

Club Policy Coaching Licenses

The goal of the Ames Soccer Club is that every coach within the program holds an appropriate USSF Coaching certificate or license. Toward that end, the club will sponsor appropriate clinics in Ames and pay for all licensures up through the USSF D License for all coaches. All coaches are expected to hold appropriate licenses by the beginning of their second year. The following paragraphs lay out the expectations for coaches, the plan by which this is to be achieved, and the approximate costs to the club.

Expectations

- U5 through U8 coaches will take the USSF U6/U8 Youth Module
- U9 and U10 coaches will take the USSF U10/U12 Youth Module, and MUST have taken the course to continue coaching with the club into their second year in this age group.
- By the second year of coaching at the U11-U12 age levels, all assistant coaches must have taken the E Certificate to continue coaching with the club.
- By the second year of coaching at all U13 and older age groups, all assistant coaches must have taken the D License to continue coaching with the club.
- By the second year of coaching at all U11 and older age levels, all head coaches must have taken the D License to continue coaching with the club.
- All Academy Coaches (U5-U10 staff) must take an age-appropriate youth module before starting their second year coaching with the club.
- All Professional coaches (U11+ staff) must take the D License before starting their second year coaching with the club.

* USSF Coaching Licenses include:

- U06/U08 Youth Module
- U10/12 Youth Module
- G Certificate
- E Certificate
- D License

Rationale

The goal of coach training is to provide a quality experience for player and coach alike. For that reason, the club expects to provide appropriate training. The Expectations listed above, however, are not listed as "mandatory" below the U10 age group.

The goals listed on the previous page would mean that if a coach progresses through the age groups they would be expected to attend a coaching license course every two years.

Recruiting volunteer coaches is difficult and each year we are faced with the challenge of finding coaches for teams. I believe that moving to single-age groups will help alleviate this problem as coaches will be encouraged to "move up" with their team. Implementing a mandatory coaching license to coach within the club for all age groups would probably result in some parents resisting and not volunteering their services. Implementing a mandatory coaching license by the U10 age group will affect a smaller number of coaches due to smaller number of teams. Additionally, coaches who have experience within the club's program would appreciate the benefits of attending a coaching course instead of viewing it as a cumbersome event.

Implementation

ASC will be the host organization for the D License and E Certificate on annual basis in the summer of each year.

ASC will be the host organization for the U6/U8 and U10/U12 Youth Modules twice per year: prior to the fall season and during the winter break.

ASC will pay the cost of all coaches attending the coaching licenses (D License and below).

Any coach planning to attend a C License course and above or NSCAA license may apply to the Director of Coaching for financial assistance.

Coaching License Policy to take effect January 2008.

ASC will send each coach a letter outlining the philosophy of why the club encourages coaches to obtain certificates/licenses including a calendar of where and when coaching licenses/certificates will be offered.

Evaluation

The Director of Coaching will provide the board with an annual report on the numbers of coaches taking coaching certificates/licenses. The report will be submitted each year at the October board meeting.

Budget

Because many coaches stick with a particular age range for several seasons before needing a new certification/license, it is not the case that every coach needs to take the course every season. However, because there are new coaches introduced each season, we cannot count on maximal "efficiency" of licensing either. *Reflected in the budgeting table below is an estimate of how many coaches will be required to take a given training/license in a year in order to maintain 100% coach certification.* These estimates are based on 2007-2008 team numbers. Growth in the club would result in corresponding growth in this budget.

- U06/U08 Youth Module \$15 per coach
- U10/12 Youth Module \$15 per coach
- G Certificate ?
- E Certificate \$70 per coach
- D License \$110 per coach

Annual Costs (Based on Fall 2007 #'s)

Age Group	Total Coaches	Coaches taking course each year	Cost per coach	Total Cost
U5-U6	16	12	\$15	\$180
U7-U8	15	8	15	120
U9-U10	8	4	15	61
U11-U12	4	2	70	140
U13-U18	8	4	110	90
Academy	12	6	15	90
Professional	9	2	110	220
C-license		1	950	950
Total cost				\$2200

Extended Training: C License Course

If we have coaches that are capable of attending the C License course, the Director of Coaching recommends that ASC limit this to 1 coach per year because of budgetary constraints. Coaches that choose to pay for the course themselves, are of course welcome!

Cost of the course application is \$950. Iowa has started to host C License courses at Graceland College but there is no guarantee that this will be offered on an annual basis. Typically the courses are offered during the winter at east or west coast locations, which requires the candidate to fly.

If we have coaches that are capable of attending the C License course then I recommend that if the club is going to assist the candidate with the application fee then we limit it to one coach per year (unless a coach is willing to pay the entire fee themselves).

If the club pays for a coach to attend the C License course the following caveats will be enforced:

- ⇒ Coach leaves the club within 1 year they reimburse ASC 75% of application fee
- ⇒ Coach leaves the club within 2 years they reimburse ASC 50% of application fee
- ⇒ Coach leaves after 2 years they owe ASC nothing