

## How do I become an accredited coach with the APF?

Congratulations on taking the first step on the journey to becoming a nationally recognised polo coach in Australia.

The process involves completing a combination of online learning, APF requirements, and a practical assessment.

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### Step 1: Coaching Fundamentals Module

Before commencing, please ensure you are a **financial member of the Australian Polo Federation (APF)**.

You are required to complete the following 7 components (in any order):

#### 1. Australian Sports Commission E-Learning: Community Coaching Essential Skills

- 7 modules, approx. 2.5 hours
- [Community Coaching Essential Skills](#)
- Select *Polo* as your sport
- Create an account (if first time), complete modules, then screenshot your completion certificate
- Upload certificate to your **GameDay** member record under accreditations

#### 2. Sports Integrity Australia E-Learning (SIA Edge Platform)

Required modules:

- Anti-Doping Fundamentals
- Annual Update
- Safeguarding Children & Young People in Sport Induction
- Whereabouts Course
- [SIA E-Learning Login](#)
- Select *Polo* as your sport
- Create an account (if first time), complete modules, then screenshot your completion certificate
- Upload certificate to your **GameDay** member record under accreditations

#### 3. Pass the APF Rules Test

- [Rules Test](#)

#### 4. Pass APF Umpire Accreditation (minimum Club Umpire level)

- [Umpiring Accreditation](#)

5. **Agree to and sign the APF Coach Code of Conduct** – Upload your signed Code of conduct to your Gameday member record under accreditations
6. **Hold a current First Aid Certificate (or State equivalent)** - Upload a copy of your certificate to your Gameday member record under accreditations
7. **Hold a current Working with Children Check (or State equivalent)** - Upload a copy of your certificate to your Gameday member record under accreditations

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## **Step 2: Register for Practical Assessment**

Once all modules are complete and your certificates are uploaded into **GameDay**, please contact the APF at [apf@australianpolo.com.au](mailto:apf@australianpolo.com.au) to register for the **practical coaching assessment**.

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### **Practical Testing – How it works**

**Ongoing availability:** Practical assessments will be held on an ongoing basis, scheduled in conjunction with APF events.

**Qualified assessors:** Assessments will be conducted by APF-appointed assessor coaches.

**Clear pathways:** For details of the requirements at each level, please refer to the **APF Practical Assessment Levels 1, 2 and 3**.

**Regional access:** Dates and locations will be aligned with regional activity wherever possible, so candidates can be assessed locally.

**Recognition:** Upon successful completion, accredited coaches will be **promoted on the APF website**, showcasing their skills to the polo community. Accreditation signals to players, parents, and peers that you are committed to the highest standards, opening the door to higher-level coaching opportunities and professional recognition.

Volunteer Coaches will have access to the benefits of the APF Insurance Scheme and coaches delivering paid services will have access to purchase Insurance through Affinity.

### **Where can I get help?**

If you need support at any stage of the accreditation process, the APF is here to assist:

- General Enquiries & Process Guidance  
Email the APF office at [apf@australianpolo.com.au](mailto:apf@australianpolo.com.au).
- Coaching Assistance  
As part of our National Sporting Organisation status, the APF has access to additional resources from the Australian Sports Commission. Explore the *Coaching and Officiating Development Resources*, which include free online courses, videos, podcasts, webinars, and other learning tools.

- **Polo Coaching Assistance**

Accredited coaches will be listed on the APF website, with the aim of encouraging experienced coaches to support foundation coaches as they begin their pathway. The APF will also work with State Associations to host clinics focused on coaching techniques. Stay tuned to your State's communications or contact the APF directly for assistance. Further content such as example lesson plans are in the pipeline.

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why do I need to become an APF Accredited Coach?**

APF accreditation is a mark of trust. It demonstrates that you have met the Federation's standards and are committed to delivering safe, professional, and effective coaching. For those serious about building a career in polo coaching, this is the pathway to credibility and opportunity. The APF and State bodies will actively support and promote accredited coaches within our sport.

### **How do I maintain my accreditation?**

The APF is developing a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program, which will be required to maintain accreditation. Coaches must also ensure their Working with Children Check and First Aid certificates remain current, along with APF membership.

### **Will the content of the course keep changing?**

The program will be reviewed annually to incorporate new research, innovation, and best practices, ensuring it remains current and relevant. Ongoing professional development opportunities will also be offered to support lifelong learning.