



# **Coaching Qualifications Launch**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

# Coaching Qualification

## FAQs



### **What are the Equestrian Coaching Certificates?**

The Equestrian Coaching Certificates (formerly UKCC) are coaching qualifications offered by several British Equestrian member body organisations as well as British Horseracing Authority. The qualifications are offered at Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3, with the Level 4 being delivered in partnership with Stirling University.

### **How long have the qualifications been established?**

The qualifications were introduced back in 2007 to provide wider opportunities for current and potential coaches to develop and evidence their skills. Since their launch 20 years ago, they have undergone one previous review, back in 2017. As the qualifications approach their 20-year anniversary, they have undergone a refresh.

### **Why have the qualifications changed?**

There have been recent government education reforms, which have impacted on qualifications in general. However, more importantly the last full review took place almost ten years ago and in that time both coaching and the equine industry have developed and changed significantly.

It is therefore important that our coaching content is updated to ensure it is not only current, but also fit for the future, so that our coaches are able to meet today's coaching demands. We also wanted to make the qualification structure easier to understand and access.

### **What are the key changes?**

All organisations offering the qualification are now delivering the same Level 1, 2 and 3, rather than a slightly different qualification. This means if you undertake an Equestrian Coaching Certificate with any of the registered organisations, your qualification will be transferable, subject to you meeting prerequisites.

### **How is the new qualification structured?**

Coaches completing the core qualification will still be assessed against technical criteria at the relevant level, but coaches will now receive two certificates, the core Equestrian Coaching Certificate awarded by 1st4Sport, and a technical certificate issued by the assessing organisation.

### **Are the criteria different?**

Within the qualifications, the criteria have been reviewed and refreshed to reflect more modern coaching practices, a deeper understanding of the coach's responsibility and more horse centred criteria.

# Coaching Qualification FAQs



## **What are the main benefits of the new system?**

This approach provides a much simpler qualification structure, reduces duplication of learning and creates more flexible career pathways.

It has also increased the focus on horse welfare and the role of the coach in ensuring the highest standards, ensuring that horse centred training and management approaches are central to the coach's philosophy.

## **What is a technical certificate?**

A technical certificate recognises the specific discipline or environment the coach has been assessed in (e.g. dressage, eventing, racing). It also evidences the technical level to which you have been assessed and what specific movements or activities the coach has been assessed against. For example, within Dressage at Level 2, the technical certificate will ensure coaches can deliver elementary level sessions.

## **Do coaches have to complete both certificates (Equestrian Coaching Certificate and a Technical Certificate) to be qualified?**

Yes, coaches need to initially achieve both an Equestrian Coaching Certificate and a Technical Certificate. This is essential to show coaches can deliver practically and apply the theory in action.

## **Can coaches become qualified in more than one technical area?**

Yes. Once coaches have achieved an initial core qualification and a technical certificate, provided they meet the prerequisites of another organisation's programmes, they can add technical certificates.

## **What impact do the changes have on coaches achieving qualifications before 1 June 2026?**

The new qualification structure and content do not in any way invalidate qualifications previously issued.

## **When can coaches access the qualifications?**

The first phase of the roll out will focus on the full qualification routes (combined Equestrian Coaching Certificate and Technical Certificate). The start dates of new courses will vary depending on the organisation. British Dressage's upcoming courses can be found here:

[VIEW BD COURSE DATES](#)

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## **Can coaches holding qualifications issued prior to 1 June 2026 access the new qualification structure?**

Yes, while the full qualification route will be rolled out first, from 2027 the conversion and technical only routes will be available for coaches to access. For those not wanting to gain additional qualifications there will be opportunity to access Continuous Professional Development (CPD) options.

## **How can existing coaches access updates?**

For coaches already qualified and interested in refreshing their knowledge and accessing the new learning programmes, the key areas of change will be available via CPD modules from 2027.

## **Which organisations are involved?**

The Pony Club, The Association of British Riding Schools, The Riding for the Disabled Association, British Showjumping, British Dressage, British Eventing, British Horseracing Authority, Endurance GB, British Carriage Driving, British Reining/Western have worked together to develop the qualifications. In addition, several expert groups have provided input and support in the development of the qualifications.

## **Any further questions**

If you have any other questions on the new coaching qualifications then our Training and Education Team are on hand to help.

Email your questions to the team at [officials@britishdressage.co.uk](mailto:officials@britishdressage.co.uk)



[britishdressage.co.uk](http://britishdressage.co.uk)