

THE DEVELOPMENT OF COACH EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA

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Introduction:

The history of the development of coaching in Australia is also partly the story of Government involvement in sport. The major advances in coaching have usually been the result of Government initiatives and coaching has featured prominently in most Government reports and initiatives in sport development,

There have been coaches, or "trainers" as they were called in Australia, from the earliest days of sport, particularly in the professional sports such as boxing and athletics.¹ However, coaches and coaching came to prominence in the golden era of Australian sport in the 1950s and early 1960s. Harry Gordon in his classic book *Young Men in a Hurry* wrote:

"Probably no single factor had more to do with the success of Australian sportsmen in the 'fifties than the coaching of Harry Hopman, Percy Cerutti, Franz Stampfl, Forbes Carlile, Harry Gallagher, Sam Herford, Don Talbot and Frank Guthrie. All of them believe basically in conditioning and set their charges huge amounts of physical build up work...all of them have dickered to varying degrees with scientific methods of training."²

Since that time Australia's international sporting performance had been surpassed by many other countries, particularly European countries, which had adopted national sport development plans and a scientific approach to coaching and the education of coaches as part of their post-war reconstruction strategies. In those countries coaching was a recognised profession.

The National Fitness Council

The National Fitness Movement was developed in 1939 in response to a recommendation of the National Health and Medical

Research Council for the formation of a National Co-ordinating Council for Physical Fitness. Preparation for war was the major motivating factor which led to Cabinet authorising the formation of that Council in December 1938.³ This was formalised in 1941 under the provisions of the National Fitness Act which was the beginning of Federal Government involvement in sport. The Act created a National Fitness Fund and encouraged the development of national fitness in each State under the direction of a National Fitness Council appointed by the Government of each State.

From its earliest days the Council was involved in conducting Leadership Training in Physical Recreation and it was the State Councils for National Fitness that introduced the first sports coaching and coach education programs in Australia during the 1950s and 1960s. R.E. Halliday, Director of the Western Australian Council wrote in the 1953 Annual Report that,

"The most important combined activity for 1953 was the conduct of a series of Schools for Coaches."⁴

This was the beginning of a coaching accreditation scheme designed to raise the standards of coaching in major sports and these courses became the forerunner of many short coaches courses conducted annually by the National Fitness Council around Australia.

The 1956 Annual Report of the Victorian Council noted that,

"The sports coaching programme of the Council was considerably stimulated by the presence in Melbourne of Olympic athletes."⁵

By 1963, the Victorian Council had also realised that there were other ways of encouraging participation in sport and of assisting sporting organisations and it arranged a special course for basketball (netball) coaches with the co-operation of the Victorian Womens' Basketball Association.⁶

Across the border on 10 June 1965, the National Fitness Council of NSW called a meeting of Representatives of Sports interested in Track and Field Coaching Courses. The meeting was attended by various athletic associations and clubs and educational institutions as well as the Rothmans National Sport Foundation, the Ampol Oil Company and the Wakehurst Foundation. The view was

expressed at the meeting that the future of athletics in Australia was dependent upon the development of coaches scientifically trained on a national basis. It was stated that the resulting coaching plan should provide for at least three grades and that it should be a distinct honour to achieve the highest grade as a National Coach. It was argued that the most appropriate body in Australia to produce this result would be the respective National Fitness Council of each State with the whole program being co-ordinated through the Commonwealth Council.

In 1969 the National Fitness Council of Western Australia sponsored and co-ordinated general coaching courses directed by Dr John Bloomfield.⁸ This was part of a two phase coaching accreditation scheme. The second phase in the certificate was a practical course specific to the particular sport and controlled by the State body of each sport. On satisfactory completion of both phases a certificate was to be issued. (This was to be the model on which the Australian Coaching Council's National Coaching Accreditation Scheme was initiated 10 years later in 1979). The scheme was aimed at raising standards of sports coaching generally and it was hoped that the certificate would become recognised as a minimum level of proficiency and training in the appointment of coaches.

