

What is Recognition of Prior Learning?

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) is a process of recognising people's skills, knowledge and experience gained from one or more sources: outside formal education, training or previous accreditation programmes. If you are involved in coaching, you may have extensive coaching skills and experience for which you have no formal recognition. Similarly, you may have been accredited in another Coach Education system and need to have your qualifications transferred over to the GSNZ Education Framework.

You may apply to GymSports New Zealand (GSNZ) for recognition of your learning. To do this, you will need to collect and present relevant evidence of any training or education qualifications, which will be applied against the performance criteria of the coaching qualification you wish to be awarded.

What kind of evidence is required?

Evidence for assessment may come from:

- Recognised proven achievements outside formal learning.
- Achievement gained through a formal learning programme, eg. Previous coaching frameworks, clinics, seminars, workshops.
- Evaluation of coaching performance in current coaching position.

Your evidence may come from a variety of sources, which may include:

- Existing qualifications, or parts of qualifications (i.e. certificates)
- Training records and Coaching log books
- Prime Minister's Scholarships
- Personal/Professional development plans
- Testimonials from colleagues and supervisors
- Performance review notes from your club
- Merit achievements
- Details of successful coaching experience
- Reports prepared on training programmes you attended
- Direct Observation by SDC personnel or GSNZ staff

The evidence should be arranged in a portfolio so that the GSNZ Assessment Panel can easily see what qualification the evidence relates to. The portfolio should also include a CV and a statement of coaching knowledge, skills and experience for which credit is being sought. This process is similar to preparing a CV for a job application.

The evidence you provide must:

- Be verifiable as your own work
- Be related to the qualification you are seeking credit for.
- Demonstrate what you know, understand and are able to do now, not what you were able to do four or more years ago.

Do you need Code-Specific Advice?

If you need help, please contact the relevant Sport Development Committee (SDC) Coaching Advisor in the first instance. These people are listed on the GSNZ website. These people are also on the Assessment panel.

Who will assess the evidence and how will it be assessed?

The GSNZ Assessment Panel will evaluate your application, consult with any of your referees or your club, and communicate the result to you. The Assessment Panel will be comprised of the GSNZ National Education Manager, the SDC Coaching Advisor and another independent assessor.

They will use several of the following processes to assess your evidence:

- Viewing evidence of your knowledge skills and experience.
- Personal interview.
- Review of your recent performance.
- Peer review of your competency.
- Observation of your performance.
- Consultation with your colleagues or supervisors.
- Other open processes which you may agree on with the assessor.

What are the outcomes of the process?

The Assessment Panel must be confident that you have the demonstrable ability and knowledge to be awarded the coach qualification for which you are seeking RPL.

The assessment panel may decide:

- Your evidence meets all requirements and you are awarded the qualification sought.
- Your evidence meets some, but not all of the requirements. Further evidence may be required and/or you may be asked to complete an assessment task in order to demonstrate competency in the areas where your evidence does not cover, or does not fully prove, the required standard.
- Your evidence does not meet the required standards and the assessors recommend that you enrol in the relevant Coaching Course.

If you are not happy with the decision of the assessment panel in any way, you may appeal to the Chair of the SDC who will discuss with you the outcome, consult with the Advisory Groups if required, and discuss with you what needs to be done in order to move forward.

How much will it cost?

There is no cost for the initial process. If the RPL will incur cost to GSNZ or requires additional services (such as immigration) there will be additional fees dependant on the cost to GSNZ. If you are required to complete some form of assessment, this will involve course fees.

Where to from here?

For further information, please contact the National Education Manager at GSNZ or your Coach Advisor on the relevant SDC – visit www.gymsportsnz.com for details.

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Information for Coaching Applicants