



AFL COACH ACCREDITATION: Frequently Asked Questions

Coach Accreditation Framework

What is the AFL's new Modern Coaching Approach?

The new approach is participant-centered, focusing on creating positive football experiences and supporting coaches to become effective leaders in their environments. It emphasizes ongoing learning and development rather than just skill development and accreditation progression.

How does the new 'choose your own adventure' approach work?

Coaches can choose education specific to their coaching role and participants' needs. Learning opportunities range from online modules to face-to-face workshops and on-the-job development, allowing flexibility in how they gain knowledge.

What are the online learning modules and where can I find them?

The AFL Learn team have developed a suite of Learning Modules you can choose from categorised by 6 key coaching competencies. Whether you're a Junior, Youth or Senior Coach, a new coach or more experienced coach, there are modules available to support your development in any area of coaching you want to learn about. You can find the modules via your Coaching Dashboard or via Explore AFL Learn.

What are the point requirements for each accreditation?

The minimum points needed for each tier within the registration period (November 1 2025 -31 October 2026) are:

- **Registered:** Under 90 points
- **Registered Accredited:** 90 points
- **Bronze:** 100 points
- **Silver:** 200 points
- **Gold:** 400 points*

Coaches must earn 50 points each year (inclusive of the mandatory renewal module) to maintain their Bronze & Silver accreditation. Gold coaches must earn 100 points.

What is the cost of re-accreditation?

Nothing! As part of a significant investment in Community Football, AFL Learn Coach Membership is FREE for all coaches in 2026!

Will my accreditation be Nationally recognized?

Yes! AFL Learn Coach accreditation is the National Accreditation standard and has been developed in conjunction with all State and Territory affiliates.

How can I access my accreditation certificate?

You can access your current accreditation certificate through your personalised profile page in the members area on AFL Learn. This can be found on the left-hand side of your homepage after logging into AFL Learn under 'My Badges'. Simply find and click on the relevant coaching accreditation and click on 'Download Certificate' to access a PDF of your accreditation Badges. This pdf is downloadable to mobile and can be printed off at your convenience. If you are unsure, you can always email coaching@afl.com.au to contact our Coaching Support Team.

How are coaches accredited in the new framework?

Coaches will progress through five accreditations: Registered, Registered Accredited, Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Each accreditation requires the accumulation of points, with points reset annually on November 1st.

What is the Essential Course?

The Essentials Course is the new name for what was previously known as the Foundation Course. It is the entry-level course required for all new AFL coaches.

What are the Elevate Courses?

The Elevate Courses are new AFL coaching face-to-face workshops, replacing the former Level 2 Course. They provide more focused and flexible learning opportunities for coaches, allowing them to deepen their knowledge and skills in specific coaching areas.

Why were the Elevate Courses introduced to replace the Level 2 Course?

The Elevate Courses reflect a shift towards a more flexible, modern coaching approach. Rather than requiring coaches to complete a single, lengthy course, Elevate courses allow them to focus on specific areas of coaching that are most relevant to their current role and participants.

Do I need to attend all three Elevate Courses to progress my coaching accreditation?

Coaches are not required to attend all three workshops, but they can attend multiple sessions to gain a more comprehensive understanding of best coaching practice. Completing one or more Elevate workshops will help coaches earn points towards their accreditation progression. Each Elevate workshop allows coaches to earn 50 points toward their accreditation.

I've completed all three Elevate courses, what can I do next?

In addition to completing online learning modules, masterclasses and other face-to-face workshops, Coaches looking to take the next step in their development can apply to participate in their State based Advanced Coaching course. This course will deep dive into topics covered in the Elevate courses and take 8-9 months to complete. Some states will offer Advanced Coaching Elective courses in 2026. Keep an eye out for more information in these at play.afl/coach.

Are there any changes to the requirements for Gold accreditation?

Yes. From 1st November 2025, to obtain Gold accreditation, a coach must accumulate sufficient points and complete the Advanced Coaching course. For Gold coaches that haven't completed the Advanced Coaching Course in 2025 (or the former Level 3 prior to 2024) and wish to remain Gold, will be required to participate in their state's Advanced Coaching course in 2026.

How do I sign up to attend a Face-to-Face workshop?

On your Coaching dashboard, scroll down to the Face-to-Face Workshops section. Here you will have a number of options to click on. If you'd like to attend a Coaching Masterclass, click on the masterclass tile & it will show you all the offerings available to you in your state. Select the session you'd like to attend and follow the prompts. Upon registering, you will receive a confirmation email of your registration. Additionally, after attending the workshop you will be awarded 50 coaching points.

Does my Essential Coaching course allow me to coach any age group?

The Essential Coaching courses provides accreditation for coaches at a community, school or recreation level. It is recommended that coaches complete the Essential Coach course relevant to the playing age they coach. E.g. A coach of an Under 10s team should complete the Junior Essential Course.

Do I need to be accredited if I am an assistant coach, or I just help out from time to time?

Anyone involved on match day in a coaching capacity should become an accredited member of AFL Learn. By completing one of our online Essential courses, you will have the knowledge and ability to have a greater influence on match day, and you will also be ready to coach in case you need to at any time!

What is required of returning coaches?

Returning coaches need to complete a renewal module each year, usually on a compliance-related topic such as Concussion, Vilification, or Safeguarding.

What happens if a coach doesn't meet the annual point requirement?

If a coach does not achieve the required points, they will revert to one accreditation below their current accreditation. For example, a Silver coach who fails to earn 50 points would drop back to Bronze.

How will new coaches start in the accreditation framework?

New coaches will start at the Registered level and can progress through the accreditations by accumulating points and completing a renewal module and various learning elements.

Can coaches apply for recognition of prior learning (RPL)?

Yes, coaches can apply for RPL to have prior learning or experience recognized. This may include verified academic transcripts, assessments, or previous coaching experience. Coaches can apply via the 'Coach Hub' tab within their LMS account.

Can I link my old CoachAFL or AFL Learn account?

Yes. During setup, you'll be prompted to link any existing accounts to your AFL ID.

Support**Who can I contact to find out more information?**

The best way to have any of your questions answered in regard to AFL Learn is to get in touch with the coaching support team via email coaching@afl.com.au. Our Coaching Support Team will be in contact with you to ensure you are properly supported and get the help you need!