

ITF Recognition of Coach Education Systems

The purpose of this document is to outline the ITF Recognition of Coach Education Systems at four levels: Gold, Silver, Bronze and White



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Introduction to the ITF Coach Education Programme

The aim of the ITF Coach Education programme is to assist National Associations (NA's) in creating their own Coach Education programme / system and to improve the level of tennis coaching throughout the world.

National Associations and coaches are able to access a variety of ITF assistance:

ITF Courses	Conferences / Workshops	Olympic Solidarity (OS) Programmes	Resources / Publications
ITF Play Tennis course	Regional Coaches Conferences by BNP Paribas	OS Technical Courses for Coaches at National Level	ITF Academy & Coaching Website
ITF Coaching Beginner & Intermediate Players course	Worldwide Coaches Conferences by BNP Paribas	OS Technical Courses for Coaches at Regional Level	Coaching & Sport Science Review
ITF Coaching Advanced Players course		OS Coaches Conferences	ITF Research Grants
ITF Coaching High-Performance Players course		Development of a National Sport Structure	Email Newsletter
ITF Tutor Certification course(s)		Valencia, Spain Coaching Scholarships: CAP & CHP Courses	ITF eBooks App
ITF Specialisation courses		ITF Regional Training Centre Support	Published Manuals & Books

What is the Recognition of Coach Education Systems?

The overall objective of this programme is to ensure that the Coach Education systems operating in member nations meet the minimum standards of the ITF.

Recognition is based on the criteria and minimum standards for Coach Education. These standards were agreed by the ITF Task Force on Coach Education and endorsed by the ITF Coaches Commission and the ITF Board of Directors.

ITF Approved Syllabi

Currently the ITF has four levels of approved syllabi that NAs can use to educate and certify coaches.

These are shown in the chart below which also outlines the coaching competencies per level.

Course Level	Core Competencies	Minimum Tutor Contact Hours
ITF Play Tennis Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with beginner players (ITN10) and 10 & under children• Knowledge of basic tactics and technique• Organise simple competitions• Use correct equipment and court sizes for starter players	32 hours
ITF Coaching Beginner & Intermediate Players Course (formerly Level 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with players rated up to ITN 6• Understand and be able to apply the basic training principles needed to coach players from beginner to Intermediate levels	80 hours
Coaching Advanced Players Course (formerly Level 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with players up to ITN 3• Understand and be able to apply the necessary training principles for coaching beginner, intermediate and advanced players• Plan the training and competition programme for advanced players	80 hours
Coaching High-Performance Players Course (formerly Level 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with high performance players up to ITN 1• Understand and be able to apply the training practices necessary to help high performance players technically, tactically, physically and mentally• Plan and organise the competition schedules for high performance players	88 hours

Recognition Levels

Levels of Recognition

The ITF recognises the Coach Education systems of NAs at four levels: Gold, Silver, Bronze and White.

Criteria for Recognition

The following tables represent the four levels of ITF recognition and the criteria for each level.

COMPETENCY CRITERIA	WHITE (self-sufficient up to Play Tennis Level)
Coach Education Department	The NA has a person responsible for coach education, part-time or full-time.
Coach Education Director and Staff (National Tutors, etc.)	The NA has a person responsible for coach education, part-time or full-time. A minimum of two qualified Play Tennis tutors. Tutor training organised each year by the NA.
Coach Education Programme/Structure	NA follows the ITF recommended syllabi (or equivalent) with a minimum of 32 (face-to-face) hours for Play Tennis. Maximum tutor to candidate ratio is 1:12 (PT)
Coach Education Resources	Supporting manuals and other materials for the Play Tennis course are available in the national language.
Education/Professional Development Programme	Coaches from the NA are members of ITF Academy.

COMPETENCY CRITERIA	BRONZE (self-sufficient up to Coaching Beginner & Intermediate Players Level)
Coach Education Department	The NA has a person responsible for coach education, part-time or full-time.
Coach Education Director and Staff (National Tutors, etc.)	NA has a qualified director of coach education in place on a full-time or part-time basis. Qualified tutors are in place and used to conduct Play Tennis (PT) and Coaching Beginner/Intermediate Players (CBI) courses. Tutor training organised each year by the NA.
Coach Education Programme/Structure	NA follows the ITF recommended syllabi (or equivalent) with minimum of 32 hours for Play Tennis and 80 hours for CBI. The maximum tutor to candidate ratio is 1:12 (CBI). Ideally a modular approach should be implemented.
Coach Education Resources	Supporting manuals and other materials for the Play Tennis and CBI courses are available in the national language.
Education/Professional Development Programme	Coaches from the NA are members of ITF Academy.

