



New Hampshire Soccer Association National Licenses and Coaching Schools



TO NHTA Members
FROM Jeffrey Cousineau – NHTA Director of Coaching Education
RE USSF Coaching Course Pathway – UPDATED
DATE January 2024

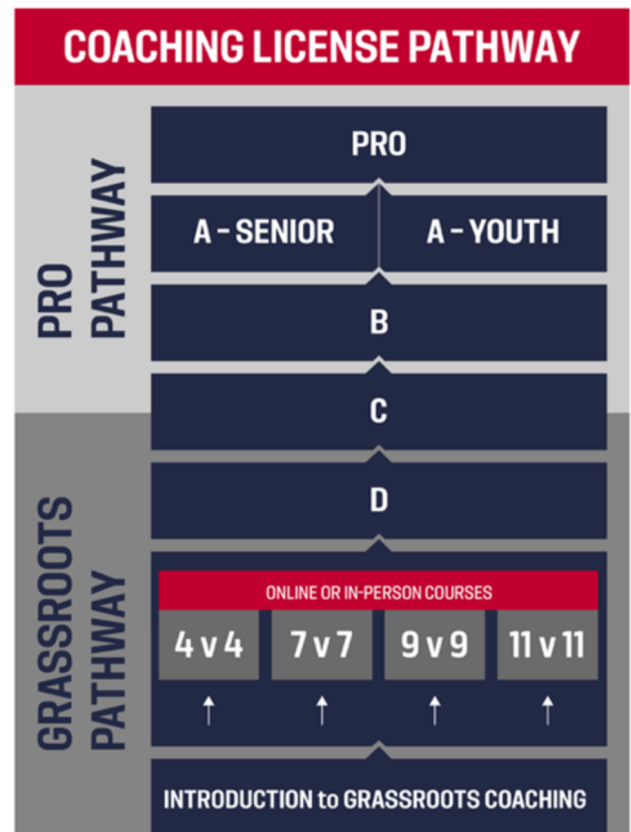
I am writing this open letter to the NHTA soccer community to update coaches and club officials about the U.S. Soccer Federation coaching pathway and coaching courses.

USSF COACHING PHILOSOPHY & PATHWAY

U.S.Soccer Federation continues to strengthen and refine the curriculum for USSF coaching licenses. USSF has stated that its mission is to *elevate coaching to impact player environments*. To achieve this, the coaching school focus on creating a player-centered approach that has four tenets; reality based learning, holistic approach, experiential learning and autonomy support.

The coaching pathway starts by focusing on the volunteer coach, also known as the grassroots coach. A primary change to the coaching curriculum is to better support volunteer coaches, known as the grassroots coach. It is these coaches who make the first impression on youth players and they deserve the support of USSF and NHTA. The Grassroots coaching curriculum creates an easy to manage training environment for the grassroots coach through the use of player-centered environment. The training sessions are based on a coaching methodology called Play-Practice-Play. Meanwhile, USSF has written hundreds of Play-Practice-Play training sessions and made them available through the USSF Learning Center (LC). 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.

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 available as both online and in-person version to make access to the information as easy as possible. Meanwhile, the GR Licenses are the entry points of the USSF coaching pathway and lead into the USSF National D License.



The 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 Learning Center (LC) at learning.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 2023, the USSF National D License reflects the new coaching curriculum and philosophies featured in the Grassroots Licenses and focuses on 4v4, 7v7 and 9v9 play models. Therefore, the demands and expectations of the coaching candidates have been adjusted to better meet the needs and abilities of the volunteer coaches.

BLENDED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

All USSF Coaching Courses, Grassroots Licenses and USSF National D License, have moved to a blended classroom delivery format that has virtual and in-person meetings.

Grassroot License Format

The Grassroots License are 4-hour courses that is split between a 2-hour virtual conference call and a 2-hour in-person field session. The conference call and the in-person field sessions are held with 48 hours of each other and candidates **MUST** attend all 4-hours of the course to earn the license.

USFF National D License Format

USFF is now running a blended curriculum format for the USSF National D License. The blended learning format has four key elements:

- Asynchronous Work - Candidates watch on-line videos
- Conference Call Virtual Classroom - Candidates attend a virtual conference call
- Formative Assessment Homework - Variety of homework assignments completed during the course
- In-Person Meetings - Two 2-day meetings with classroom and field sessions.

The course is spread over 10 weeks with weekly virtual meetings and the two 2-day meetings during weeks 4 and 7. The total time invested in the course over the 10 weeks is 40+ hours.

COURSE SEQUENCE, REQUIREMENT AND KEY POINTS

- Begin with the 'Introduction to Grassroots' Module
Coaches start by creating a free profile on the USSF LC 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 LC.
 - Blended In-person Grassroots Licenses
An in-person version of the Grassroots licenses is a 4-hour course. The first 2-hours are virtual classroom work and the final 2-hours are an in-person field session. The cost of a single in-person Grassroots License is \$100.
- USSF National D License Course Requirements
Coaches must complete three (3) Grassroots licenses, with two (2) of the Grassroots licenses being completed in-person.



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- 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.*

THE NEXT STEP.....

- Create a free coach's profile on the USSF Learning Center (LC) at learning.ussoccer.com
- Take the free online webinar, 'Introduction to Grassroots', through the USSF LC.
- NHSA holds Grassroot Blended In-person courses throughout the year. Most common time is prior to the start of the soccer seasons (winter and summer). Refer to the USSF LC for specific dates and locations. All registrations for NHSA hosted courses are conducted through the USSF LC.
- NHSA hosts one USSF National D License each year. The USSF National D License is a 40+ hours course that is presented in a blended format (asynchronous, virtual meetings, in-person meet) over 10 weeks. NHSA's hosted USSF National D License is held in the winter (Feb – May). Refer to the USSF LC for specific dates and locations. All registrations for NHSA hosted courses are conducted through the USSF LC.
- Soccer clubs that are interested in hosting a USSF Grassroots Blended In-person License can contact Jeffrey Cousineau, at Jeffrey.cousineau@comcast.net, for more information.