

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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KEY RESOURCE LINKS FOR QUICK REFERENCE

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD GENERAL INFORMATION

- usskiandsnowboard.org
- [U.S. Ski & Snowboard Member Services](#)
 - [Membership Descriptions](#)
 - [Membership Requirements](#)
- [U.S. Ski & Snowboard Member Dashboard](#)

SPORT EDUCATION GENERAL INFORMATION

- [Sport Education Academy Homepage](#)
- [How to Upgrade Your Sport Education Academy Subscription](#)
- [About Sport Education](#)
- [Sport Education Master Calendar](#)
- [Sport Education Staff & National Faculty Contacts](#)
- [2024-25 Coach Education Program Updates](#)

COACH CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- [Instructions to Activate Coach Certification](#)
- [Coach Certification Transfer Policy](#)
- [Coach Certification Rules, Definitions, & Deadlines](#)
- [Continuing Education Framework](#)
- [Coach Certification Overview for Clubs](#)

CERTIFICATION ASSESSMENTS

- [Certification Assessment Registration Instructions](#)
- [Certification Assessment Request Form](#)

RESOURCES FOR CLUBS

- [Club Bulk Sport Education Academy Subscription Discount Summary](#)
- [Club Development](#)

COACH CERTIFICATION

WHY IS MY COACH CERTIFICATION INACTIVE?

If you've previously earned a Level 100 (or higher) certification, you need to complete Safety Requirements. If you have not yet earned a Level 100 certification, you also need to complete Coaching Fundamentals.

See complete instructions for activating your Coach Certification for the 2024-25 season [here](#).

If you hold a Coach membership in multiple sports and see that some show active and some show inactive, please email sporteducation@usskiandsnowboard.org so we can help you clear that up. The fix will require no further action for you beyond alerting us.

I TOOK COACHING FUNDAMENTALS WITHIN THE LAST THREE YEARS. WHY DO I HAVE TO TAKE IT AGAIN?

The Coaching Fundamentals course used to be a requirement for holding a "Current" U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach w/Official Membership, and it was taken every four years by coaches who did not hold a certification.

Moving forward, all Coach Members will be required to earn a Level 100 Coach Certification within two years of starting, and Coaching Fundamentals will exclusively be a part of the Level 100 certification pathway. The course is no longer a Membership requirement, but it *is* a Coach Certification requirement.

Starting in the 2024-25 season, all coaches who do not presently hold a Level 100 certification or higher* must take the newly revised Coaching Fundamentals course on the Sport Education Academy.

**Coaches who completed Level 100 online coursework during the 2023-24 season in preparation to take their on-snow assessment during the 2024-25 season are exempt.*

WHAT ARE THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2024-25 SEASON?

By the end of the 2024-25 season, **all coaches must hold a current certification or be in progress towards their Level 100 certification.** It is *not* required that all coaches have a current L100 going into the 2024-25 season, nor is it required that they complete their L100 by the end of it. However, **coaches that do not have a L100 certification going into the 2024-25**

season *must earn one* by the end of the 2025-26 season.

See more information about coach certification requirements [here](#).

IS AN ACTIVE LEVEL 100 COACH CERTIFICATION REQUIRED TO ATTEND COMPETITIONS IN THE 2024-25 SEASON?

No, but coaches are required to be engaged in the Level 100 certification process if they are not presently certified.

In general, **new coaches (and presently non-certified coaches) are required to immediately begin to pursue their Level 100 certification.** The recommendation will be that the coach completes all of the Level 100 online coursework at the beginning of the season and then spends the rest of the season applying what they have learned to their actual coaching. Then, they could pursue the Level 100 assessment at the end of that first season or wait until their second season.

Starting in the 2024-25 season, new coaches must complete the Safety Requirements and Coaching Fundamentals to achieve the “In Progress” certification status. This is considered an “active” status that will permit them to register for competitions.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CLINIC AND AN ASSESSMENT?

Clinics are optional educational opportunities organized at the local level by club leadership and Coach Developers. Clinics may be on-snow or in a “classroom” setting. **The Sport Education department does not directly facilitate or track clinics at this time.** We will make teaching resources available to club leaders and Coach Developers so that they can independently schedule and facilitate clinics for their clubs (and/or neighboring clubs - whatever works best for the Region/Division).

Assessments are the final step in obtaining a given level of certification, and they are scheduled and facilitated by the National Faculty in collaboration with the Sport Education Department and Sport Directors. Assessment scores and completion are tracked on the Sport Education Academy.

HOW DOES CONTINUING EDUCATION WORK?

