ELEVATE COACHING COURSE

COACH ACCREDITATION

AFL VICTORIA FRAMEWORK

2026 - 2027



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, train and play, and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We acknowledge we play our great game on this land and respect the cultures of all First Peoples, their contribution to our nation and contribution to the game of Australian Rules Football

ELEVATE COACHING COURSE

AFL VICTORIA FRAMEWORK - HYBRID COURSE DELIVERY

2026-27 COURSE DETAILS

BACKGROUND

The Elevate Coaching Course is an updated program formerly known as the "Level 2 Accreditation Course." This revamped structure aligns with the National Accreditation Framework, allowing coaches to register and coach across all levels of Community, Talent, and High-Performance football nationally.

This new approach is part of a modernized coaching strategy that emphasizes ongoing learning and development for coaches. It enables them to continually enhance their coaching skills, benefiting participants at all levels—whether they are learning to play, participating socially, or competing competitively.

Course Overview:

- Format: Face-to-face program.
- Content: Coaches will receive tailored education, training, and resources specific to the age groups and levels they are coaching.

Enrolment Options:

1. Individual Workshops:
    - Select one of the three available workshops - The Coach Environment, Coach at Training, Coach the Game to be run at your league/club.
    - Cost: **FREE**
2. Bundle Option:
    - Enrol in all three workshops delivered in a full day of face-to-face training outside of your league/club.
    - Cost: **FREE**

This course is an excellent opportunity for coaches to enhance their skills and knowledge, ensuring they are well-equipped to support their teams effectively.

COURSE REGISTRATION

- Visit the Coach Learning Platform to find all upcoming Elevate Coaching courses within your State and/or Territory.
- Contact Coach Education and Developer Lead Nathan Harris for more information on Course details - nathan.harris@afl.com.au

COURSE INFORMATION

TARGET COACHES

- Junior - Coaches who have been involved in coaching for more than 2 years
- Youth - Coaches who are involved in coaching U13-U18 age groups
- Senior - Coaches who are involved in coaching U18 and over age groups

PRE-REQUISITES

- Current registered coaches who have completed the Essentials Course (formerly known as the Foundation Course) and achieved Bronze accreditation.
- Engaged as a coach in local community football (including local club & school), Talent or State League program

RECOGNITION OF CURRENT COMPETENCY/RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

RPL is based on the awareness that people learn and develop competencies in many different ways throughout their lifetime – through work experience and life experience as well as through education and training. RPL considers a person's skills and experiences, no matter where these were learnt, to enable people to gain credit in a training program of study.

In certain cases, elite athletes and experienced coaches may receive recognition for prior learning (RPL), acknowledging their existing skills and knowledge. This recognition may facilitate their entry into the coaching course.

However, individuals are still required to meet the minimum criteria, which includes registering as a coach, completing the online Essentials Course for a specific age group, and achieving Bronze accreditation.

Applications for RPL must be submitted digitally using the designated form on the AFL's Learning Management System (LMS). Applications must be supported by verifiable evidence demonstrating equivalent learning related to the specific accreditation Coaches wish to apply for.

SUGGESTED PRE COURSE LEARNING

Complete the Develop your Coaching Philosophy module on the Coach Learning Platform via the below link and be prepared to share your coaching philosophy during the course:

DEVELOP YOUR COACHING PHILIOSOPHY MODULE

View the "Designing Small Sided Games" videos on CoachAFL in preparation for the practical and/or virtual game sense and constraints-based approach session during the course:

DESIGNING SMALL SIDED GAMES VIDEOS

WHAT TO BRING TO YOUR COURSE

- Writing materials
- Suitable training attire for practical activity sessions
- Suitable footwear for outdoor or indoor training surfaces
- Whistle
- Sun protection, sunscreen and hat for outdoor components
- Water bottle

RECOMMENDED FURTHER LEARNING

1. The Community Coaching – Essential Skills Course

The Essential Skills Course helps coaches create fun, safe and inclusive environments for participants. This free online course has been designed so coaches can learn at their own pace and complete 8 modules anytime, anywhere, on any device

ESSENTIAL SKILLS COURSE | SPORT AUSTRALIA

2. Positive Sports Coaching - online course

Matthew Scholes has designed this free course with a focus on developing mental fitness and building resilience. Scholes is a guest lecturer in Melbourne University's Psychology subject Wellbeing, Motivation & Performance.

