

DEPLOYMENT PRINCIPLES

AN OVERVIEW

What is the purpose of this document?

This document provides an overview of some principles linked to deployment of coaches at venues that will help answer common queries linked to insurance cover and what coaches at various levels of qualification can deliver

WHO'S DECISION AND RESPONSIBILITY IS IT?

“The decision and responsibility of what a coach can (or cannot deliver) on-court lies with the deployer (coach or venue) of that coach. This document is designed to support coach deployers with these decisions by providing some key principles and frameworks to consider”*

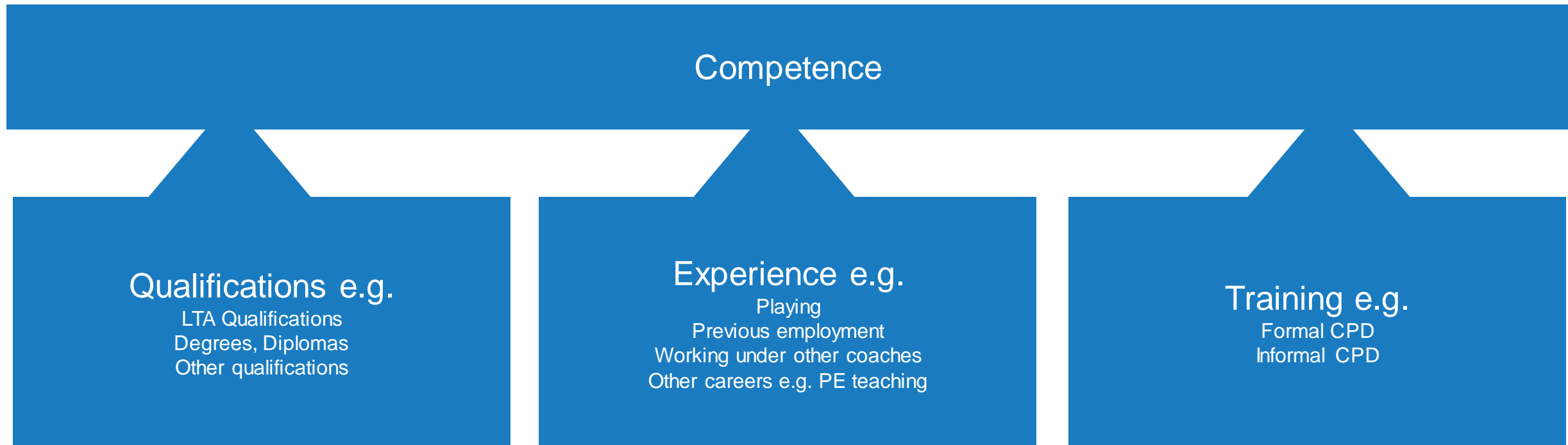
*In many instances, the coach themselves may be their own deployer. For example, a self-employed coach renting courts in a park setting, independent of any organisation

KEY PRINCIPLES

WHAT WILL BE COVERED

- Competence
- Risk
- Programme objectives

PRINCIPLE 1. COACH COMPETENCE



The above diagram depicts how the combination of qualification, experience and training combined are what defines a coaches remit of competence. Competence is what insurance companies will look at if a claim is raised against a venue/coach linked to coaching activity. An LTA Qualification in isolation does not give the full picture.

PRINCIPLE 2. RISK

A coach or venue should consider their appetite for risk when deploying coaches

What is our appetite for risk?

Low



High

PRINCIPLE 3. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

A coach or venue should consider their programme objectives when deploying coaches

What are your programme objectives as an organisation?

Base standards

Best practice



HOW DOES A COACH/VENUE MAKE A DECISION ON HOW TO DEPLOY COACHES?

With the competence of the coach in mind (Qualifications + Experience + Training), consider risk and programme objectives together, to make a decision on what a coach can (or cannot) do on-court at a facility/venue.



COMMON QUESTION: CAN A LEVEL 2 DO PRIVATE LESSONS?

The answer:

LTA Level 2 / LTA Instructors have not been trained to deliver private lessons. However, Qualifications alone do not provide a full picture of a coach's competence. From an insurance perspective, competence is what counts. It is defined as the **combination** of qualifications, experience and training combined. For this reason, it is not possible for the LTA to definitively say what all level 2 coaches can or cannot do – because every coach is different. If an accident arose, each claim is looked at on a case by case basis. Venues/coaches can reduce the risk that their insurance will be invalidated by satisfying themselves that the coach has a sufficient combination of qualifications experience and training to undertake the activity.

The use of a Level 3 or above coach, where possible, will help to maximise quality and minimise risk in this area, because an LTA Level 3 Qualification specifically covers how to deliver bespoke technical/tactical instruction i.e. private lessons/1to1 coaching

COMMON QUESTION: CAN AN INSTRUCTOR/ LEVEL 2 OPERATE WITHOUT SUPERVISION OF A HIGHER QUALIFIED COACH?

Yes, as long as the Level 2/Instructor is delivering within their remit of competence. Best practice would be to work under a more experienced and qualified coach for guidance, mentoring and/or support. However, this is not a mandatory requirement from the perspective of the LTA*.

**It previously was mandated by LTA in recent years however the policy was updated to reflect 'right touch regulation' principles.*

CAN A LEVEL 2 DO HITTING SESSIONS?

Hitting as a practice partner with a total absence of teaching or advice would be considered as facilitating play, not coaching, and will therefore not automatically invalidate your insurance. As with any insurance claim, each case is looked at thoroughly and on a case by case basis. If a claim is brought against a coach, and that coach is found to have been providing any instruction, however, rather than just hitting, their LTA insurance could be invalidated depending on the qualifications, training and experience of the coach in question. Any individual (qualified or unqualified) can in principle do a hitting session because it is not coaching. However, deployers may choose to utilise qualified coaches to raise the quality of what is offered, and reduce risk of accidents (coaches received extensive health, safety and risk assessment training as part of their LTA qualifications).

HOW DOES THIS INFORMATION RELATE TO MINIMUM SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS FOR VENUES?

A simple way to think about the advice within this presentation is that it relates to what a coach can do when they have already stepped on a tennis court. Safeguarding standards refer to what is required of a coach, **before** (and on an ongoing basis) they deliver activity.

FURTHER INFORMATION

You can find out more about insurance policies, cover, risk assessments and more by reading specific coach / venue insurance FAQs at:

<https://www.howdengroup.com/uk-en/lawn-tennis-association/tennis-coaches>

You can find more detailed information on deployment guidance, via the LTA's 'deployment guidelines' documentation on the LTA website

You can find out more about coaching and coach accreditation by reading our general FAQs here:

<https://helpcentre.lta.org.uk/help/s/lta-help-centre>

If you want specific information on something not covered by our FAQs, simply get in touch here;

<https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/>

THANKS FOR LISTENING!