In 1971 the Council in South Australia embarked on a similar program and the Queensland Council set up an All Sports Coaching Board which developed a basic course which was conducted over six weeks to assist all coaches irrespective of their sport.⁹ In 1973, South Australia developed and conducted a 25 hour advanced course.¹⁰ In another form of coach education, the South Australian Council began publishing *Modern Athlete and Coach*, the highly respected Track and Field Coaching Journal edited by Jess Jarver in 1963.¹¹ In 1976 after the Council had amalgamated with the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport, the minister responsible decided that such a selective service as publishing a journal dedicated to one sport could not be operated departmentally. From 1977 onwards it was published by the newly formed Track and Field Coaches Association and it is now in its 26th year.

Rothmans National Sport Foundation

In March 1964 the Rothmans National Sport Foundation was established with the stated aims of assisting participants in all sports to attain higher levels of skill; encouraging increased awareness of the need for improved coaching techniques; and of motivating more and more Australians to take an active interest in sport. Throughout the '60s the Foundation concentrated on conducting coaching clinics and programs to help young athletes. In 1970 the Foundation employed its first full time coach, golf professional, Ron Luxton, followed by Brian Taber (Cricket) and Marlene Matthews (Track and Field) in 1973. Later appointments were in Rugby Union, Soccer, Rugby League and Australian Football.¹² The primary task of those full time coaching directors was to implement a series of national coaching schemes aimed at producing more and more coaches trained to the highest level. The first scheme to be produced was the National Cricket Coaching Plan, developed in co-operation with the Australian Cricket Board in 1973.¹³

Commonwealth Department of Tourism and Recreation

In December 1972 with the election of the Whitlam Labor Government, Australia's first Commonwealth Department responsible for sport was established. The Department of Tourism and Recreation was established partly due to the belief of the Labor Party that,

"There is no greater problem facing Australia than the good use of leisure...this may well be the problem of the 1980s."¹⁴

In February 1973 the Minister, Mr Frank Stewart, commissioned a report on "The Role, Scope and Development of Recreation in Australia". This report, presented to the Minister in May 1973 by Professor John Bloomfield of the University of Western Australia contained the first concrete move towards a national approach to coaching in Australia. Bloomfield stated that:

"Coaching at the international level is no longer a matter of techniques which are passed down the coach to the player, who in turn becomes a coach. This apprentice-type education has worked well in the past, but so much biological and behavioural science has entered the field at the top level in the last ten years that a more formal education is now needed in human physical performance."¹⁵

The report contained two recommendations related to coaching.

"...that the Australian Government support the development of a short course training system for State level coaches in Australia",

and

"...that the Australian Government financially support conferences relating to Physical Education, Recreation and Sport Coaching."¹⁶

Bloomfield also recommended that the Australian Government establish a National Institute of Sport and Recreation and that one of the roles of such an institute would be to conduct short term training courses for state level coaches on a regular basis.¹⁷

This recommendation was followed up by the Minister on 25 September 1974 when he commissioned a study group, chaired by Dr Allan Coles, Head of the Department of Human Movement Studies at the University of Queensland, to investigate the feasibility of a National Sports Institute. In summary, the resulting report stated that,

"The sometimes haphazard and indifferent attitude to coaching standards in Australia has meant that young athletes are often placed in the hands of individuals, who although willing, lack the knowledge and qualifications necessary to guide and assist the young people. Until provision for coaching courses and certification is provided and widely accepted, we can expect little or no improvement in the standard of coaching in Australia."¹⁸

The first four recommendations in the report related to the establishment of The Australian Sports Institute (TASI) and the next five were related to coaching. The major recommendations related to coaching were that TASI

"...establish as a matter of priority, a national system of coaching accreditation in conjunction with national sports associations",

and

"develop... a system of multi-level coaching courses from basic to international..."¹⁹

Soon after the report was published in 1975, the Whitlam

Labor Government was dismissed and in the subsequent election the Fraser Liberal Government came to power. That Government abolished the Department of Tourism and Recreation and the responsibility for sport was down graded and transferred to the Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development and sport development funding was cut to zero.

