



BWF COACH EDUCATION EQUIVALENCY OVERVIEW

This is a living document designed to help BWF Member Associations (MAs) with established coach education programmes understand the process of applying for equivalent BWF status for their courses.

WHY EQUIVALENCY?

Badminton is a global sport with players and coaches training all around the world. As coaches move across countries, or even continents, the portability of credentials becomes increasingly important. Coaches will need to have their qualifications recognised against a common measure, whether for professional reasons or for their further education and development. The BWF's equivalency system aims to provide a framework that will:

- Enable coaches with a national coaching certification to effectively continue their development within the BWF Coach Education system. Knowing where candidates fit into the BWF system means that they won't be required to repeat courses unnecessarily. At the same time, it allows MAs, CCs, and tutors (as well as the candidates themselves) to be sure they have the requisite level of knowledge and experience. This helps carry out a solid selection process, ensuring a positive learning experience for everyone as well as a good return on investment.
- Enable coaches from MAs with their own coach education systems to apply for coach licensing when this becomes a requirement in the future.
- Help organisations (MAs, clubs, etc.) better understand the coaching qualifications of candidates coming from other regions in making hiring decisions.
- Help coaches position themselves against a common standard when applying for employment or other opportunities.

WHAT WILL THIS LOOK LIKE?

This may take different forms, depending on the Member Association programme in question.

Let's look at the following scenarios:

- MA #1 has an introductory Coach Education programme designed to strengthen their network of club coaches. This consists of a "Coach Assistant" course, followed by a "Club Coach" course. Their elite-level coaches tend to go abroad for their further development.

Based on a review of objectives, hours, contents, and assessment, it is determined that those candidates who successfully complete both "Coach Assistant" and "Club Coach" courses have demonstrated all of the competencies identified for the BWF Coach Education Level 1 course. As such, MA #1 candidates with a "Club Coach" certificate will be considered equivalent to having a BWF Level 1 qualification.

This would enable them to go directly onto a BWF Level 2 course, as their "Club Coach" certificate would fulfil the pre-requisite for attending BWF Level 2.

- MA #2 has a well-developed Coach Education programme including four levels of courses designed to prepare their workforce from initiation to elite-level coaching. Their system goes from Level A (introductory) to Level D (elite).

Based on the review process, it is determined that candidates who have earned Levels A and B have fulfilled all the requirements for BWF Level 1 (and even a few toward BWF Level 2). By the time they successfully complete Level C, candidates have demonstrated the remaining competencies for BWF Level 2. Therefore, MA #2 candidates with a “Level B” certificate will be considered equivalent to having a BWF Level 1 certificate, and those with a “Level C” certificate will be considered equivalent to having a BWF Level 2 certificate.

This would enable candidates with Level B (equivalent to BWF Level 1) to go directly onto a BWF Level 2 course. Candidates with Level C (equivalent to BWF Level 2) would be eligible to attend a BWF Level 3 course.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can an individual apply for equivalency for their coaching qualification?

No, the Member Association issuing the qualification would need to undertake the equivalency process. Once this is carried out, the equivalent status will apply to all coaches who have that qualification.

Why should a Member Association undertake the process?

Equivalency benefits their coaches by allowing them to use their credentials to further their education and/or employment, as described above.

Is the equivalency process obligatory?

It is a voluntary process aimed at achieving greater flexibility. MAs can choose to apply for BWF Level 1 equivalent status, or they can seek recognition for BWF Level 2 and even Level 3. (However, in the future when coaches need to be licensed, MAs with their own coach education systems will need to have at least BWF Level 1 equivalent status for licensing.)

How long will the application process take?

This will depend on how easily an MA is able to identify and document the way they handle the key competencies in the BWF Coach Education programme. This is meant to be as streamlined as possible, and we will provide any guidance needed to make this an easy task.

Is there a cost to apply for equivalent status?

No, there is no cost involved.

If my national Level “X” is equivalent to BWF Level 1, will my Level “X” coaches receive a BWF Level 1 certificate?

No, BWF certificates are only issued to candidates who have successfully completed BWF courses.

If my national Level 1 is equivalent to a BWF Level 1, that means my national Level 1 coaches can go on a BWF Level 2 course. Does this mean I have to accept BWF Level 1 coaches on my national Level 2 course?

Not at all (although you are certainly welcome to do so). Our aim is to help people work with the BWF system, not to impose any requirements on national systems.