



# **Pickleball Australia** Association

## **Pickleball Australia Association National Coach Accreditation Framework**

# Table of Contents

## Section 1- Introduction

<u>Background</u>	3
<u>Purpose</u>	4
<u>General Principles</u>	5-6
<u>Accreditation Delivery</u>	6

## Section 2 - Coach Framework

<u>Coach Types</u>	7
<u>Coach Classification Outline</u>	8-9
<u>Coach Membership</u>	10
<u>Coach Pathways</u>	10
<u>Recognised Prior Learning</u>	11
<u>Accreditation Process</u>	12
<u>PA Coach Program Components</u>	13

## Section 3 - Courses and Delivery

<u>Payment of Course Fees</u>	13
<u>Coach Educators</u>	14-15
<u>Venues, Clubs &amp; Organisations Holding Courses</u>	16

## Section 4 - Accreditation Procedures and Policies

<u>Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)</u>	17
<u>Access and Equity</u>	17
<u>Coach Records</u>	18
<u>Course Completion and Update Requirements</u>	18
<u>Reaccreditation</u>	19
<u>Insurance</u>	19
<u>For More Information</u>	20

# SECTION 1 - Introduction

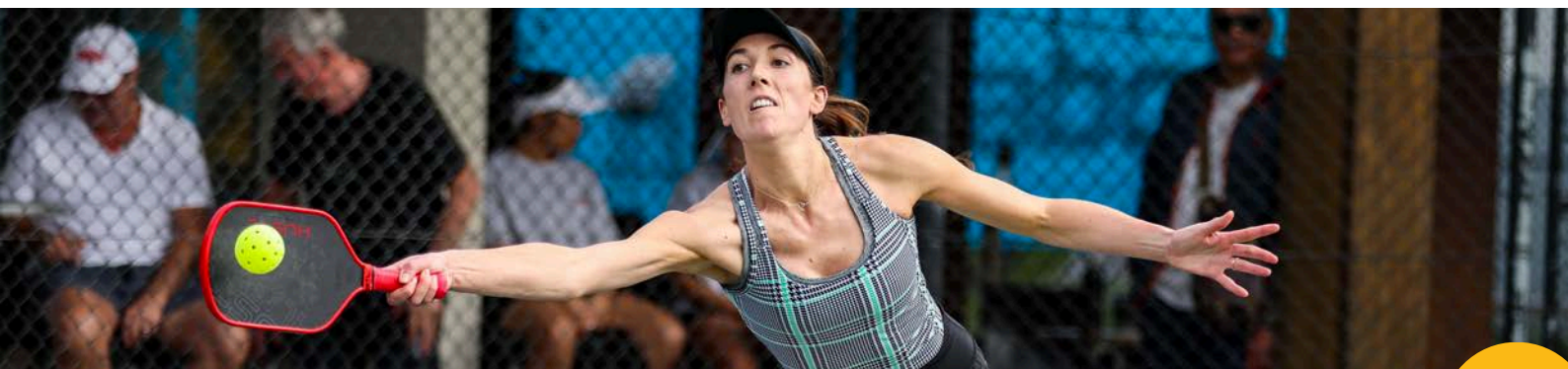
## BACKGROUND

Pickleball is a relatively new sport in Australia, attracting many individuals with little to no prior knowledge of its skills, rules, and strategies. As a result, newcomers often rely on other beginners who are still developing their own proficiency. This situation has created a high demand for qualified coaches at all levels; a demand that continues to grow.

The rapid expansion of pickleball across Australia underscores the need for a comprehensive Coaching Framework. This framework aims to recognise and support both volunteers and professionals who are dedicated to providing coaching opportunities in pickleball.

The Pickleball Australia (PA) Coaching Framework creation aligns with the PA Strategic Plans (2020-2023 and 2023-2026) and has been informed by:

- data collected from PA State Members, recognised pickleball coaches, and individuals.
- member insights.
- internal PA coaching documents.
- external pickleball coaching programs provided for recognition purposes.
- Australian Sports Commission Coaching and Officiating Framework Toolkit
- International Sports Coaching Framework (Version 1.2) International Council for Coaching excellence.



# PURPOSE

PA recognises that effective coaching is crucial not only for high performance and athlete development but also for encouraging participation, recreation, and fostering community connections. This framework is based on the core elements of the PA vision: competition, community, family, fitness, and fun. It emphasises a participant-centered approach, offering educational resources and tools to support the diverse range of players engaging with this emerging sport.

