

ASQ Level 1 Certificate in Coaching Golf

What can a qualified Level 1 coach do?

The qualification descriptor for the Level 1 coaching qualification identifies that a Level 1 coach will be able to:

Assist more qualified coaches, delivering aspects of coaching sessions, normally under direct supervision

In line with this statement, the PGA Training Regulations state:

5. Permissions and Restrictions on Activities of Assistants

An Assistant

5.1 is only allowed to teach golf in accordance with the following rules:

- (a) following successful completion of the PGA Level 1 Coaching Course, the Assistant shall be permitted to teach beginners and juniors under the supervision of his Training Professional; and
- (b) following successful completion of the Level 2 Coaching Course the Assistant may develop his coaching programme individually with his Training Professional, at the Training Professional's sole discretion

Despite these apparently clear statements, there has been much confusion and debate regarding the permitted activities of a Level 1 coach, particularly around the wording 'normally under direct supervision'.

The role that the Level 1 coach can play has also come under discussion with the Home Nations Golf Unions. The need for volunteer coaches to support club development and junior programmes is becoming increasingly obvious through the development of County Golf Partnerships (England), the Clubgolf programme (Scotland) and the work of Golf Development Wales. Questions have therefore been raised about whether the current status of a Level 1 coach does not support the growth of junior and beginner programmes at a local level as well as it could.

Proposed solution:

A Level 1 coach deployed to work (either as a paid Assistant Professional or a volunteer) on a junior or beginner programme under the direction of a PGA Professional or more senior coach¹ may, at the discretion of the PGA Professional, coach independently, providing:

- The PGA Professional:
 - remains responsible for the overall activities of the Level 1 coach
 - develops or approves all programme and session plans
 - is confident of the competency of the Level 1 coach
 - ensures that all Level 1 coaches hold a current Level 1 Golf Coach Licence issued by the PGA
 - provides support (mentoring) for the Level 1 coach
 - is engaged in golf development for juniors or beginners

¹ A more senior coach is defined as having a minimum of the UKCC Endorsed ASQ Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Golf, or equivalent qualification as recognised by the UK Source Group for Golf

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- The Level 1 coach:
 - holds a current Level 1 Golf Coach Licence issued by the PGA
 - is working on a junior programme recognised by the respective Home Nation Golf Union, for example the Golf Foundation Junior Passport, Clubgolf Stage 1
 - is coaching using set session plans agreed by the PGA Professional as part of the formal programme
 - is operating with guidance and support from the PGA Professional

Clubs without PGA Professionals

It is recognised that there are circumstances where a club does not employ a full time PGA Professional. In these instances the following conditions apply:

- The club must:
 - accept overall responsibility for the deployment and support of the Level 1 coach
 - agree to oversee and manage the junior or beginner programme
 - agree to support the personal development of the Level 1 coach
 - be engaged with the respective County, Regional or National Development programmes or Officers/Managers (e.g. England – County Golf Partnerships, Scotland – Clubgolf, Golf Development Wales)
- The Level 1 coach:
 - must hold a current Level 1 Golf Coach Licence issued by the PGA
 - may only deliver coaching sessions as part of a programme recognised by the respective Home Nations Golf Union (for example, the Clubgolf programme in Scotland)
 - is responsible for maintaining current coaching competency and must be committed to personal development

Under no circumstances should a Level 1 coach operate outside of the conditions detailed above. Failure to abide by these stated provisions will result in the invalidation any Golf Coach Licence issued by the PGA and associated insurance.