

# Coach Education

## ***Launch of the new Level 1 Beginning Coach by Athletics Australia and the Australian Sports Commission staff.***

On the weekend 4 Victorian ATFCA Course presenters (Neville Down, Gayle Anderson, Bernie Curtin and Bryan Neighbour) were among some 40 course presenters from across Australia attending the launch and presenter and assessor workshop at the AIS.

Michael Poulton (AA) announced that the new level 1 one day course, prepared by Athletics Australia is still at the draft stage but almost ready and will be submitted quite soon for national endorsement as an accredited coaching qualification. Michael Poulton (AA) said on Sunday, that it still has a few parts to be 'tweaked' before it is finalised, so everything is advancing quickly. A NSW provider will also run a pilot course later this month to assess its final structure, logistics and participant response

The course departs radically from the previous 2 day ATFCA level 1 with its formal subject presentations, skill instruction and directed practical work. The new course is a 1 day course that requires all applicants to plan and present their own practical sessions with on-course assessment. The formal 'we show, we say, you do' structure is gone. So participants will need much more background before applying.

Prior to the course, all applicants must successfully complete an on-line Australian Sports Commission beginning coaching certificate, and really need to be thoroughly familiar with all the fundamental skills of each event before the course. Applicants will find that they only have about 1 hour on fundamentals and will then be straight into planning their own group's practical sessions oriented about games and will then present their sessions to all the other candidates.

The existing ATFCA 'Introduction to coaching' is listed as suitable background. My current thoughts on this are that applicants need to read widely on the basics of each event prior to the course and to be relatively comfortable with their understanding of basic movement concepts, group planning and presenting to between 4-20 fellow candidates.

The candidate and provider resources assembled for the new course seem substantial although some sections are still in development. Candidates will be mainly working from currently complete IAAF and ASC resources.

### ***Providers***

In Victoria, AV and the ATFCA will be independent providers and unless there is a change in AV Board policy, AV has advised us that they will no longer provide us with support services. This is quite unfortunate as it has seriously affected getting our course and workshop advertising out to Victorian coaches and has been counter-productive with respect to advancing coach education in Victoria.

The only significant up-side is that the \$3000 (plus GST) fee we were paying AV to assist with our advertising, on-line bookings (via the ever reliable Matt Griffin), printing and the ATO GST fee for the on-

line booking services will no longer be added to courses (i.e. our ATFCA branch is below the GST threshold for voluntary organisations).

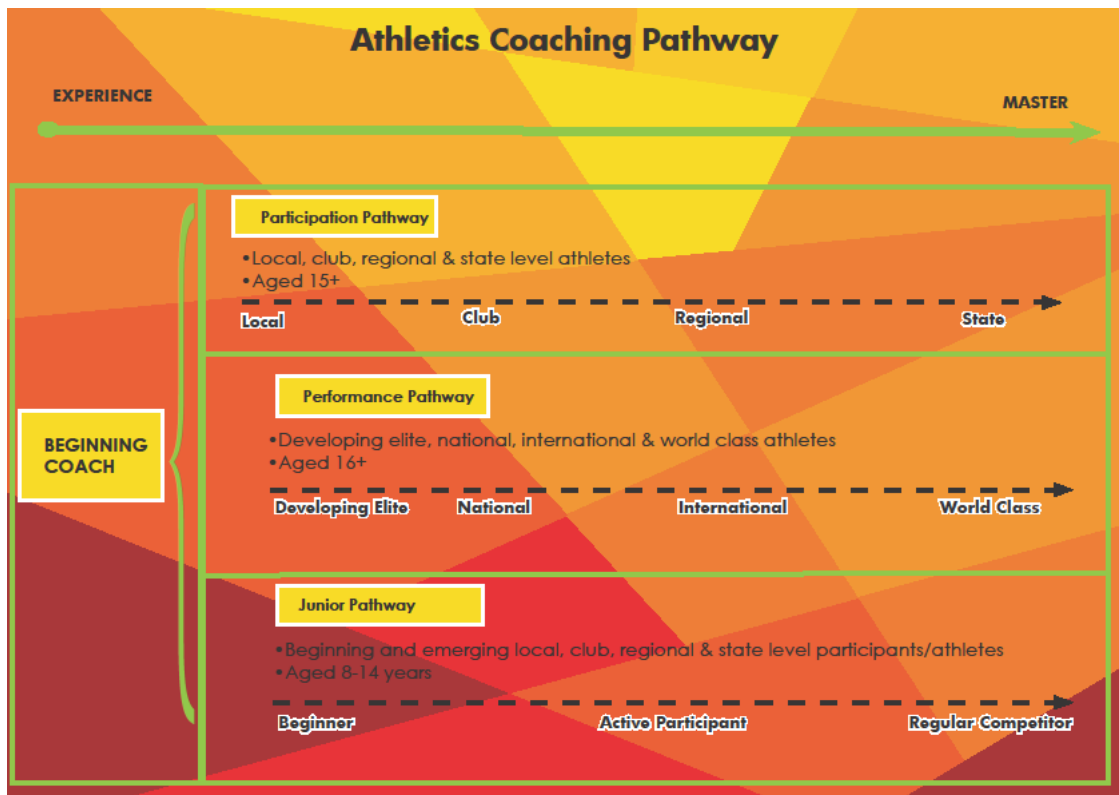
The cost for candidates has still not been addressed as we do not know the pricing on the AA resource packages or how many staff will be required to operate the prescribed course format. As members may already know, the ATFCA operate without any State or AA subsidy and must meet all our costs and standing expenses (e.g. equipment, insurance, printing, etc.) will be reflected in the course fees. Since AV will also be an independent provider subsidised by AA and the State of Victoria, it is likely that ATFCA courses in Victoria will be more expensive than those provided by AV and this is an issue of considerable concern.

