaching experience then Level 1 would help you to gain the necessary basic coaching skills which would enable you to move onto Level 2. This coach could also work alongside Level 1 coaches who needed support.

**Level 3**
Is the more knowledgeable and experienced coach who would be able to plan a longer training strategy if required, e.g. for an Area Team or as Branch Chief Instructor. This coach has a technical knowledge at around A Test level. This coach could also work alongside Level 2 coaches who needed support.

**Level 4**
Is still in development.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I have to gain this qualification?
No one will be forced to attempt this qualification or to upgrade their present qualification, though we would encourage all coaches to consider doing it.

Why was it introduced?
The Government is planning for all Sports Coaches (and that means Equestrian Instructors and Trainers too) to have to be licensed in order to practice. Under present guidelines, by 2016, only people holding a UKCC qualification will be able to get a license.

Will my present BHS qualification be valid?
Yes and you can also ‘top up’ your qualification to UKCC level. The BHS qualifications will not disappear. The UKCC equestrian levels are being incorporated into them where appropriate. UKCC Equestrian Generic Level 2 is part of the PTT, and Level 3 is part of the ITT. The syllabuses for the PTT and ITT have been rewritten extensively to cover this. Someone who holds the UKCC Level 2 will have to take the whole of the PTT exam, but will not have to build a second portfolio, and the same will apply to the Level 3 and the ITT.

Can a UKCC qualification be used across all the disciplines?
A holder of a UKCC qualification can use it across disciplines assuming they can prove they have the necessary technical knowledge to coach with. Coaches who want to take their qualification across discipline (e.g. Level 2 Generic Coach to Level 2 Polocrosse Coach) will have to complete a portfolio in the new discipline and be assessed coaching the new discipline.

Do I have to start at Level 1?
There is a clear pathway up the Levels, so if you don’t have a coaching qualification or experience it’s best to start at Level 1 but it is NOT mandatory to start at the bottom.

Do I have to attend the training courses in order to be assessed?
We shall put on Coach Training Courses for registered candidate coaches, but it is not mandatory to attend one before coming to the Final Assessment. HOWEVER the content and format is very different from what has been done before, so we do advise candidate coaches to attend a course.

Can anyone set up training courses and train candidates for this qualification? UKCC Coach Training MUST be presented by UKCC qualified equestrian Coach Educators, and will be organised regionally.

How do I know which Level to start at?
Both presently-held qualifications and relevant experience which can be substantiated by evidence and testimony will be taken into account when we advise a coach on which Level to aim for and how to prepare. Your Area Instructor or Branch Chief Instructor, Centre Proprietor, Coach Tutor or Course Organiser can advise you. Everyone above Level 1 must complete the coaching assessment form, available form HQ, and will then be advised.

Once qualified what do I have to attend to keep my certificate current?
UKCC qualified coaches will be expected to attend CPD (Continuing Personal Development) days periodically for their qualification to remain current. This is what The
Pony Club requires with our accredited coaches at the moment, as does continuing membership of the BHS Register of Instructors. The Instructors’ Register is open to UKCC qualified coaches without them having to join the BHS.

What other qualifications do I need to gain my certificate?
Prerequisites prior to Final Assessment will be:
Level 1 - Basic 1st Aid qualification, Child Protection Course (& in Scotland CRB check).
Levels 2 & 3 - CRB check; attendance on a Child Protection Course; EITHER 4 day first Aid At Work or Equine Specific 1st Aid Certificate OR other approved 1st Aid.
Certificate dependant on whether the required Membership of the Register includes insurance or not.

What are the course costs at present?
For working Pony Club Branch and Centre Instructors and volunteers, Members, Associates and ex-Members of The Pony Club:
approximate costs for registration, candidate packs, training and final assessment: -
Level 1 £150.00 (* please see below)
Level 2 £160.00 (* please see below)
Level 3 TBC

* Costs are approximate due to the fact that they are largely dependent on facility hire charges and travelling expenses.
The costs are paid in instalments over the training days.

Funding is available at present from Sport England which has greatly reduced the course costs.
Costs in Scotland are part funded by SportScotland, for candidates resident in Scotland, and are likely to be less than those shown above.
For people who do not coach for The Pony Club the fees will be higher.
Those involved with The Pony Club will be given priority for course places.