Pearson

Higher National in Community Coaching for England Qualification Guide

A contemporary Sport qualification designed to develop the practical, technical and professional skills required in Community Sports Coaching. Developed with industry and sector experts, it emphasises practical coaching, safeguarding and professional practice, supporting progression into employment or further study.

FIRST TEACHING FROM SEPTEMBER 2027



HTQ approval pending

What are HNs/HTQs?

- Higher Nationals are practical Level 4 **(Higher National Certificate/HNC)** and Level 5 **(Higher National Diploma/ HND)** qualifications regulated by Ofqual, designed to develop the skills employers need, and allow learners to go straight into work or further study.
- Higher Technical Qualifications **(HTQs)** are Level 4 and 5 qualifications that have been approved against employer-led occupational standards. This demonstrates that the qualification has been designed to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours relevant to particular occupations.
- The new HTQ in Community Coaching for England has been designed to achieve HTQ status, subject to Department for Education (DfE) approval.

Why have we redeveloped them?

The role of sport and physical activity within the community has never been so important. The HTQ in Community Coaching has been designed specifically to support this skills gap and support the increased workforce demand. It has been redeveloped to reflect the key changes in the role of a successful community sport coach with a greater emphasis on safeguarding, professional practice and conduct.

The HTQ in Community Coaching for England is linked to the occupational standard 'Sport Coach' and embeds skills employers look for in a sports coach. It has been designed in collaboration with a range of industry bodies, universities, and sector experts to ensure the qualification has the right blend of academic rigor and practical application to support progression to employment or further study.

The HTQ in Community Coaching has been designed with a range of external stake holders including:

- The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA)
- The Football Association (The FA)
- UK Coaching
- UK Anti-Doping (UKAD)
- SportsAid

What's new?

Specialist coaching content

New specialist unit content includes:

- Fundamentals of Nutrition for Sport, Health and Performance
- Coaching Practice and Skill Development
- Community Coaching

Focus on real-world coaching

All units have been designed with industry experts with a focus on applied assessment processes so that learners have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding in 'real world' settings.

Greater emphasis on inclusion

Additional focus has been placed on safeguarding, professional conduct and creating safe and inclusive participation opportunities, giving employers confidence that learners have the knowledge and understanding to support participants in a safe and inclusive environment.



First teaching

The HN in High Performance Community Coaching for England is available for **first teaching from September 2027**.

Clear progression routes

The HTQ in Community Coaching for England now offers a direct progression route for learners onto a HND in Sport – Coaching and Participation Manager - to further support their skills and employment opportunities.

Professional Bodies Recognition

A learner that completes the HTQ in Community Coaching will achieve The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) professional status of:

- Sports Coach
- Working in the Community
- Safeguarding and Protecting Children

CIMSPA Education Partner

CIMSPA professional status demonstrates industry-recognised competence, supports CIMSPA membership, and gives employers confidence in their skills and readiness for work.



*subject to approval.

HTQ in Community Coaching for England and HN in Sport
Qualification structure

KEY
Cell colour identifies the type of each unit in the pathway.

Core Mandatory | Specialist Mandatory

Credits	Unit #	L4 High Performance Sports Coaching
15	401	Fundamentals of Nutrition for Sport, Health and Performance
15	402	Fundamentals of Sport and Exercise Psychology
15	403	Applied Anatomy and Physiology for Sport and Physical Activity
15	404	Applied Research Skills in Sport and Physical Activity (Pearson Set)
15	405	Coaching Practice and Skill Development
15	406	Application of Fitness Testing and Training
15	407	Lifestyle Coaching
15	408	Community Coaching

Scan or select the QR code to visit the qualification page.



Lifelong Learning Entitlement

Launching in academic year 2026/27 for courses starting on or after 1 January 2027, the Lifelong Learning Entitlement will transform the student finance system.

Find out more