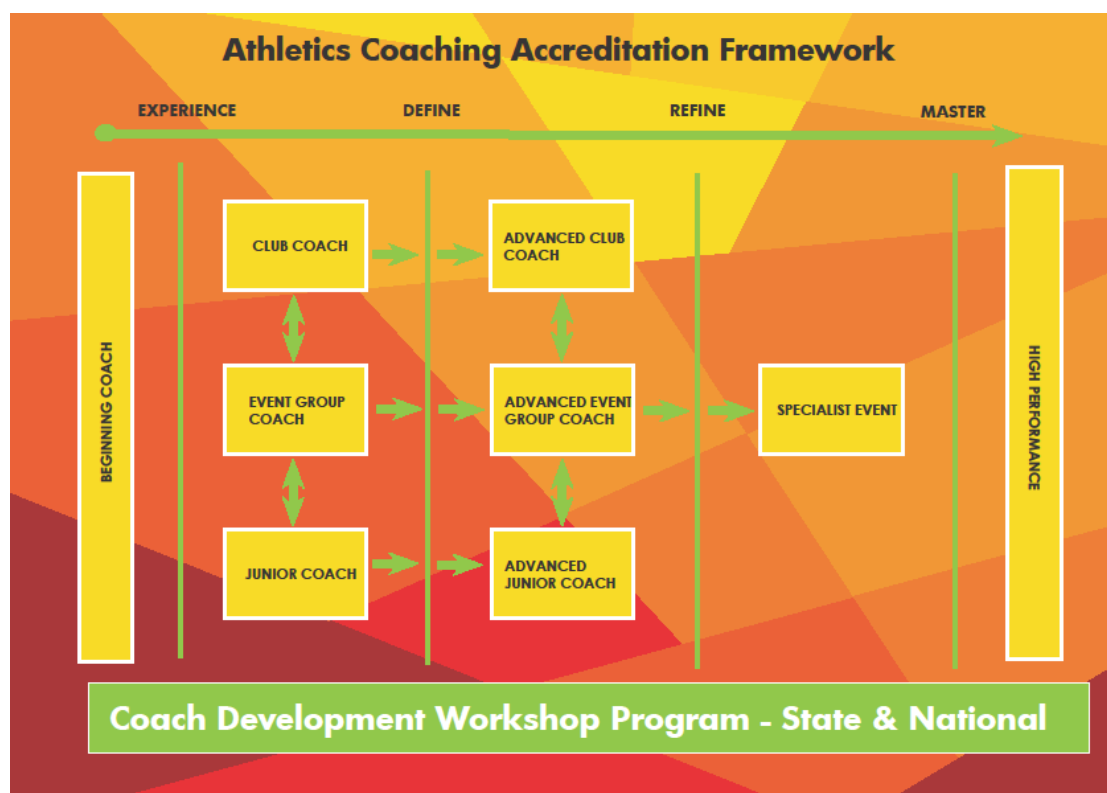
Michael Poulton (AA) described the new level 1 as *an entry level* qualification and that these coaches are qualified to ASSIST a more senior coach. Many workshop participants felt that rather than using terms like beginning or beginner coach that a better title would Level 1 (Assistant Coach).

Michael also made reference to the next level (AA level 2) due for release July 1<sup>st</sup>, as possibly another one day course that might be offered the day after the level 1 course, (e.g. the AA L1 on a Saturday and the AA L2 on the Sunday).

At present, the AA L2 is planned with 3 alternatives (second diagram), with only 2 alternatives initially available.

(Diagrams from AA draft)





### ***State of play***

The AA level 1 is not finalised but that is very close.

A pilot program will be run in NSW (22/5) to assess structure, logistics and client response.

In Victoria, both AV and the State ATFCA Branch will be independent providers for the new level 1.

No firm dates, costs or details are available for the new level 1. The ATFCA has tentatively booked 2010 dates and venues, however there are still a lot of details to be resolved before proceeding (e.g. AA's gaining national approval for the course, course fee/ identify operating costs/ availability and costs for AA /ASC resources; candidates also need to complete the ASC course on line to be eligible).

Details of the new AA level 2 will not be available until at least 1/6, in the mean-time, the ATFCA level 2 is still nationally accredited and limited places are still available for the 8/9 May course. Although applications have closed and all successful candidates advised, limited places remain so I will accept candidates up until Wednesday (May 5<sup>th</sup>).

If the new level 1 and 2 are going to be offered as 2 one-day courses to be run on the same weekend, the ATFCA may wait until the AA level 2 is released in 7 weeks, before scheduling courses.

In the mean-time, future L1 candidates need to get busy and complete the ASC beginning coaching certificate. Details available on the Australian Sports Commission web site.

Also see the AA web-site for details on RPL.

AA currently has provision for experienced coaches who do not have any formal qualifications, to gain level 1 status without having done an ATFCA L1 course. Go to the AA web site for details on that process.

On the Sunday, Michael Poulton said that existing level 1 coaches will be automatically awarded level 2 status in the new L2 stream.

An unresolved question now arises: what will happen to level 1 coaches who have already been awarded an AA level 1 on R.P.L.? Do they automatically gain AA level 2 or will they be considered AA Beginning Coaches with assistant coach status? Given that there will be three alternatives course streams for the new level 2 (Club coach; Event coach; junior coach), where would automatic AA L1 RPL promotions fit?

Watch this space!

*Bryan Neighbour*

Senior Coach / ATCA Coach Education Coordinator