



Introduction. The England Fencing (EF) Coach Development Project commenced in June 2007 with the aim of producing a robust and sustainable coach education system for EF. The initial research conducted for the project resulted in a report that was presented to the EF Executive and Board in November 2007. The report can be seen on the EF website. All 20 recommendations made in the report were accepted by the Board. A Coaching Course Design Team was convened and has been working steadily to produce the new coach education materials. This briefing sheet details work-in-progress and support available for coach educators from EF.

The Coach Education Process. As you would expect, the coach education process involves studying fencing theory and technical topics (ie blade-actions and moves) appropriate to the weapon and level being studied and generic coaching skills including instructional technique, health and safety, interpersonal and communication skills under the guidance of an approved EF Coach Educator. Courses can be arranged either as residential intensives over 5 or 6 days or part-time courses arranged on weekend days over a number of months. There is also a 'fast-track' Level 1 programme for fencers with some competent level of personal performance which can be completed in a weekend. Would-be coaches can also study on a part-time basis under the guidance of a coach educator at weekly club training sessions. The process starts with registration, so that the appropriate materials can be forwarded to candidates.

The aim of the training is to prepare the candidate for the coach assessment for the level and weapon being studied. Ordinarily, to be assessed at Level 2 candidates would be expected to hold a Level 1 award. Similarly a coach presenting for a Level 3 award would be expected to have passed at Level 2 and so on. Level 1 takes between 12 and 25 hours of study (depending on personal fencing ability), Level 2 about 30 hours of study and each subsequent award approximately 40 hours of study with a similar amount of time applying the formal training in a club setting. England Fencing can assist Coach Educators in the publicity and administration of courses (see below).

Documentation. There is now a growing resource of documents to support coach education, educators and assessors:

- ✓ The revamped syllabus for 4 levels in 3 weapons
- ✓ A Fast-Track Level 1 Programme
- ✓ A Trainee Manual for Levels 1 and 2 for all weapons
- ✓ A Trainee Manual for Levels 3 and 4 for all weapons
- ✓ A Coach Educators Guide to the Level 1 and 2 programme
- ✓ A coach education application form
- ✓ A brief for would-be coaches
- ✓ Guidance for Assessors
- ✓ Assessment Forms
- ✓ Level 1 (all weapons) theory test question bank and marking guide
- ✓ Levels 1, 2 and 3 theory test papers.

Soon to come will be a Coach Educator Guide to the Level 3 and 4 trainee manual.

All these documents are available from EF HQ and some as downloadable pdfs.

Assessment. The assessment process is as follows:

Level 1: A 15 minute Group lesson – with the topic selected by the panel or randomly selected by the drawing of lots. Leading a game or fencing related exercise or footwork session. Theory test on theory, rules and regs, H&S and codes of conduct

Levels 2 & 3: A 15 minute Group lesson – with the topic selected by the panel or randomly selected by the drawing of lots and 2 Individual lessons comprising a warm-up lesson (approx 5 minutes) and a 10-minute lesson on a specific topic chosen by the panel. A theory test on fencing theory and definitions.

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THE ENGLAND FENCING COACH DEVELOPMENT SCHEME
BRIEFING FOR COACH EDUCATORS



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Level 4: A 20-minute warm-up lesson followed by a 30-minute lesson on a specific topic chosen by the panel with questions (viva voce) on the approach and tactics being taught. Two 2000-word papers on topics chosen from a list of fencing-related topics.

Assessment by Panel. The assessment method will be observation by panel as follows:

Level	Number of Assessors
1	The coach educator (with possibility of external assessor for QA purposes)
2	1 neutral (minimum Level 4) + the coach educator
3	2 neutral (minimum Level 4) + the coach educator
4	3 neutral (each holding a Level 4 or 5 (Previous Scheme) award in the weapon being assessed)

Specifications for Each Level. The specifications for each level of award echo those to be found in the UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC). EF is exploring with *sportscoachUK* how it can bring its coach education process into line with the requirements of the UKCC.

Level of Award	Specification
Level 4	An EF Level 4 coach can deliver the requirements for a Level 3 coach with additional emphasis on tactics, timing and distance and can design, implement and evaluate the process and outcome of long-term/specialist coaching programmes for individuals and teams at performance and elite levels
Level 3	An EF Level 3 coach can deliver the requirements for a Level 2 coach demonstrating a wider variety of techniques and plan, implement, analyse and revise annual coaching programmes for groups and individuals at participation and performance level
Level 2	An EF Level 2 coach can prepare, deliver and review fencing sessions for groups and individuals at participation level
Level 1	An EF Level 1 coach may assist a more qualified coach in the delivery of fencing sessions and deliver without direct supervision pre-planned and prepared fencing sessions for groups at foundation level

Please note that it will also possible to specialise as a Children’s Coach, Community Coach, Performance Coach and/or an elite coach and it is intended that there will eventually be Level 4 equivalents for those who wish to follow these specialisations.

Increasing Demand for Coaches. The demand for new coaches, especially at foundation and community level, is growing, what with national initiatives in place for school-based fencing and a general increase in participation in sporting activities in the community.

Support from EF. EF invites expressions of interest from all properly registered Coach Educators at Level 3 and above who wish to run courses. EF will provide logistical and administrative support to ensure the efficient and effective running of their coach education courses. This might include advertising via the EF website and Region, liaison with Region and County Fencing Unions, collation of course applications, production and distribution of materials to candidates, locating and hiring venues, seeking and booking assessors etc. All the coach educator has to do is tell EF when and where they wish to run a programme and EF will offer as much or as little support as required.

For more information email coaching@englandfencing.org.uk or contact Norman Randall, Director of Coach Education and Management on 0115 911 0050 or 0777 178 1976