Central to this is facilitation of:

- volunteer confidence with introducing new participants to pickleball.
- broad access to coaches for all levels of participants.
- transferability of skills from other sports for both players and coaches.
- immediate, cost-effective, accessible options for coach development to meet demand.
- clear pathway opportunities for coaches that reflect athlete development needs.
- establishment of high-level coaching opportunities in pickleball.
- coaching modules to cater for all age and ability levels with a strong focus on inclusion.
- a flexible learning approach to cater for the needs of coaches.



# GENERAL PRINCIPLES

## **National Standardised Pathway**

Establishing a national standardised pathway for coach education in pickleball is crucial to ensure consistency and quality in coaching across the country. It provides a clear framework for developing coaches & skills and knowledge, fostering a high level of competency and professionalism, which in turn enhances player development and promotes the growth of the sport nationwide.

## **Long-term Player Development**

The age at which players are being introduced to pickleball is extremely diverse, with many introduced to the sport later in life. It is essential that, regardless of age, the PA coach development program provides all athletes with continuous opportunities to grow and develop their physical and strategic literacy of pickleball.

## **Player-Centric Approach**

The framework is designed around the needs of players, focusing on ensuring coach education meets participant demand. The goal is for coach numbers, distribution, type, and characteristics to reflect participant data and effectively support player needs.

## **Health, Compliance and Safety Requirements**

The health and safety of participants at all levels of coaching are priorities. All coaches are expected to complete modules focused on safety and injury prevention, hold relevant working with children documentation, first aid certification and mandatory Australian Sports Commission and Sport Integrity Australia courses/modules prior to being recognised as a PA coach.

## **Coaches for All Levels**

To ensure the PA vision and values are met, the framework encourages the establishment of coaches for all levels of play, facilitating flexible entry and inclusion in the coaching landscape.

# GENERAL PRINCIPLES

## Competency Recognition

The transferability of skills, both on the court and as a coach, allows for the recognition of a wide range of competencies. This facilitates effective pickleball instruction by coaches experienced in other sports and educational environments.

## Quality Coaching

Recognised courses focused on professional development and continuous improvement will ensure PA coaches provide quality coaching experiences. Coaches will be held to high standards, with benchmarks provided for self-assessment to drive continuous growth and development, encouraging PA coaches to embrace a growth mindset and engage in professional development opportunities.

# ACCREDITATION DELIVERY

PA Coach Accreditation is the responsibility of the PA Coaching and Officiating Operations Manager in collaboration with the PA Executive Officer (EO) and PA Coaching Committee

They are responsible for:

- development and implementation of a coach membership framework and model.
- development of prior learning recognition parameters (RPL).
- assessment of RPL for coach applicants.
- the strategic plan and timeline for development of PA coach accreditation modules.
- creation and implementation of review and certification processes for PA recognised coaches.
- facilitating the delivery of PA coach accreditation programs.
- managing the ongoing needs of competency checks for coach members.



# SECTION 2 - PAA Coach Framework

## 1. Coach Types

Central to the PA Coaching framework is the establishment of four types of coach:



Fig 1. PA Coach Pathway Opportunities

## 2. Coach Classification Outline

**\*For all coach level recognition appropriate First Aid training (Provide First Aid & CPR) and Working with Children certification are required (Beginner is exempt from First Aid & CPR).**

Coach Level	Minimum Requirements*	Pre-requisites	Target Audience	Who Do They Coach?
<b>Beginner</b>	16 Years of age; 50 hours playing pickleball; Coaching Essential Skills Online Australian Sports Commission Course; SIA - Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport Induction & State/Club endorsement letter.	None	Club committee members or club members	Players being introduced to the game for the first time. Come and Try Sessions and New Member Orientations
<b>Foundation</b>	16 Years of age; PA Coach RPL Level 1 Course; OR PA Foundation Coach course; Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) Competition Manipulation and Sports Gambling Course; SIA Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport Induction; Sport Integrity Australia - Anti-doping fundamentals; Sport Integrity Australia - Annual Update & State/Club endorsement letter	Foundation Coach recognised competencies / minimum requirements	Club/Affiliate Member Coaches & Semi-Professional Players	Players with ratings of <3.0 or less than 6 months of experience wanting to develop the basic game fundamentals, serves, drives, third shot drop, dinking, rallies, volleys and understanding of the rules and scoring.



