



Introduction:

The **Level 2 Junior Coach** Accreditation program is the entry point to the 'Junior Pathway' for the Accredited Athletics Coach (AAC).

The program is targeted at coaches who will be coaching junior participants **aged 13 years and under**, in a cross-section of event groups, in Little Athletics centres and clubs, in primary schools and in groups where young children might participate in some form of athletics.

The Junior Pathway is one of three distinct pathways within the Athletics Coach Accreditation Framework and is specific for the participant aged 13 years and under. The Sport recognises this age group makes up one of the largest group of participants and the skills required of the coach for this age are unique and crucial to the overall success of the sport.

The Accreditation program has been designed to recognise that the most important aspect of coaching this age group is to provide and promote an athletics experience that encourages children to come back time and time again.

The program aims to develop the core elements of a coaching approach that:

1. Is **engaging** for the participant
2. Develops for the participant a sense of **competence** and **achievement**
3. Develops the participant as an **independent** learner
4. Enhances **social** interactions for all involved.

To enable this, the Accreditation program will cover content that allows the coach to:

1. Be a great role model
2. Ensure that time on task is paramount, ensuring sessions involve maximum participation, with only minimal amounts of time waiting for a turn
3. Recognise the use of modified equipment will enhance safety, provide a more engaging environment, encourage participation and add variety to a session
4. Recognise that children learn most effectively through experience, playing games, self discovery, guided learning and being challenged
5. Use a variety of coaching approaches including exploration, problem solving, questioning and some direct instruction, to enhance the development of independent thinkers who are intrinsically motivated and more likely to enjoy the activity.

To be eligible for the Level 2 Junior Coach Accreditation program, candidates must be a currently Accredited Athletics Coach (AAC), and meet at least one of the following **prerequisites**:

1. Be a Level 1 Beginning Coach.
2. Acquired the Level 1 Beginning Coach through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) or Recognition of Current Competence (RCC).
3. Be recommended by Athletics Australia, Athletics Victoria or the ATFCA, for automatic entry to the Level 2 Junior Coach through RPL or RCC.

Program Competencies:

At the completion of the **Level 2 Junior Coach** Accreditation program it is expected that coaches will be able to satisfy the following criteria, for participants 13 years and under:

2-JC-1:

Ensure an inclusive and safe environment.

2-JC-2:

Implement appropriate activities that cater for the needs of the individual and the group.

2-JC-3:

Provide and maintain an engaging environment.

2-JC-4:

Utilise effective feedback strategies to assist in participant development.

2-JC-5:

Communicate effectively with individuals and groups.

2-JC-6:

Plan and implement effective approaches to enable progress in a range of athletics-related activities.

2-JC-7:

Display the ability to critically reflect on own coaching practices and modify where necessary.

2-JC-8:

Articulate the opportunities the sport provides for continuing participation

Delivery:

EDITORS NOTE: Individual Providers will determine the delivery mode option that best suits the local circumstances. Include only the mode you choose.

The program consists of approximately 16 hours of delivery and can be delivered via one of the following options:

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| Option A | 8 hour face to face component 8 hour Pre-program On-line tasks (approx. time only; will vary for individuals) |
| Option B | 2 x 4 hour face to face components 8 hour Pre-program On-line tasks (approx. time only; will vary for individuals) |
| Options C | 16 hour face to face component – over two separate days |

**The Level 2 Junior Coach Accreditation program can only be delivered by
Athletics Australia Endorsed Coach Education Providers.**