2026 COACHING ACCREDITATION & DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR GOLD COAST BASKETBALL COACHES

ALIGNED TO THE BASKETBALL AUSTRALIA COACH DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK INTRODUCED IN 2026
PREPARED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO GOLD COAST BASKETBALL COACHES

1. PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

Basketball Australia introduced a new national Coach Development Framework (CDF) in 2026. The framework aligns coach qualifications to the environment in which a coach is working and places greater emphasis on ongoing learning, practical experience and professional development.
This Gold Coast Basketball guide provides coaches with a simple overview of the national framework and explains how the pathways relate to the programs delivered by Gold Coast Basketball. It should be read alongside the current Basketball Queensland and Basketball Australia requirements.

2. THE COACHING PATHWAY AT A GLANCE

PATHWAY	QUALIFICATION	TYPICAL ENVIRONMENT	PRIMARY FOCUS
Participation Coach	Participation	Aussie Hoops, school and introductory programs	Safe, inclusive and enjoyable first experiences; fundamentals and confidence
Competition Coach	Bronze → Silver → Gold	Junior/senior domestic and local club competition	Individual skill, team concepts and consistent competition
Representative Coach	Bronze → Silver → Gold	Association representative teams, State Championships and state pathways	Advanced technical/tactical preparation, athlete development and performance standards
Performance Coach	Performance	NBL1, WNBL/NBL, National Championships and national pathway programs	Elite/high-performance coaching aligned to national and international standards
Master Coach	Master recognition	National teams, professional leagues and sustained elite leadership	Recognition of long-term excellence, leadership and contribution

PARTICIPATION → COMPETITION
BRONZE • SILVER • GOLD → REPRESENTATIVE
BRONZE • SILVER • GOLD → PERFORMANCE → MASTER

3. WHAT EACH PATHWAY MEANS FOR GOLD COAST BASKETBALL

Participation Coach

- Suitable for introductory participation environments where the priority is enjoyment, safety, inclusion and fundamental skill development.
- Gold Coast examples may include introductory basketball programs, school-based delivery and beginner participation programs.
- Qualification level: Participation.

Competition Coach

- Designed for coaches working across a structured season in junior or senior domestic competition.
- Gold Coast examples include domestic junior and senior teams and local club competition environments.
- Coaches enter at Competition Bronze and can progress to Competition Silver and Gold through coaching experience and approved professional development.

Representative Coach

- Designed for coaches working with selected athletes competing beyond the domestic club environment.
- This is the key pathway for Gold Coast Basketball junior and senior representative programs, including teams preparing for representative competition and State Championships.
- Coaches enter at Representative Bronze and can progress to Representative Silver and Gold through ongoing representative coaching and approved professional development.

Performance Coach

- Designed for elite, high-performance and national pathway environments.
- Basketball Queensland specifically identifies NBL1 as a typical Performance Coach environment.
- Entry is based on coaching role, experience and pathway endorsement rather than a Bronze/Silver/Gold progression.

4. GOLD COAST BASKETBALL PROGRAM GUIDE

The table below is an internal program guide showing the pathway that most closely aligns with each Gold Coast Basketball environment. It does not replace any competition-specific eligibility rule or formal direction issued by Basketball Queensland or Basketball Australia.

GOLD COAST PROGRAM / ROLE	ALIGNED PATHWAY	2027 GCB GUIDANCE
Introductory / participation programs	Participation	Participation qualification
Junior & senior domestic competition	Competition	Competition pathway; Bronze is the entry point
Junior representative U12–U18	Representative	Representative pathway; Bronze is the entry point
Senior representative / QSL-type programs	Representative	Representative pathway unless a competition or BQ requirement specifies otherwise
NBL1 Gold Coast Rollers	Performance	Performance pathway environment; appointment/eligibility requirements should be confirmed for each role

5. TRANSITION FROM THE PREVIOUS ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

Basketball Queensland advises that existing qualifications have been transitioned into the new framework at an equivalent level. In particular:

- Previous Community Coach accreditation aligns to the Participation Coach pathway.
- Previous Club Coach accreditation transitions into the Competition pathway, with existing Club coaches moved to Bronze in the relevant pathway.
- Previous Association Coach accreditation transitions into the Representative pathway, with existing Association coaches moved to Bronze in the relevant pathway.
- Existing coaches do not lose their accreditation simply because the framework changed; qualifications have been carried into the new Qualification Management System (QMS).

6. MAINTAINING & PROGRESSING YOUR QUALIFICATION

The new framework shifts the focus from one-off reaccreditation courses to ongoing coach development.

- Earn Coach Development Points (CDPs) over a rolling two-year period.
- Maintain current Working with Children / Child Safeguarding compliance.
- Use approved learning such as online modules, practical learning, clinics, mentoring and other recognised development opportunities.
- If inactive for two years, accumulated Coach Development Points reset.
- If inactive for four years, Basketball Queensland advises that the coach returns to Bronze level.
- Competition and Representative coaches use ongoing coaching and development to progress from Bronze to Silver and Gold.

7. RECOMMENDED DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

PATHWAY	DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES
Participation	Enjoyment and retention; safe/inclusive environments; fundamentals; communication; practice organisation.
Competition	Skill development in game context; team concepts; practice design; feedback; movement and decision-making.
Representative	Practice-to-performance connection; tactical adaptability; athlete development; season/tournament management; reflective coaching and wellbeing.
Performance	Leadership of complex performance environments; tactical adaptability; decision-making under pressure; multidisciplinary collaboration; communication and self-awareness.

9. EXPECTATIONS FOR GOLD COAST BASKETBALL COACHES

All Gold Coast Basketball coaches are expected to:

- Hold, or be actively working toward, the qualification appropriate to their coaching environment and any applicable competition requirement.
- Maintain all required Working with Children / Child Safeguarding compliance.
- Engage in ongoing coach development and maintain their Coach Development Points where required.
- Use the Basketball Australia QMS/etrainu platform to monitor accreditation and learning.
- Attend Gold Coast Basketball, Basketball Queensland and Basketball Australia development opportunities where relevant.
- Coach in a manner consistent with Gold Coast Basketball values, athlete wellbeing, inclusion and the applicable codes of conduct.

10. OFFICIAL RESOURCES

Basketball Queensland - Coaches
https://www.queensland.basketball/get-involved/coaches

Basketball Queensland - Coaching Updates: Everything You Need to Know
https://www.queensland.basketball/resources/news/basketball-australia-coaching-updates-everything-you-need-to-know

Basketball Australia - Coach Development Framework launch
https://www.australia.basketball/news/4451231/basketball-australia-launches-new-national-coach-development-framework

Basketball Australia - Recommended Learning Pathways
https://www.australia.basketball/news/4514405/your-next-learning-step-recommended-learning-pathways-for-every-coach

11. COACH QUESTIONS / ACCREDITATION SUPPORT

For clarification about Gold Coast and Basketball Queensland coaching pathways, accreditation and learning opportunities, coaches can contact Gold Coast Basketballs Development Manager Mark Bradtke at bdm@gccrba.com.au

12. USEFUL LINKS

Coaches can now access the Coach Development Framework and QMS via etrainu, available through the Basketball Australia WEBSITE
Guide to the Coach Development Framework is HERE
Access the QMS via etrainu HERE