State Departments Responsible for Sport

By the mid 1970s most States and Territories had established Departments responsible for Sport and the Sport and Recreation Minister's Council (SRMC), made up of the Ministers responsible for Sport and Recreation from the Commonwealth and each State and Territory, which was established in 1973 as a forum for discussion of matters of mutual concern, was still active and as part of its deliberations in implementing the recommendations of the TASI report, the SRMC made the following recommendation in 1977:

"The Commonwealth undertake as a matter of urgency the co-ordination and development of a national system for the training of coaches."²⁰

In April 1978 the Commonwealth sent out a circular seeking comments from national sporting associations on a proposed national approach to sports coaching. At its meeting on 26 May 1978, the SRMC accepted the following objectives for a national approach to sports coaching:

- * an increase in the number of qualified sports coaches;
- * increased competence of sports coaches at all levels of coaching;
- * the establishment of a national system of accreditation of sports coaches;
- * increased opportunities for all practising and aspiring coaches to improve their knowledge and skill in the theoretical, technical and practical aspects of coaching in their specific sports;
- * the development of coaches who are able to achieve specific objectives and produce improved results at their particular expertise levels

and agreed to the establishment of a National Coaching Panel with a Technical Committee. The Panel was given responsibility for:

- * co-ordinating the development and implementation of the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme for Sports Coaches;
- * formulating any further policy developments that are deemed necessary;
- * accrediting or delegating the accreditation of appropriately qualified sports coaches.

In June 1978 the Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport (SCORS), which consists of the permanent heads of the Commonwealth and State Departments responsible for sport and works under the SRMC, agreed to discussions between the Commonwealth Sport Department and the Confederation of Australian Sport (CAS) with a view to establishing a National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS).

Confederation of Australian Sport

The Confederation of Australian Sport had been formed on 3 November 1976 by a group of 42 national sporting organisations in response to the Fraser Government's decision to drop sports development funding from the Federal Budget in 1976. The Confederation held its first Sport Australia Seminar from 1-4 June 1978, and at that gathering the Confederation of Australian Sport Coaches Assembly (CASCA - now Sports Coaches of Australia) was formed to act as a forum for coaches and to promote the professional development and enhancement of the coaching profession.²²

Previously, the Australian Sports Council which was set up in August 1974 by Minister Stewart to advise him on matters concerning the development of sport in Australia had recommended that a national coaches seminar be held. The seminar was held in Melbourne from 29-31 May 1975 and was attended by 230 coaches from nearly 70 sports. The coaches at that Seminar agreed that there was an urgent need to upgrade sports coaching in Australia and resolved to form an Australian Coaches Association.²³

At the 1978 meeting between SCORS and CAS, it was agreed that the proposed National Coaching Council (NCC) would consist of nine Government representatives (one from the Commonwealth Sport Department and one from each state and territory sport

department); five nominations of the Confederation of Australian Sport, one of whom was to be an Australian Olympic Federation member; and one member of the Commonwealth Sports Advisory Council (SAC)²⁴ However, the SAC declined to take part in the NCC.

The charter given to the Council by SCORS was to co-ordinate the development of the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme, with its primary objectives being:

- . the establishment of a national education and accreditation scheme for all coaches in all sport;
- . the provision of opportunities for all coaches to undertake some form of training in sports coaching. 25

The first meeting of the NCC took place in Canberra on 30-31 October 1978 where Mr Paul Brettell representing the Commonwealth Government was elected Chairman.

The structure and mode of operation for the NCAS were determined at the first meeting after members outlined coaching initiatives and schemes already operating in some states. South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia had fully functioning, two-level schemes containing general and sport specific elements. The meeting decided that:

- There would be a three level scheme with provision for a fourth level to be a later, separate development
- The three levels would be known as Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3. Level 1 would be an introductory course, Level 2 an intermediate course and Level 3 an advanced course.
- The national sporting associations were to be the accrediting authority in each case.
- Provision was made for retrospective accreditation for existing coaches at the discretion of the individual national sporting associations.
- Minimum guidelines were set regarding the length and content of courses.

The Council also decided that the general operations of the scheme would be:

- * All national sporting associations would be invited, to submit details of their national coaching schemes to the NCC.
- * NCC delegates detailed examinations of individual schemes to TC which co-opts technical advice as required. TC then makes recommendations on accreditation to

NCC.

- * When sport's proposal is accredited, national sporting association implements scheme through State affiliates with assistance from State Government Departments responsible for sport where available.
- * Accreditation of individual coaches who have completed approved courses is the responsibility of the national sporting association or its nominee.
- * Operational detail was to be determined by a Technical Committee.