<b>Development (Intermediate)</b>	17 years of age; PA Coach RPL Level 2 Course; OR PA Development Coach course; Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) Competition Manipulation and Sports Gambling Course; SIA Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport Induction; Sport Integrity Australia - Anti-doping fundamentals; Sport Integrity Australia - Annual Update & State/Club endorsement letter.	Foundation Coach recognised competencies/ minimum requirements	Club/Affiliate Member Coaches & Semi- Professional players	Players with ratings of 3.0 and above focused on improving the skills for social and competitive play and wanting to develop and implement a more strategic approach to their game.
<b>Advanced</b>	18 years of age PA Advanced Coach course; Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) Competition Manipulation and Sports Gambling Course; SIA Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport Induction; Sport Integrity Australia - Anti-doping fundamentals; Sport Integrity Australia - Annual Update & State/Club endorsement letter	Development Coach recognised competencies/ minimum requirements;	Club/Affiliate Member Coaches at an advanced level of play or experience & Professional Players	Players rated 4.5 and above focused on elite playing opportunities.

### 3. Coach Membership

**Coach membership exists as 2 different categories.**

1. Keyton Community Connect Coach: Volunteers
2. Pickleball Australia Coach – Foundation, Development, Advanced and Transition accreditations

Coaches who complete the relevant qualifications and accreditations through the PA Learning Management System (LMS) will be eligible for coach membership. An upgrade payment via the PA membership portal for Coach Membership will be required. This is generated once the course has been completed in the LMS and membership will be allocated to the coach's profile once payment has been processed. The Coach Membership will be listed in the member profile under courses and accreditations, it will not change their overall membership type in the membership portal. At all times an individual's primary membership will reflect their club/association membership.

### 4. Coach Pathways

The PA coach pathways provide individuals and players with coach education opportunities to cater for participant demand and the exponential growth of new players to pickleball.

This includes:

- accreditation assessment opportunities and the ability to apply for recognition as a specified coach type.
- access to short courses and training modules to facilitate coach education appropriate for the four (4) PA coach types through the LMS.
- clear outline of required ASC general sports coaching course requirements.
- assessment processes for recognition of prior learning (RPL).
- regular update through e-communications in the form of a monthly newsletter and any important updates/ news.

## 5. Recognised Prior Learning

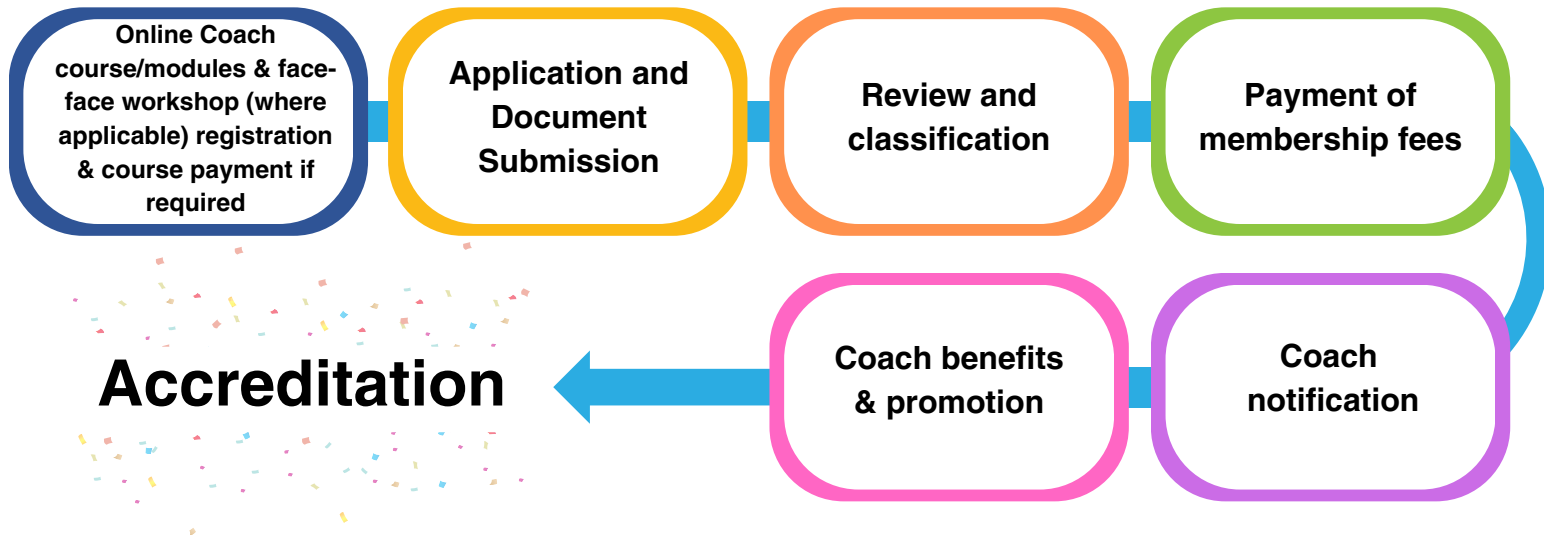
Prior learning is assessed with consideration of, but not exclusive to, the following:

