



**New Hampshire Soccer Association
National Licenses and Coaching Schools**



TO NHTA Members
FROM Jeffrey Cousineau – NHTA Director of Coaching Education
RE New USSF Coaching Course Pathway
DATE February 7, 2018

I am writing this open letter to the NHTA soccer community to formally announce the changes in the US Soccer Federation coaching courses and coaching pathway.

NEW CURRICULUM

The changes being made by USSF are specifically designed to improve the learning environment for youth players during their most formative years, U5-12. The centerpiece of the new coaching curriculum is a player centered learning environment based on whole-part-whole teaching style. The new initiative looks to protect against over-coaching and move away from the prioritization on ‘winning games’. History has shown that ‘coach-centered’ environments and ‘prioritizing winning’ have limited player development, or worse, led to youth players losing interest in soccer and quitting soccer. Instead, by using the new practice structure of Play-Practice-Play, the youth players will be able to experiment and develop their soccer skills in game-like activities and have the freedom to develop at their own pace.

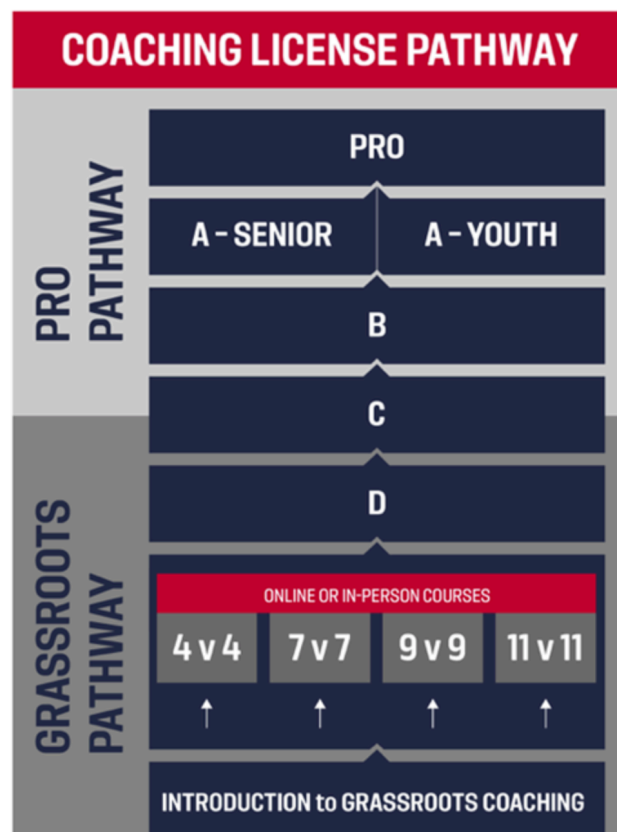
Another focus for the changes to the coaching curriculum was better support of the grassroots coaches. The new player-centered environments based on the Play-Practice-Play format create an easy to manage training environment. Meanwhile, USSF has written hundreds of Play-Practice-Play training sessions and made them available through the DCC. Each session will be designed to address a specific player quality and action. In short, the new format will allow coaches to focus their time and energy to guiding players through game-like activities, instead of creating training sessions.

As of January 1, 2018, USSF has retired the entry level licensing courses, the USSF F and E License, and replaced the old licenses with the new Grassroots Licenses. The Grassroots (GR) Licenses consists of five (5) modules, the ‘Introduction to Grassroots’, Grassroots 4v.4, 7v.7, 9v.9 and 11v.11. These new Grassroots Licenses are the entry points of the USSF coaching pathway and lead into the USSF National D License.

The new USSF coaching course pathway is shown in the figure to the right.

All coaches begin their coaching pathway with a free 20-minute online webinar, ‘Introduction of Grassroots’. Coaches can take this free webinar through the USSF Digital Coaching Center (DCC) at dcc.ussoccer.com.

After completing the ‘Introduction to Grassroots’ module, coaches will be eligible to take any of the four Grassroots Pathway courses; 4v.4, 7v.7, 9v.9 and 11v.11. The licenses can be taken in any order and the course can be completed either in person or online. Once you complete a Grassroots course, you will receive the US Soccer Grassroots Coaching License for that level.





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The changes in coaching curriculum has also created changes in the USSF National D License. Starting in 2018, the USSF National D License will reflect the new coaching curriculum and philosophies featured in the Grassroots Licenses. Therefore, the demands and expectations of the coaching candidates have been adjusted to better meet the needs and abilities of the volunteer coaches. While curriculum for the USSF National D License has changed, the course is still 40+ hours spread over 5 days.

COURSE SEQUENCE, REQUIREMENT AND KEY POINTS

- Begin with the 'Introduction to Grassroots' Module
Coaches start by creating a free profile on the USSF DCC and then take the free online 20-minute webinar course.
- Grassroots License Options
Coaches can choose to take any of the Grassroots licenses. The licenses can be taken in any order and the course can be completed either in person or online.
 - Online Grassroots Licenses
An online version of a Grassroots license takes approximately 3+ hours to complete. USSF charges \$25 to take the online license through the DCC.
 - In-person Grassroots Licenses
An in-person version of the Grassroots licenses is a 4-hour course. The first 2-hours are classroom work and the final 2-hours are spent on the field working with youth players. The cost of a single in-person Grassroots License is \$60.
- USSF D License Course Requirements
Coaches must complete three (3) Grassroots licenses, with two (2) of the Grassroots licenses being completed in-person and one (1) of the in-person courses must be the Grassroots 11v.11 License.
- Grandfathered Courses
 - USSF F License
Coaches who have earned a USSF F License can count the F License as one (1) online Grassroots course when qualifying for the USSF D License. However, coaches will still need to take the free online 'Introductions to Grassroots' webinar in preparation for the USSF D License.
 - USSF E License
Coaches who have earned a USSF National E License will qualify for the USSF National D License after taking the free online 'Introduction to Grassroots' webinar.
 - USSF D License
Coaches who have earned a USSF National D License qualify for the USSF National C License.

NOTE: *Coaches who have earned a USSF **State** D License will have to take the current USSF National D License in order to earn a USSF National D License.*



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THE NEXT STEP.....

- Over the next few weeks, NHSA will continue to share information released by USSF regarding the new curriculum.
- Create a free coaches profile on the USSF Digital Coaching Center (DCC).
- Take the free online webinar, 'Introduction to Grassroots', through the USSF DCC.
- NHSA is currently planning on hosting a series of courses, both Grassroots Licenses and the USSF National D License, in the early spring and summer. Coaching candidates can register for the courses through the USSF DCC.
- Soccer club interested in hosting a USSF Grassroots License can contact Jeffrey Cousineau, at Jeffrey.cousineau@comcast.net, for more information.
- An informational meeting about the USSF coaching pathway and courses will be held at the NHSA AGM, on March 10. Details about the pathway and updated NHSA coaching certification requirements will be discussed. I am asking that a representative from each club attend the meeting.
- Please keep an eye on the NHSA web site for the most up to date information.



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