All certified coaches are required to **earn 10 continuing education credits each year** to maintain their “**Active**” certification status. In this system, **1 credit will represent 30 minutes** of engagement. This way, coaches will have the option to pursue a larger variety of shorter courses, and by extension, have a greater ability to customize their ongoing learning to their own needs and interests.

Coaches will be able to complete all of their continuing education on the Sport Education Academy if they so choose, which would be the most cost effective. We will also continue to accept external learning opportunities (like PSIA/AASI clinics, for example).

If a certified coach fails to complete 10 CE credits over the course of a season, their coach certification will be marked as “inactive” the following season until the requirement is met.

View our [Continuing Education Framework](#) for more details.

HOW IS CONTINUING EDUCATION TRACKED?

The Sport Education Academy will have a record of your education history, including the education from before the platform launched.

The education history feature of the Sport Education Academy is still in development. If you need your educational records before it's ready, you can reach out to us directly (sporteducation@usskiandsnowboard.org) to request them.

The feedback that we got about our current CE system was that it was too complicated (inconsistent credit values across learning opportunities) and there was no automated tracking system – in order for a coach to know their current standing with CE, they would have to check their education history (which might not clearly show credit values) or reach out to us to ask. The unintended consequence of this combination was that *many* coaches weren't aware that they needed to continue their professional development. By extension, as a whole, we were failing to uphold the high standard of an ongoing pursuit of excellence in our work with athletes nationwide. Within the Sport Education Academy system, students will be able to clearly see what the requirements are and which requirements they still have outstanding. We are also working with New Start Mobile (the “builders” supporting the Sport Education Academy) to develop a tracking system that will give students the option to permit automated reminders when certain requirement deadlines are coming up. We anticipate that this feature will be available for the 2025-26 season.

WHERE DO JUNIOR COACHES FIT INTO ALL OF THIS?

The Junior Coach program model is designed to support teens who are actively interested in developing their coaching ability and intend to coach as adults. Junior Coach members must complete Safety Requirements and Coaching Fundamentals. They *may* choose to complete their Level 100 coursework & assessment, but their Level 100 Certification will not go into effect until their first year as an adult Coach Member.

Junior Coaches are not *required* to complete continuing education, but they are certainly encouraged to do so.

Teens that are assisting at the Club level who are *not* interested in becoming a coach may find the General Non-Competitor membership more suitable, as it does not come with the requirements associated with the coach path. Please be advised that this path is *not* suitable for teens who will be in formal supervisory roles over younger athletes.

DO I HAVE TO BE ACTIVELY COACHING WITH A REGISTERED CLUB IN ORDER TO EARN/HOLD A COACH CERTIFICATION?

New coaches in pursuit of their Level 100 certification must hold an active coaching role. Once the Level 100 has been completed, continued maintenance of that certification and/or pursuit of a higher level of certification are *not* contingent on a current coaching role.

I AM A VOLUNTEER AT MY CLUB. WHAT ARE MY REQUIREMENTS?

U.S. Ski & Snowboard offers a Club Volunteer membership designation that is *not* eligible for Coach or Official certifications: “For Board of Directors, club administrative staff, parents and club volunteers who undertake a leadership role in U.S. Ski & Snowboard clubs, divisions, regions and at competitions and club training sessions. Applicable for those in a position of authority over or in regular contact with athletes.”

The Coach membership designation is for “an individual coaching athletes at the club level and/or at U.S. Ski & Snowboard/FIS Alpine events (see guidelines for appropriate levels of U.S. Ski & Snowboard coach certifications). Coaches are required to complete annual SafeSport training and periodic background screening (other safety modules may apply) to activate membership.”

Beginning in the 2025-26 season, Coach members must hold a current coach certification in order to register for sanctioned competitions. Volunteer members may not register for sanctioned competitions. Please be advised that your club’s liability insurance policy may have requirements that relate to membership designations. It is the club’s responsibility to ensure that those requirements are met.

I HAVE A COACH OR INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION WITH ANOTHER ORGANIZATION. DOES IT TRANSFER TO U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD?

The intention of the certification transfer policy is to acknowledge the expertise and ability of experienced coaches while still ensuring that all U.S. Ski & Snowboard coaches are familiar with

our organization's best practices. Please refer to the [Coach Certification Transfer Policy](#) for full details and instructions.

SPORT EDUCATION ACADEMY (SEA)

[academy.usskiandsnowboard.org](https://usskiandsnowboard.org)

WHY CAN'T I LOG INTO THE ACADEMY?

Last season, our membership database underwent a security update that required members to “relink” their accounts. Most of the folks reaching out to us for login help simply need to complete this step. Please follow the instructions under “For Renewing Members” at the following link, and then try logging into the Academy again:

<https://usskiandsnowboard.org/membership>

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A CLUB TO PURCHASE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR AN ENTIRE COACHING STAFF IN BULK?

