Pearson

# Higher National in High Performance Sports Coaching for England Qualification Guide

A contemporary Sport qualification designed to develop the practical, technical and professional skills required in High Performance Sports Coaching. Developed with industry and sector experts, it combines applied learning with industry-relevant practice to support progression into higher education and careers across the high-performance sport sector.

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 HN in Higher Performance Coaching for England has been designed to achieve HTQ status, subject to Department for Education (DfE) approval.

## Why has this qualification changed?

The HTQ in High Performance Coaching has been developed to meet the growing demand for skilled professionals working in high performance-focused sport environments. As the sport sector continues to expand, employers increasingly require specialists who can apply evidence-based coaching, performance analysis, athlete development, and leadership skills to enhance sporting performance.

Developed in collaboration with employers and aligned to current industry needs, this qualification equips learners with the knowledge and practical expertise required to succeed in high-performance sport, while supporting progression into specialist coaching, performance, and athlete support roles.

The HNC in High Performance 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 with a range of external stakeholders 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 high-performance content

New specialist unit content includes:

- Innovation and Ethics in Elite Coaching Practice
- Talent Identification and Athlete Pathway Development
- Coaching Practice and Skill Development
- Training, Fitness and Testing

## Applied coaching assessment

All units have been designed with industry experts and use applied assessment methods that mirror real-world coaching practice. Learners have the opportunity to develop and demonstrate skills in performance analysis, athlete development, coaching interventions, and evidence-informed decision making, helping them become workforce-ready for performance sport environments.

## Modern coaching skills

There is a greater emphasis on performance analysis, athlete wellbeing, multidisciplinary team working, and data-informed coaching practice, ensuring learners develop the skills increasingly sought by employers across professional sport and high-performance settings.

## Progression opportunities

The qualification provides a clear progression route to Level 5 Higher National qualifications, degree programmes, and specialist industry roles in coaching, performance analysis, and athlete support.

## First teaching



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

# Professional Body 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:

- Sport Coach
- Working in High Performance Environments
- 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.

# HN in High Performance Sports Coaching for England
## 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 | 409 | Innovation and Ethics in Elite Coaching Practice |
| 15 | 410 | Talent Identification and Athlete Pathway Development |

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

