FEI Coach Education Programme:

- Aim & Principle
- Levels
- Responsibilities & Organisation
FEI Solidarity is the development programme of the FEI launched in 2011 to promote and develop equestrian sport.

FEI Solidarity programme seeks to engage and support National Equestrian Federations by creating, supporting and expanding projects and programmes from grass roots to elite level throughout the global FEI Family.

The structure of FEI Solidarity is based on four pillars, i.e. the Athlete, the Coach, the National Federation, and Equestrian Values.
NF DEVELOPMENT PHASES

PHASE 1
Structuration

NF Administration Structures
IT NF Platform
NF Sports Structures
Education & Certification Systems (Official/Coach)

NF Administration Structures
NF Administrator’s educ.
NF-Sports Structures
FEI Disciplines - ESEE2
Pony Club structure

NF Governance & Admin. Structures
NF Development Plan
NF Sports Structures
FEI Disciplines - ESEE1

PREPARE Athletes
National Teams & Individuals

QUALIFY Athletes
Training Camps Adults & Youth

IDENTIFY Talents
Youth camps

Continental CH & Games
YOG

Regional CH & Games
Scholarships

FEI World Challenges
National CH

LEVEL 1 Course
Coach for national competitions, emphasizing skill, develop participation and enjoyment

LEVEL 2 Course
Coach independently Coach for first FEI level of competitions

LEVEL 3 Course
Coach national Youth Teams & Individuals for FEI 2* competitions

Scholarships

Horse Welfare
Vets, Farriers, Grooms training

The Horse
Breeding Retraining race horses

Sport for All
School programmes Social Projects

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION

THE ATHLETE

THE SPORT

THE COACH

THE VALUES
The Coach Pillar:
Coach Education Programme
FEI Coach Education Programme

FEI Mission Statement:

The FEI should encourage and assist National Federations without a system to adapt and operate a system for ongoing educating and retaining coaches in order to ensure the improvement of riding performance in competitions at all levels and in all FEI disciplines.

Aim:

The aim is to develop an FEI Coach Education Programme (CEP), using an agreed syllabus for the ongoing education and improvement of National coaches in all equestrian disciplines in Developing NFs for the benefit of the sport and all those involved.

Principle:

The FEI CEP (oriented towards competitions) is based on providing courses for national coaches under the direction of FEI appointed Tutors who will initiate the system in developing regions. They will educate coaches at the various levels (Introduction to Coaching, Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3) following a progression from basic coaching methods to high performance coaching.

Each level is supported by a set of pedagogical material composed of a Workbook containing a pedagogical and technical part as well as videos/DVDs on riding technique.
FEI Coach Education Programme

Description:

• Produces qualified and active *professional* coaches
• Offers 4 levels of courses based on *ongoing* education and qualification system
• Delivers Certificates of Attendance & Achievement (“NF” Level 1, 2, 3 Coach)
• Includes a specific Tutors’ education
• Provides an ongoing education oriented towards performance sport and for training from amateur competition up to elite sport
• Combines systematically education with practical experience.
• Provides an ongoing qualification
• Is supported by quality learning and educational resources and material in the main languages at all levels.
• Guarantees a consistency in concepts and terminology
• Enhances education by continuous online support (in future)
• Has the potential and flexibility to adapt
• Allows for constant revision and update
• Includes tools for constant feedback and quality control
**Terminology:**

The particularity in Horsesport is the existence of different Technicians being involved in training and competition with overlapping role definitions:

- An **Instructor** (from the army) is one-way communication. He/she technically educates riders how to ride (usually riding school teacher).

- A **Trainer** is a one-way communication. He/she technically trains the rider for and at competitions. In Endurance, the role of the Trainer has been defined by the FEI as the person who is in charge of the preparation of the Horse both physically and mentally for Competition (see FEI Endurance Rules Art. 800.4.1).

- A **Coach** is two-way communication. A coach develops the technical, tactical, mental, physical, lifestyle and personal capacities of the athlete.

- A **Chef d’Equipe** is a facilitator dealing with all administrative matters pertaining to national Teams or Individuals participating at international events.
**Terminology:**

In sports, a **Coach** (or manager) is an individual involved in the direction, instruction and training of the operations of a sports team or of individual sportspeople.

A coach observes thinks, judges and acts.

The main distinction between the coach and an instructor or trainer lies within **communication**.

Generally communication between instructor/trainer and pupil is one way; a set of instructions given to be followed.

Communication with the coach and athlete is much more complex. It is a **two-way** communication, giving and taking from both sides in an ongoing process of improvement.

The coach is an inaugural part of the relationship between athlete and success, he/she becomes indispensable.

A good coach is empathetic: he/she shares and suffers with his/her athletes. He/she works with his/her instinct and always listens to his/her athletes. With just one gesture, or just one word, or perhaps neither, the coach can take his/her athlete one step closer to his/her goal.
**CEP Principle & Structure:**

**Promotion**

**Talent Identification**

- **Level 1 Coach**
  - 5 days
  - Organised by NF
  - Multi-Skill Coach
  - Provide coaches with the ability to prepare athletes for competition

- **Level 2 Coach**
  - 6-7 days
  - Organised by NF
  - Multi-Skill Coach
  - Coach independently
  - Coach for competition

**Performance Development**

- **Level 3 Coach**
  - 6 days
  - Organised by NF
  - Discipline Specific Coach
  - Coach National & International Athletes & Teams