- Completion of external pickleball coach training courses offered by the following recognised service providers (this list may change over time):
  - IPTPA** – International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association
  - PCI** – Pickleball Coaching International
  - PGC** – Pickleball Global Coaching
  - IFP** – International Federation of Players Academy courses
  - AATC Pickleball Course** – Australian Academy of Tennis Coaches
  - UPCC** - United Pickleball and Coaching Certification
- Coach training and experience in other sports.
- Physical education training and experience.
- General teacher and workplace trainer training and experience.
- Pickleball playing experience.
- Formal verified pickleball rating.
- Australian pickleball ranking.
- Any other training or experience listed by applicant and deemed relevant upon assessment.



## 6. Accreditation Process

Accreditation and classification as a PA recognised coach process is achieved via the following steps:



1. Successful completion of a PA online coach assessment exam (eExams are specific to Coach Type application) & course payment if required.
2. Submission of the following:
  - a. First Aid & CPR certification
  - b. Working with vulnerable people and children checks (as legislated in State of residence).
  - c. Relevant coaching qualifications from endorsed provider.
  - d. Endorsement letter from relevant affiliated body.
  - e. Valid Working With Children Check.
  - f. Completed Sports Integrity Australia or Australian Sports Commission courses relevant to qualification.
  - g. Evidence of completion of required coursework as stipulated in the PA Coach Requirement Outline (completed as online modules or through face-to-face courses as offered by the PA Coach Accreditation Program).
3. Review and coach classification allocated based on submission.
4. Completed payment of coach registration fee.
5. Notification of coach accreditation.
6. Provision of PA Coach benefits and promotion via PA “find a coach” website.

## 7. PA Coach Program Components

The PA coach certification program will include learning opportunities in the following formats:

- face-to-face training programs
- flexible online learning modules
- micro-modules for review and upskilling
- on demand learning

### SECTION 3 - Membership and Courses

#### Coach Membership Fees

Course	Cost
Keyton Community Connect Coach	\$69 (\$49 for introductory offer during month of September and October)
RPL Coaching Accreditations (Level 1 Foundation and Level 2 Development (Intermediate) equivalent)	\$349 (\$199 for introductory offer during month of September and October)

Payment of fees will be made through the applicant's PA membership account (Revolutionise Sport) via a manually generated invoice once all relevant requirements and courses (through the PA/etrainu LMS) have been satisfied for the Coach Membership category.

#### Coach Course Fees

A range of coach courses are currently under development. Fees for these courses will vary dependent upon: local costs for running courses (venue, presenters), mode of presentation face-to-face or online, length and complexity of course offered.

<b>Courses in development</b>
Transition Coaching Course
Foundation (Level 1) Pickleball Australia Coaching Course
Development (Intermediate Level 2) Coaching Course
Advanced Coaching Course (Level 3)
Coaching Micro-modules

## Coach Educators

Coach educators are a crucial part of the coaching framework to ensure that those participating in the courses are educated in the most effective way possible to ensure all participants have the highest chance of success in their coach education experience.

A number of the PA Coach Courses will have a face-to-face component delivered with a coach educator trained and provided by Pickleball Australia.

To become a coach educator the following requirements must be met along with an application submitted to PA for review by the Coaching Committee, iPA staff, and board representatives during a designated committee meeting bi-annually. Dates for submission will be communicated to the community via PA media channels.





Coaching Course	Minimum Coach Educator requirements
Coach Transition Course	200 hours pickleball play; Development Coach accreditation
Keyton Community Connect Coaching Course	200 hours pickleball play: Development Coach accreditation
Foundation Coaching Course	200 hours pickleball play: Development Coach accreditation
Development (Intermediate) Coaching Course	200 hours pickleball play: Advanced Coach accreditation
Advanced Coaching Course	Performance Coach accreditation with specialist playing experience

**NOTE:** Pickleball Australia have the right to:

- Approve Coach Educators not covered by the above criteria after evaluation of an individual's experience and knowledge of the sport.
- Conduct random checks to assess the delivery of courses being conducted by Coach Educators.