At the second meeting of the full Council on 16 March 1979, the name of the Council was changed from National Coaching Council (NCC) to Australian Coaching Council (ACC).²⁶ After this meeting, Dr Frank Pyke was approached to edit the Level 2 general principles of coaching manual, *towards Better Coaching* and Mr Brian Nettleton began work on the Level 1 manual, *You're the Coach*. Application forms and course design guidelines were developed for distribution to national sporting associations.

Although the Federal Government had ended sport development funding in 1976, criticism of Australia's poor performance at the Montreal Olympics the same year and some strong lobbying of the Prime Minister by the Olympic athletes themselves resulted in the program being recommenced in 1977/78. The Australian Coaching Council was granted \$34,000 from \$205,000 set aside for coaching from a total sport development budget of \$652,000 in 1979/80. On 25 July 1979, the NCAS was launched nationally by Mr. Bob Ellicott, the Commonwealth Minister for Home Affairs and Minister responsible for Sport, who said

this scheme is one of the most important initiatives ever to be taken for Australian sports development.²⁷

At the third meeting of the ACC in August 1979 the level 4 course was discussed and it was decided that the term "Master Coach" was preferable to Level 4.²⁸

The first applications for approval of courses were received at about this time and the first coaching schemes approved at the fifth meeting of the ACC in February 1980 were Soccer, Weightlifting, Canoeing, Parachuting, Volleyball and Track and Field.²⁹ At its fourth meeting on 4 November 1979, the Council decided to ask Dr. Brian Blanksby to prepare a paper on the

matter of level 4/"Master Coach". Dr. Blanksby's report suggesting a number of options for this development was presented to the Council in November 1980.³⁰

In 1981 the Council was restructured by SRMC to 12 members, 6 sport representatives and 6 Government representatives.

In early 1983 the ACC employed a full time development officer, Mr. Lawrie Woodman. This position, along with the position of National Sports Research Co-ordinator, created at the same time, was accommodated at the Confederation of Australian Sport offices in Melbourne. The Confederation had operated the NCAS Service Agency registering accredited coaches since the inception of the scheme.

Review of the NCAS

In late 1982 the Commonwealth Government had instituted an enquiry on Commonwealth expenditure on Sport and Recreation and the subsequent report from the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Expenditure was published in November 1983.³¹ The report stated that the NCAS attracted support in submissions made to the Committee and from witnesses who appeared at public hearings. The Committee, however, noted the lack of any mechanism to evaluate the programs and recommended

that the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme be expanded to strengthen coaching at the regional and local levels.³²

The Committee felt that this would help to remedy what it saw

...as a lack of talent development which, in the long term, will not only restrict the field of potential athletes and ensure that only a very narrow selection of people have the opportunity to achieve excellence in sport but also limit the opportunities for more broadly based participation in sport.³³

In June 1984 the Sport and Recreation Minister's Council agreed to review the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme and asked the South Australian Department of Recreation and Sport to undertake the task. The Department decided to review the scheme in three distinct project areas: an evaluation of the scheme by accredited coaches conducted by Ian Robertson, a

review of current courses offered and course manuals by Brian Nettleton, and a review board on submissions from National Sporting Associations and Individuals by Bob Paddock. The review presented the NCAS in a positive light but made fifteen recommendations aimed at improving 'the availability and effectiveness of the scheme.³⁴ The ACC has put a priority on each recommendation and is gradually implementing them.

Like the Standing Committee on Expenditure report, the SRMC review also recommended that

...the ACC in conjunction with Sporting Associations, investigate ways of making effective accreditation courses available to potential coaches in the country areas.³⁵

In 1985 the ACC published *A Self-Directed Study Guide for Towards Better Coaching* by Brent Rushall, which was a home study course for the Level 2 general principles of coaching. This program is administered by some national sporting organisations and State Government Departments responsible for sport.

