



Mandatory Coach Certification Policy

Approved by the Board February 4, 2026, effective September 1, 2026

Purpose

Squash Canada requires individuals who coach and/or instruct squash within activities and programming sanctioned by Squash Canada to meet minimum Safe Sport, screening, coaching certification standards. This policy is designed to balance athlete safety, coach development, accessibility across jurisdictions, and practical enforcement.

This policy supports Squash Canada's commitment to safe, inclusive, and high-quality coaching environments while recognizing diverse coaching pathways, including domestic and international certification systems.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy, the following terms have these meanings:

1. **"Board"** – The Board of Directors of Squash Canada
2. **"CAC"** – Coaching Association of Canada
3. **"Coach"** – An individual (i.e., Squash Pro, P/T designated coach, or instructor) who receives remuneration and provides coaching or instruction to athletes within Squash Canada-sanctioned events or activities.
4. **"CSSP"** – Canadian Safe Sport Program
5. **"Field of Play"** – The physical squash court and surrounding area where interaction between athlete and coach is permitted during competition.
6. **"NCCP"** – National Coaching Certification Program
7. **"PTSO"** – Provincial/Territorial Squash Organization recognized by Squash Canada
8. **"SIC"** – Sport Integrity Canada (formally the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport)

Application of this Policy

This policy only applies to individuals designated as a Coach by an athlete(s) who wishes them to access the Field of Play to provide coaching during Squash Canada-sanctioned events. This policy does not apply to:

- Parents, guardians, and/or siblings providing instruction to their own family member, though Safe Sport training requirements may apply as outlined in Tournament Policies Matrix (e.g., CAC Safe Sport Training).
- Fellow athletes competing in the same event providing informational support.

Squash Canada reserves the right to extend Safe Sport Requirements to additional individuals where appropriate. Any updates to Safe Sport education by the CAC and SIC shall come into effect immediately and automatically upon their adoption by the CAC and SIC, without the need for any further action by Squash Canada.

Objective

The objective of this policy is to:

- Promote athlete safety through mandatory Safe Sport education.
- Establish clear and achievable minimum coaching standards.

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- Recognize domestic and international coaching pathways.
- Support coach development while ensuring equitable access across jurisdictions.
- Enable effective monitoring and enforcement through a formal registration system.

Coaching Certification

To be eligible to coach within the Field of Play at designated Squash Canada-sanctioned events, all coaches must complete these mandatory requirements by, September 1, 2026:

1. Safe Sport Training

- CAC Safe Sport and NCCP Make Ethical Decisions (MED).
- Where applicable, coaches may also be required to complete CSSP Safe Sport in accordance with Squash Canada hiring, contracting, or program-specific requirements.

2. Coaching Certification (One of the following):

- NCCP Certified Competition – Introduction (Certified as Club Coach) (intermediate course), or
- NCCP Certified Competition – Development (Certified as a Provincial Coach / Comp Dev in training), or
- Equivalent certification from recognized international systems (e.g., U.S. Squash or England Squash), subject to Squash Canada approval.

3. Background Screening

- All coaches must comply with Squash Canada’s [Screening Policy](#) and meet applicable screening requirements.
- At a minimum, coaches must:
 - i. Successfully complete background screening; or
 - ii. Provide proof of a previously completed, valid background screening that meets Squash Canada requirements, in accordance with the Screening Policy.
 - iii. Screening requirements, documentation, validity periods, and renewal timelines are governed by the Squash Canada Screening policy and may vary based on role, level, of involvement, access to athletes.
 - iv. Failure to meet screening requirements will result in ineligibility to coach within the field of play.
 - v. Squash Canada reserves the right to verify screening status and request updated documentation at any time.

4. Certification Maintenance

- All certifications must be current, including Professional Development (PD) requirements.
- Documentation must be made available upon request.

5. PTSO Membership

- Be a member in good standing with their respective PTSO.

Competition Development (Comp Dev) Candidates

Coaches registered as Competition – Development – In Training must demonstrate ongoing progress to remain eligible:

- A minimum of one completed NCCP module, course, or evaluation component every six (6) months.
- Failure to demonstrate progress will result in loss of eligibility until requirements are met.

International Coaches & Equivalency

Squash Canada recognizes the importance of international coaches to athlete development and program growth.

- Coaching certifications issued by England Squash and U.S. Squash will be accepted as equivalent,

provided the certification is valid and current.

- Certifications from other international governing bodies may be considered for equivalency review.
- Coaches seeking equivalency recognition must submit documentation demonstrating their certification status, including proof of currency, to info@squash.ca for review.
- All international coaches must meet Safe Sport Training requirements (CAC Safe Sport and Make Ethical Decisions, and where applicable, CSSP Safe Sport) as detailed above.
- Squash Canada reserves the right to request additional documentation or impose conditions where necessary.

Event-Specific Requirements

Event-specific coaching requirements may be outlined in:

- Event Technical Packages
- Calls for Coaches
- Squash Canada Selection policies.

Where additional requirements exist, they will be communicated in advance of registration deadlines.

Registration, Accreditation, and Compliance

All coaches seeking access to the Field of Play at designated Squash Canada-sanctioned events must comply with Squash Canada's Coaching Registration requirements.

Coaches must:

- Complete registration within timelines established by Squash Canada.
- Provide all required documentation to demonstrate eligibility.
- Hold valid event accreditation while accessing the Field of Play.

Squash Canada will establish and maintain procedures to support registration, accreditation, monitoring, and enforcement of this policy.

Failure to comply with registration or accreditation requirements may result in:

- Removal from the Field of Play.
- Loss of coaching privileges at the event.
- Disciplinary action under the Squash Canada Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every two (2) years by the Squash Canada Board of Directors, or sooner if operational or regulatory changes require.