

Further Explanation of New Minimum Age Policy for Registering in Sport-Specific NCCP Workshops

CCC recently undertook a review of its minimum age policy for registering in sport-specific NCCP workshops. Up until now we have followed the Coaches Association of Canada's (CAC) policy which required the coach to be 16 years of age on the day of the workshop.

As a result of this review process, CCC has decided to lower the minimum age at which a coach can register for an NCCP Intro to Community Coaching (ICC) workshop to 14 years (as of the first day of the workshop). This new policy will come into effect starting January 21st 2012 (due to a mandatory 60 day notice required by CAC), but may be implemented now at the discretion of each division.

It should be noted that coaches under 16 years old (U16 coaches) will have a distinct status in the CAC database and will not be granted certification status until they reach their 16th birthday. This process will then happen automatically.

As a consequence of the above, CCC has amended its Minimum Mandatory Coaching Qualification (MMCQ) policy (attached) (1) to facilitate their apprenticeship, and (2) to ensure that U16 coaches are not given responsibilities inappropriate for their age. Note that U16 coaches can only assist with a group, not supervise or take on a full leadership role.

Below is a summary of the rationale for implementing this new policy:

- 1- There are a number of young skiers who, after going through all of the Skill Development Programs (SDP) offered by their club, are not interested in joining their club's junior racing program. In many cases these individuals would like to give back to the club and the community by becoming coaches, but they don't want to stay around until they are old enough (16) to register in a NCCP workshop. This change may keep some of this group actively involved in the sport.
- 2- SDP graduates can potentially bring something valuable back to the sport – (1) they may be better role models for demonstrating technique than parent coaches drawn from the community at large, and (2) they can better relate to skiers in the Bunnyrabbit or Jackrabbit age range than someone who is much older.
- 3- This change could potentially improve coach recruitment and talent ID.
- 4- This change may help smaller clubs and programs in more remote regions where it is challenging to find a sufficient number of participants (of all ages) to hold NCCP workshops.

If you have any further questions in regard to the implementation of this new policy, please contact Stephane Barrette (CCC's director of CAD) at sbarrette@cccski.com.