COMPETENCY CRITERIA	SILVER (self-sufficient up to Coaching Advanced Players Level)
Coach Education Department and Coach and/or Sports Science Commission	The NA has a person responsible for coach education. Access is available to sports science expertise to help support the courses.
Coach Education Director and Staff (National Tutors, etc.)	NA has a qualified director of coach education in place on a full-time or part-time basis. Qualified tutors are in place and being used for courses up to Coaching of Advanced Players (CAP) course level. Tutor training organised each year by the NA.
Coach Education Programme/Structure	NA follows the ITF recommended syllabi (or equivalent) for Play Tennis (minimum 32 hours), CBI (minimum 80 hours) and for CAP (minimum 80 hours). Maximum tutor to candidate ratio will be 1:12. Ideally a modular approach should be implemented.
Coach Licensing Programme/ Register of Coaches	The NA has a register of coaches that have taken and passed courses.
Coach Education Resources	Manuals and supporting materials for the supporting materials for the Play Tennis, CBI and CAP courses are available in the national language.
Education/Professional Development Programme	Minimum two days of National Coaches Workshops/ Conferences organised by the NA each year. Mandatory membership of ITF Academy. All coaches working for the NA are certified, licenced and have done a DBS or equivalent check in their country.

COMPETENCY CRITERIA	GOLD (self-sufficient up to Coaching High Performance Players Level)
Coach Education Department and Coach and/or Sports Science Commission	The NA has a coach education department and sports science commission.
Coach Education Director and Staff (National Tutors, etc.)	NA has a full-time director of coach education in place. High quality tutors and coach education staff in place to deliver the programme/qualifications. Tutor training organised each year by the NA.
Coach Education Programme/Structure	NA follows the ITF recommended syllabi (or equivalent) for Play Tennis (minimum 32 hours), CBI (minimum 80 hours), CAP (minimum 80 hours) and Coaching High Performance Players (88 hours) course. Maximum tutor to candidate ratio will be 1:12. Ideally a modular approach should be implemented.
Coach Licensing Programme/ Register of Coaches	Show evidence of a licensing programme by which licensed coaches require an annual professional coaching license to be allowed to coach in the country.
Coach Education Resources	Manuals and supporting materials for the supporting materials for the Play Tennis, CBI, CAP and CHP courses are available in the national language.
Education/Professional Development Programme	Continuous professional development programme in place. Minimum two days of National Coaches Workshops/ Conferences organised by the NA each year. Mandatory membership of ITF Academy. All coaches working for the NA are certified, licenced and have done a DBS or equivalent check in their country.

How can the ITF help nations to get ITF Recognition?

The ITF can help participating countries in a number of ways including:

- Regular visits by ITF Development Officer/ITF expert to advise.
- Use of the ITF approved syllabi and supporting materials.
- Grants to translate materials into the local language.
- ITF Tutor to conduct courses using ITF syllabi and/or to train local tutors.
- ITF Tutor courses at Play Tennis and CBI levels.
- ITF NA Director of Coach Education course.
- Discounted ITF Academy membership to help member nations with continuous education.
- ITF and OS funding for courses and Coach Education.

Benefits of ITF Approval:

- Confirmation of quality.
- External evaluation/feedback to help improve existing arrangements.
- Use of the ITF logo on the certificates of the NA.
- Help to attract funding from Government and Olympic Committee.
- More cost effective as local tutors can conduct courses.

The screenshot shows the ITF Academy website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ITF Academy logo, a user profile icon, 'Log in | Register', and a language dropdown set to 'English'. The main content area features a large banner for a course titled 'HOW MUCH DO I KNOW ABOUT TENNIS?'. Below the banner, there is a 'Read More' button. Underneath the banner, there are two sections: 'Education' and 'iCoach'. The 'Education' section describes the official online platform offering various short courses. The 'iCoach' section describes the official online library containing high-quality videos, articles, and research papers. Both sections have 'View More' buttons. On the right side of the page, there is a silhouette of a tennis player in action.

Continuous Education

The ITF supports continuous education and professional development of coaches. This is done primarily through the web portal www.itf-academy.com. The ITF Academy is a premier coach education resource offering both practical information and tennis-specific sport science content on technique, tactics, biomechanics, psychology, sports medicine and coaching methodology. ITF Academy is an invaluable learning and professional development tool for coaches and is available to all ITF member nations.

Application Process

Recognition of Coach Education system applications are open and we invite all ITF member nations to put forward their system for ITF recognition. For more information on this process please email ITF Coaching at coaching@itftennis.com