- **Level 4 Coach**
  - 3-4 days
  - Organised by FEI
  - Master Coach
  - Coach Elite National & Elite International Athletes & Teams

**Elite Sport**

**Introduction To Coaching**

- **Assistant Coach**
  - 2 days
  - Organised by NF
  - To introduce participants to coaching

- **Certificate of Attendance**

- **Have knowledge of horses and horsemanship**

- **Minimum 1 year active coaching experience recommended**

- **Minimum 2 years active coaching experience recommended**

- **Minimum 3 years active coaching experience recommended**

- **Certificates provided by the FEI**
  - National Level 1 & 2
  - National Level 3 (8 & 4)

- **Certificates provided by the NF**

- **Check prior to invitation**

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The basic Concept of the FEI Coach Education Programme:

- Created in 2003 for developing NFs to help them organise their own coaching structure.
- We talk about “Ongoing education” for practicing National Coaches.
- From basic coaching methods to high performance coaching (oriented towards competitions):

**Introduction**

For Olympic Disciplines Only: Pre-requisite for Level 1 course Basic Coaching – Introduction of the Methodology

**Level 1**

**Olympic Disciplines:**
- Jumping: 1.10 – 1.20
- Dressage: Preliminary/Elementary
- Eventing: Novice up to 1*
  - **Vaulting:** Fundamentals - CVN up to 1*
  - **Endurance:** National up to CEI1*

**Level 2**

**Olympic Disciplines:**
- Jumping: 1.20 – 1.30
- Dressage: Medium/Advanced
- Eventing: 1* up to 2*
  - **Vaulting:** up to CVI2* focus on Compulsory Tests and lunging

**Level 3**

**Regional + Continental CHs & Games:**
- Jumping: CSI2*
- Dressage: PSG
- Eventing: CCI2* & CIC2*
- Each level is supported by a set of didactic material *Workbook* and videos/DVDs.

- The *course material* is available in *different languages* including: English, Spanish, Russian, French and Arabic.

- All FEI Tutors receive a special education on *adult learning techniques*.

- Courses are organised with the *Financial support* of the FEI Solidarity as well as *Olympic Solidarity* (only available for Olympic Discipline courses).

- It is the responsibility of the National Federations to record each coach’s progression, however the FEI keeps a record as well.
What are the benefits of a Coaching System?

• Raise the profile of coaching:
  
  ➢ By training and qualifying coaches, interest will be revived and encouraged in coaching
  ➢ By using modern information and training methods
  ➢ By developing a consistent level by having similar courses in all areas
  ➢ By having properly qualified coaches who understand the business and skills of coaching
  ➢ By ensuring the quality of coaching
  ➢ By having properly qualified coaches with the support structure in place for ongoing education
  ➢ By having a system of registration in place
  ➢ Ensure a professional approach to coaching at all levels
  ➢ By encouraging coaches to improve their skills and their students
  ➢ Provide ongoing careers for riders when their competitive careers are over
  ➢ By developing a customer base for good coaches
  ➢ Provide ongoing training and support for coaches through courses and clinics
Responsibility of each NF:

- Each NF has the responsibility to enter his/her candidate(s) to a course. They must comply with the requirements laid down in the relevant Syllabus (available on our website under: https://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/coach/documents)

- Each NF is responsible for establishing its own coaching structure (registration, performance, etc.) and follow up on their National coaches.

Certification:

- Intro: Certificate of Attendance
- Level 1: Certificates of Attendance
- Level 2: Certificates of Achievement (must fulfil Level 2 requirements for certification)
- Level 3: Certificates of Achievement (must fulfil Level 3 requirements for certification)

Coaches must be present at all time during the course in order for it to be considered as “completed” and to be certified.
Responsibility of NF when organising a course:

- NFs interested to organise a course for coaches should first contact their NOC (National Olympic Committee) and address a request for an Olympic Solidarity Technical Course for Coaches.
- NFs should then send in a course application to the FEI Solidarity Department. At this point, a Tutor will be appoint by the FEI, and the necessary course material will be sent to the organising NF (workbook, DVD, etc.).
- The organising NF is responsible for the Tutor’s accommodation, meals and local transportation. Note: if funding from the OS was granted, than these cost should also be covered for the participants.
- The organising NF will organise a well equipped classroom for the theoretical session (flip chart, beamer, DVD player, etc.).
- The organising NF will ensure that the course is being organised in a riding Centre with good facilities for the practical sessions - jumping, dressage (flat work), Eventing (some cross country fences if possible).
- The organising NF is responsible for the selection of the “guinea pigs” (horse/rider demo combinations) for the practical sessions based on the criteria provided in the FEI checklist for the course.
- The organising NF will provide a translator when necessary.
- Following the course, the organising NF will have to provide a complete report to the FEI and follow-up with the coaches accordingly.
- The FEI will assist the NF closely throughout the preparation process and with the follow-up.
Financing:

Technical Courses for Coaches depend on Olympic Solidarity funding which cover the organisational costs + the travel expenses and per diem of the FEI Tutor. Organising NFs are responsible to request funding through their NOC (National Olympic Committee).

However, should OS funding not be available, other sources are available to NFs wishing to organise a course (sponsors, government, etc.). NFs should refer to the FEI Organisation and Financing Specification document available online (https://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/coach/documents)

Course organisation requirements:

All requirements (quota, appointments, eligibility, etc.) are available on the FEI Coaching System Format, Organisation & Structure document which can be found under: https://inside.fei.org/system/files/FEI_Coaching_System_Format_Organisation_Structure.pdf.