Yes - and bulk purchases of 10 or more subscriptions are offered at a discounted rate! Visit [“Coach Education Overview for Clubs”](#) for more information.

ARE COACH EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION INCLUDED IN THE COST OF MY U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD COACH MEMBERSHIP?

No. Coach Memberships and Coach Education have always been separate purchases, and it isn't possible to combine them within the current structure of our organization. We understand that it would be *much* more convenient, and so we are exploring possibilities for future years.

For coaches who are involved in other coaching/instructing organizations in your sport and have to juggle multiple memberships and their requirements – please know that we are exploring possibilities in this realm as well to decrease overall cost and effort.

WHERE ARE MY EDUCATIONAL/CERTIFICATION RECORDS IN THE SPORT EDUCATION ACADEMY?

You can view the courses/certifications you have taken *within* the Sport Education Academy by clicking on your name in the top right corner and then selecting “My Account.”

To view the courses/certifications you completed/earned *prior* to the opening of the Sport Education Academy, please visit your U.S. Ski & Snowboard [member dashboard](#).

The element of the Sport Education Academy that keeps more comprehensive records is still in development. We anticipate that it will be “live” by the end of the 2024 calendar year.

WHY IS MY FAMILY MEMBER’S NAME ON MY SEA ACCOUNT?

We pull account information directly from the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Membership database. If your membership account was linked to your parent/child, you might find that their name appears in association with your email address. In this event, you should:

1. Do NOT purchase an SEA subscription yet
2. Contact Membership (membership@usskiandsnowboard.org) for support unlinking those accounts and/or reassigning the primary account holder
3. Contact Sport Education to delete the mixed-up profile
4. Re-enroll in SEA & proceed with subscription selection

IF I COMPLETED A COURSE ON THE OLD PLATFORM, WILL I HAVE ACCESS TO THAT COURSE MATERIAL IN THE NEW PLATFORM?

Yes. Members who hold Silver and Gold Tier SEA subscriptions will have access to *all* of the online certification course content. There is no individual charge for online courses. Please note that the course content will be released on a rolling basis, so you may not see it immediately. We are also constantly reviewing and revising material, so if your favorite course is missing, it may be in the process of getting updated. If you’re looking for something in particular, please email sporteducation@usskiandsnowboard.org to inquire about its status.

I COMPLETED ONLINE COURSEWORK FOR A CERTIFICATION DURING THE 2023-24 SEASON. WHAT DO I DO NOW?

Enroll in the Sport Education Academy and complete the Safety Requirements as instructed. Once you have done that, email sporteducation@usskiandsnowboard.org noting your present

status as well as the course you took last year. We will make some back-end adjustments so our new system recognizes your completion history. Then, you will be able to look for an on-snow/in-person assessment.

All of our assessment registration will occur on the “Events” page in the Sport Education Academy. The assessment calendar is released annually by the end of October. When you identify an assessment event that works for you, please contact the Sport Education department for next steps. Assessments occur at an additional cost within the SEA system, but coaches in the situation described above have already paid for that assessment. The Sport Education department will help you register at no additional cost through the “back-end” of the platform.

WILL ACCESS TO THE SPORT EDUCATION VIDEO LIBRARY REQUIRE A PAID SUBSCRIPTION?

The [Sport Education Video Library](#) will remain available on its current website *and* it will be accessible through the Sport Education Academy [Video Resources](#) page at no cost.

IF I PAY FOR A SILVER TIER SEA SUBSCRIPTION AND LATER UPGRADE TO GOLD, DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR BOTH, OR JUST THE DIFFERENCE?

Just the difference! For the 2024-25 season, that means you would pay \$40 for your Silver tier subscription, and then if you wanted to upgrade to Gold, you’d pay an additional \$40 at that time (to meet the full \$80 cost of this year’s Gold subscription).

Be advised that the Sport Education Academy won’t “know” that you already paid for a Silver subscription and will automatically charge you the full cost of Gold. To pay the difference only, email sporteducation@usskiandsnowboard.org to request the subscription upgrade coupon code.

If you already purchased your full-price Gold subscription (after having purchased a Silver subscription, too), send us an email and we will issue a refund for the Silver subscription.

DOES THIS NEW SYSTEM INCLUDE OFFICIALS EDUCATION?

No. Officials education does not fall into the Sport Education purview; it is managed by Competition Services. Learn more [here](#).

WHO CAN ACCESS THE SPORT EDUCATION ACADEMY?

The homepage and the “About Sport Education” materials are publicly accessible to anyone on the internet.

