



## **CANADA SOCCER**

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### **Canada Soccer Coach Education Pathway Update**

#### **Children's Diploma Pre-requisites**

Entering the 2026/27 Advanced Coach Education Program cycle, Canada Soccer has made a change to the pre-requisite required for the Children's Diploma. Beginning with this application cycle, the C Diploma will no longer be the required pre-requisite for the Children's Diploma. Instead, **the pre-requisites for the Children's Diploma will include the Active Start, Fundamentals, and Learn to Train Online Modules and In-Person Workshops as well as all elements of the Canada Soccer Safe Sport Roster.**

To provide additional context, please find below some of the rationale underpinning this decision:

#### **Increasing Accessibility of the Children's Diploma:**

- In recent years, uptake on the Children's Diploma has been lower than desired given the importance of this training to working with grassroots players.
- Given the recent release of full information on Canada Soccer Grassroots Programs and the supporting Grassroots Visits, which connect to the Club Licensing Program, having Grassroots Leads with the Children's Diploma is now more important for clubs as a part of the application for or maintenance of a Licence.

#### **Clarifying the Coach Education Workshop Focuses and Aligning to the Ecosystem:**

- Within the Concacaf Coaching Convention, the Children's Diploma is considered a specialist course and sits outside the main pathway, which includes the C-B-A-Pro Diplomas.
- Adjusting the pre-requisite for the Children's Diploma allows for clarity on the focus of the C Diploma, as the pre-requisite for the B Diploma, and updates to Grassroots Coach Education Program.
- The Grassroots Coach Education Online Modules and Practical Workshops are currently being revised to better support coaches with practical knowledge and resources to create the best possible learning environments for players. With these revisions and resources, the Grassroots Workshops will better prepare coaches for the Children's Diploma.
- In alignment with defining the Canada Soccer Ecosystem and roles and responsibilities within it, alignment between the Ecosystem and Coach Education Pathway has become a greater focus. This change better allows the Coach Education Pathway to clearly map to the Canada Soccer Ecosystem, ensuring appropriate training and certification throughout.