

Coaches Education System (CES) Plan

Revised December 2021

Below you will find information about SONC's Coaches Education System Plan. Information about requirements, how to become certified or re-certified, what levels and courses are offered, and where to find courses, is included. Please visit www.sonc.org, contact your local Sports Contact or email LetsPlay@sonc.org for more information.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTERED COACHES

	2022-2023	2024 & Beyond
Coach at Regionals	One Coach per Team - Level II or Above	All Coaches - Level II or Above
Coach at Championships	One Coach per Sport - Level II or Above	All Coaches - Level II or Above
Submit a Protest	Level II or Above	Level II or Above
Coach at World Games	Sport-Specific (Level II)	Sport-Specific (Level II)
Coach at USA Games	Level II or Above	Level II or Above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certification must be in the Sport or be a Coaching Unified Sports certification (for Unified competitions). • CSOA certification is valid for all sports, including Unified competitions. 		

- Coaches must be at least 16 years of age to become Certified.
- Upon completion of any initial (in-person or online) course, you must submit a [CES Application](#) to SONC within 60 days.
- Approved online courses are reimbursable by SONC with proof of completion and payment.
- Free online Re-Certification Quizzes offered by SONC do not require an application.
- You will receive recognition of your certification (varies based on course) and you will be certified for three years, provided you remain a registered (Class A) volunteer (see Level I requirements below).

LEVELS OF CERTIFICATION & WHERE TO GO

Level	What	Where
I	Complete all of the following (already required to coach): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer/Unified Partner Application & Required Online Trainings • Background Check (for 18+ years of age) <i>All Level I Requirements must be met and kept current for Level II or III Certifications.</i>	VolunteerForSONC.org
II	Complete one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (CSOA) - online (1 Hour or Less) • Sport-Specific Clinic - online (~2 Hours) or in-person (Avg. 2-4 Hours) • Coaching Unified Sports Course - online (2 Hours or Less) • Provide proof of current status as a Coach at the High School Level (or above) in a sport • Conduct a SONC-Approved CES Clinic - In-Person (2-4 Hours for Most plus Preparation Time) 	www.sonc.org/coacheseducation
III	Complete one of the following In-Person Courses (Time Commitment Varies per Course): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of Coaching (POC) • Games Management Team (GMT) • Officials • Additional SONC or SONA Courses 	Provided by SONC as needed

Re-Certifications: Must be completed within one year of the expiration date. Sport-Specific Certifications must be for the same sport. Any course may be taken in its entirety for Re-Certification. Ongoing/current status as a high school (or above) coach or a SONC-Approved Clinician meets Re-Certification requirements.

Please visit www.sonc.org/coacheseducation for more information about Coaches Education options.