In order to access educational content, a person must log in using their U.S. Ski & Snowboard Membership credentials. Therefore, holding a U.S. Ski & Snowboard Membership account is required to access the educational content on the Sport Education Academy. Users from all membership categories are welcome to visit the SEA, but please be advised that for the 2024-25 season, the SEA will be geared primarily towards coach education.

WHEN WILL YOU RELEASE THE ASSESSMENT CALENDAR FOR THE 2024-25 SEASON?

Over the course of the summer, we work with National Faculty and Regional and Divisional leadership to plan assessments based on local competition schedules and local coaches’ needs.

The assessment calendar will be available on the Sport Education Academy on the Events page, and it will be released annually around mid-October.

WHY ARE COACHES REQUIRED TO PAY \$100/YEAR TO OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN CERTIFICATION?

This past November (2023), we sent out a survey to nearly 10,000 coaches and club leaders. We meticulously pored over hundreds and hundreds of responses in order to form key takeaways that ultimately shaped the development of the Sport Education Academy and its subscription model. Most notably, 65% of respondents indicated that they were willing to pay \$100/year (or more) for access to coach education and resources.

All Sport Education Academy subscriptions will be offered at a 20% discount for the 2024-25 season (the Silver tier will cost \$40 instead of \$50, the Gold tier will cost \$80 instead of \$100 - the Bronze tier will always be available at no cost).

[Learn more about SEA subscription tiers here.](#)

Coaches who have not yet started their L100 certification process may stay at the Silver subscription tier for their first season if they intend to complete their L100 on-snow assessment at the beginning of the following season.

And finally, we understand that a cut-and-dry up-front annual expense for education might feel jarring in comparison to the current system, but the reality is that coaches have been expected to invest annually in their education this entire time. The long-standing requirement has been that coaches must earn 8 Continuing Education (CE) credits every 2 years in order to maintain a current coaching certification. Our standard CE cost has been \$20/credit, which means that coaches have been spending, on average, \$80 annually on continuing education.

FORMER ONLINE LEARNING SYSTEM

education.usskiandsnowboard.org - **NO LONGER ACTIVE**

I DID MY COACH CERTIFICATION ONLINE COURSEWORK IN YOUR OLD SYSTEM. CAN I STILL REGISTER FOR AN ON-SNOW ASSESSMENT?

Provided you finished all of your online coursework *by April 30 2024*, you can take your on-snow assessment during the 2024-25 season.

First, please reach out to sporteducation@usskiandsnowboard.org so that we can manually check your prior completion status and update your Sport Education Academy account to match. This is a manual process that will not be completed unless *you* initiate it via email.

The on-snow assessments will be slightly different from what you originally prepared for in your online coursework, so updated review materials will be made available to you in advance of your assessment. Registration for on-snow assessments occurs within the Sport Education Academy. Please refer to the [Certification Assessment Registration Instructions](#) for details.

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL OF MY PORTFOLIO POSTS? IS THERE A WAY I CAN ACCESS THEM?

No. Per earlier communication, you would have needed to save them by copying and pasting or by downloading the Portfolio web page as a PDF. We no longer have access to the old learning system website, and by extension, the work you had saved there.

Some courses in our old system required that you copy and paste Portfolio Posts from previous courses. When we transition to the new learning system, we will *not* require you to reference those old posts.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I WAS ENROLLED IN AN ONLINE COURSE, BUT I DIDN'T FINISH MY COURSEWORK PRIOR TO THE APRIL 30, 2024 DEADLINE?

You will not receive credit for the components you completed, and you will need to start the coursework over in the new system during the 2024-25 season.

You will *not* need to purchase the course again as all courses will be included in the cost of your Sport Education Academy Silver or Gold subscription.

Please note that this does *not* apply if the only remaining “work” is the on-snow assessment.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ALL OF MY COURSE COMPLETION RECORDS? / I DON'T SEE ALL OF MY EDUCATION RECORDS ON MY MEMBER PROFILE.

Our team saved your course and assignment completion records before our old system shut down.

We are working on tidying up the way all of our systems “talk to each other” on the back-end so that members will have a clear and accurate view of their educational history with our organization. Rest assured that we have access to the most accurate record and won't lose track of your progress. You can reach out to us directly (sporteducation@usskiandsnowboard.org) if you have any questions about your records.

Eventually, your complete learning history (including educational opportunities that you have pursued with U.S. Ski & Snowboard and any record of external education that you have shared with us) will be visible both on your member profile and on your Sport Education Academy profile.

Please note that *partial* program completion will not display. If you completed online certification coursework but did not finish the entire certification, you will need to reach out to us directly so that we can manually update your records on the Sport Education Academy.