# Venues, Clubs & Organisations Holding Courses

The following are desired minimum requirements for venues, clubs, and organisations that wish to hold a course where there are face-to-face delivery components.

1. Activity Area – suitable courts with pickleball court lines ready and visible.
2. Room requirements – a suitable indoor space with AV accessibility to deliver the theory components of the course.
3. Insurance – Public Liability (\$20,000,000) and Professional Indemnity (\$20,000,000) Insurance. Any member organization or affiliate of Pickleball Australia will have this insurance as a part of their affiliation.

Course participants (face-to-face delivery) are required to be a financial member of their relevant state/territory organisation to be able to attend the course.

Once a coach obtains accreditation and has paid their membership at a coaching level, they must remain a financial member of their relevant State/territory association when undertaking practical coaching activities to ensure relevant insurance coverage.



# SECTION 4 - Accreditation Procedures and Policies

## Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

PA recognise that individuals develop competencies in many different ways via work experience, life experience, education, and training opportunities. RPL takes into account these learning experiences and enables individuals to gain credit towards accreditation as coaches and coach educators. Individuals will be required to apply in writing for RPL outside of the outlined RPL courses through the PA/etrainu LMS and include evidence of relevant education, qualifications, and experience. These applications will be assessed on an adhoc basis and require submission to [coaching@pickleballaus.org.au](mailto:coaching@pickleballaus.org.au) for consideration. The applications will be assessed by the coaching committee at their next meeting which are held quarterly.

## Access and Equity

To promote access and equity PA Coach accreditation will:

- have no entry restrictions other than age (16 years) and previous coaching experience (for relevant courses).
- provide flexible opportunities for assessment to cater for those with special needs.



# Coach Records

- A benefit of coach accreditation with PA will be online updated records of coach accreditation for players to access. This will be found through the “Find a Coach” function on the PA website.
- PA Coaching Team Staff will ensure only accredited coach records are updated and coaches will be featured on the national website.
- Records will include: name, address, phone number, coach member ID, PA member ID, email address, level of accreditation and expiry date.

## Course Completion and Update requirements

Course	Completion Time	Update Requirements
Keyton Community Connect Coach Course	N/A	WWCC kept up to date and every 3 years complete reaccreditation through LMS
Coach Transition Course	3 months (to submit all required documentation)	WWCC kept up to date and every 3 years complete reaccreditation through LMS
Foundation Coach Course	Up to 4 weeks to complete online learning until face-to-face course date.	WWCC, First aid & CPR and ASC Annual update kept up to date as per their expiry dates and every 3 years complete reaccreditation of the course through LMS.
Development (Intermediate) Coach Course	Up to 4 weeks to complete online learning until face-to-face course date.	WWCC, First aid & CPR and ASC Annual update kept up to date as per their expiry dates and every 3 years complete reaccreditation of the course through LMS.
Advanced Coach Course	Up to 4 weeks to complete online learning until face-to-face course date.	WWCC, First aid & CPR and ASC Annual update kept up to date as per their expiry dates and every 3 years complete reaccreditation of the course through LMS.



# Re-accreditation

Re-accreditation is to be completed every 3 years from year of last completion or reaccreditation. This will consist of submission of reaccreditation form along with update of any necessary documentation to support the submission of application. This is completed through the Pickleball Australia Education Hub and finalised with payment through PA Membership Portal. Reaccreditation documentation will be released in 2025.

## Insurance

All coach members of Pickleball Australia will be provided with Public Liability Insurance, Professional Indemnity Insurance and Personal Accident Insurance through Pickleball Australia Association for the duration of their membership whilst they are relevantly qualified.

For the insurance to be valid, the coach must abide by the following:

- Pickleball Australia Code of Conduct.
- Meet all membership requirements as outlined by the membership policy.
- Have all qualifications and accreditations current and in date.
- Coach within their coaching qualification scope of practice.

Insurance certificates of currency will be sent directly to the coach member once satisfaction of all requirements have been met. Each policy is relevant for 1 year from July – June

Coaches will receive their updated policy once they have renewed their membership for that annual year of Pickleball Australia Membership and it is past May 15th of that year.



## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

### **Grace Schmidt**

Pickleball Australia Operations Manager | Officiating  
& Coaching

**E:** [coaching@pickleballaus.org](mailto:coaching@pickleballaus.org)



**Pickleball Australia  
Association**