POSITIVE SPORTS COACHING COURSE

3. Team Coaching Course:

Free online courses through Deakin University – Future Learn

Learn how to use a range of coaching principles and strategies to create a positive and supportive team culture.

TEAM COACHING COURSE

4. Player-centred Coaching:

Free online courses through Deakin University – Future Learn

Explore coach-centred and player-centred coaching approaches and learn how to apply key skills to your own practice.

PLAYER-CENTRED COACHING

COURSE OUTLINE

The Elevate Coaching Course consists of three separate workshops. Each workshop, listed below, covers one or more of the six coaching competencies outlined in the table.

1. **THE COACHING ENVIRONMENT (Competencies 1, 2 ,3 & 6)**
2. **COACH AT TRAINING (Competency 4)**
3. **COACH THE GAME (Competency 5)**

1.CREATE A VISION AND PHILOSOPHY	• Appreciate the big picture – understand your coaching context and implications for your coaching programs • Develop and effectively communicate a personal coaching philosophy which articulates your purpose, principles and values
2. SHAPE THE ENVIRONMENT	• Engage a mentor to assist with season planning, coaching practise and growth as a coach across the course of a season. • Understand and apply the principles of season planning including reference to the six coaching competency themes • Prepare a safe and effective environment for maximising learning and improvement
3.BUILD RELATIONSHIPS AND GUIDE LEARNING	• Establish a positive team culture within and around the team and club incorporating individual and team standards • Build and maintain healthy connections with players, parents, officials club coaching coordinator and committee members • Understand and implement athlete wellbeing principles and practises
4.COACH AT TRAINING	• Understand and apply skill acquisition principles to teach and develop advanced skills of Football • Incorporate the principles of the demands of the game when programming representative practise design. • Demonstrate effective coaching practise and behaviours utilising game sense and constraints-based approaches at training • Apply the principles of Positive Sports Coaching in coaching practise to improve player optimism and resilience
5.COACH THE GAME	• Apply advanced tactics and strategies of Football in a competitive situation • Observe, analyse and provide feedback – demonstrate effective noticing skills of player and team in practice and competition and offer feedback and instruction. • Understand the principles of games analysis and supporting tools such as video to capture moments of the game and teach principles of play • Apply the rules of Football in skill sessions and game strategy planning
6.PERSONAL LEARNING AND REFLECTION	• Self-reflect on coaching practise with the help of a Mentor including a review of the season and actions to progress and improve • Constantly seek opportunities for formal and informal learning to ensure continuous growth • Manage personal development and own health and well being

COURSE OVERVIEW: CONTENT & DELIVERY

CREATE A VISION AND PHILOSOPHY	• Coaching Philosophy – understanding your "Why", preparing and articulating your philosophy and vision • Appreciate the big picture - Understanding your coaching context and implications for your coaching program • Youth motivators	Online Module, Face-to-face or online workshop
SHAPE THE ENVIRONMENT	• Program planning – Preparing a safe and effective environment to maximise learning & improvement • Developing a season plan	Face-to-face or online workshop
BUILD RELATIONSHIPS AND GUIDE LEARNING	• Developing effective team & club culture • Healthy connections – with parents, players, officials etc • Player Welfare and wellbeing	Face-to-face or online workshop
COACH AT TRAINING	• Skill development & progression, game sense and constraints-based approaches • Effective Coaching Practice – autonomy supportive coaching, feedback and questioning • Practical sessions – constraints based coaching activities/scenarios in small groups • How to teach/train fundamentals using contstraints based approach – kicking, groundballs & contested marking etc	Face to Face Practical Session Or online workshop with peer observation and reflection of coaching a constraints based activity
COACH THE GAME	• Game Day Coaching – understand the demands of the game • Game Analysis – apply game strategy & tactics for each phase of the game (incorporating the Principles of Play)	Face-to-face or online workshop Video Analysis group activity
PERSONAL LEARNING AND REFLECTION	• Reflective Practice • Engaging a Mentor Coach to reflect on coaching practice (training and matchday) • Growth mindset – continuous learning	Face-to-face or online workshop Mentor conversation – review of season