



## From the Desk of the Technical Director

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In the next few weeks, Football Federation Australia will release further news on the restructuring of community coaching courses.

Last month I attended a course in Sydney that detailed the new methods.

Early in the New Year I will follow up with a similar workshop for presenters and assessors in Tasmania.

Those attending the workshop here will include Football Federation Tasmania's northern and southern development officers (the latter has not yet been appointed), plus invited higher level coaches. Having successfully completed the workshop, the coaches will be able to conduct grassroots, junior, youth and in some cases senior level courses around the state.

A calendar of those courses will be posted on the FFT website.

The new coaching system includes radical changes.

It will provide choices.

For example, there will be a youth licence and youth certificate, say level one and two.

One coach may decide level one is sufficient for their needs. Another candidate may elect to go to level two, at which point he or she will have to pass a practical assessment to be awarded the certificate.

It will be a similar story at senior level.

There will also be a provision for competency based assessments.

A coach who feels sufficiently experienced may apply to be assessed as a youth or senior coach at the certificate level without taking a course.

He or she would pay a fee to cover the cost of the coach's time, field rental, if required, arrange for players and be assessed on a preset coaching topic.

If successful, a certificate can be issued. If the coach fails the assessment, he or she will need to take the relevant course before being re-examined.

The grassroots certificate will remain as is, free and based on attending a short three-hour or so course.

As I have stated before, football coaching in Australia is moving towards an era of "no coaching,"

The stop, stand still method of instruction is being thrown into the garbage where it belongs. Instead, a coach will be expected to design a practice on their chosen topic and be able to modify it to make sure it's working for the players.

The modification could be as simple as changing the size of the area to make the practice easier or harder. The key will be in recognizing how to change it.

At the advanced pathway coaching levels, the method will be the same, but the sessions will be more sophisticated to fall in line with the higher level of players abilities.

This new "no coaching" philosophy will produce a more instinctive game, stop the type of coaching where training is stopped every few minutes and give us more creative and quicker thinking players.

There will be coaches who will find the idea of not giving out instructions on a constant basis or homing in on mistakes very hard to swallow.

Get used to it.

Players need coaches who encourage, provide positive reinforcement and organize sessions in which the conditions themselves promote learning.

For their part, coaches will be expected to put on training sessions that resemble football and promote excellence and creativity.

Therein lies the most important lesson. As a coach, when you put on a practice ask yourself these crucial questions: "Does this look like football?" Are the players practicing what they would be doing during a game?"

In either case, if the answer is no, change it.