Other important recommendations of the review related specifically to quality control functions

that courses and coaches are accredited for a specific period of time (ie. 5 years) after which time courses must be re-accredited and coaches have to update their knowledge by attendance at courses to remain accredited and

that the ACC...give very high priority to the provision of services for the continuing education of accredited coaches.³⁶

With the return of a Labor Government in 1983, sport was returned to full Departmental status with the investiture of John Brown as Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism. Sport development funding was immediately increased by 75% and extra support for coaching, including a higher allocation of full-time coaching directors, was a feature.³⁷

In its Sport and Recreation Policy of 1983 the ALP stated that

A Labor Government will ensure that sport, physical fitness and recreation facilities will be available to all Australians who seek to enjoy them, whatever their circumstances, ability or level of aspiration may be.³⁸

It noted that the standard of national health and well being was dependent to a great extent on all people having access to sporting opportunities. In order to achieve this the Party would ensure that a Ministry of Sport would be re-established and that a national sports commission would be formed to oversee the provision of Federal assistance to sport at every level.

Recognising that the responsibility for the administration, promotion, funding and development of sport lay with a multitude of agencies and organisations the ALP stated that:

A centralised organisation will provide not only leadership and long term direction for the future of sport in Australia, but it would act also as a valuable advisor to governments, a repository of sports literature, a research institute...and through to commissioners drawn from sporting academic, media and business-worlds it could assure a more equitable distribution of the sporting dollar.³⁹

As a result the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), a key plank in the ALP sport policy, was set up by legislation through the Australian Sports Commission Act 1985. This Act was the first piece of sports related legislation at Commonwealth level since the National Fitness Act in 1941. This was closely followed by the Australian Institute of Sport Act (1986) and the Olympic Insignia Protection Act (1987).

One of the major initiatives taken by the Commission after its establishment was to ask national sporting organisations to submit 5 year development plans. Of 54 plans received, about 70% nominated coaching and coaching development as a top priority.

The ASC Strategic Plan for 1986/87 to 1988/89 stated that

Generally that (priority) covered not only the provision of more coaches and more highly trained coaches to ensure a better service to a widening client base, but also the production of resource materials to keep coaches in touch with the latest developments and trends. Interestingly, coaching was seen often as the key not only to greater success but also for introducing more and more people, especially children to basic skills. To that extent, coaching is about increasing participation as much as building high levels of performance.⁴⁰

This is in marked contrast to the situation in October 1975 when, in a survey of national sporting organisations by the

Department of Recreation and Tourism, only 25% responded with a positive answer to the need for assistance in the field of coaching.

In its strategic plan, the Commission outlines a strategic priority of coaching assistance and development under the corporate objective of Sporting Performance. The Goals and Outcomes of this strategic priority are:

- . increase the quality of coaching support for all levels of associations;
- . improve the quantity and quality of accredited coaches;
- . assist sports in their efforts to broaden the base of participation;
- . provide opportunities for all coaches to undertake some form of training in sports coaching;
- . promote the development and dissemination of coaching education resource materials.

The Commission pursues its coaching objectives primarily through the Australian Coaching Council and it is the Council's major source of funding.

In January 1986 the Australian Sports Commission relocated the Australian Coaching Council Director to Commission offices at the AIS along with the co-ordinators of the National Sports Research Program and the National Program on Drugs in Sport. The Commission funds all of these programs.

The National Sports Research Co-ordinator is responsible for, among other things, keeping Australian coaches in touch with the latest information in their fields from around the world through an article search and retrieval system called "Sportscan". The Co-ordinator also operates the Commission's Applied Sports Research Program.

Sports Coach, Australia's coaching magazine which was first published in 1977 by the Community Recreation Council (now Department for Sport and Recreation) in Western Australia, was taken over by the Commission and is being published by the Australian Coaching Council.

The Commission places a lot of emphasis on the employment of National Coaching Directors which it considers to be one of the most significant advances in the development of sport within Australia. Coaching Directors are responsible for the development and conduct of their sports national coaching accreditation scheme courses and for the development of the overall national coaching program for their sport.

The importance that is placed on the employment of coaching directors is emphasised by the fact that in 1986/87 a total of \$819,000 has been spent on the employment of 29 full-time and 4 part-time coaching directors.⁴¹

AUSSIE SPORTS

Another of the Commissions major initiatives was the AUSSIE SPORTS program designed to improve the quality, quantity and variety of children's sport.

One of the aims of the program is

To improve the quality of sports instruction available to Australian children.⁴²

In response to this development and a recommendation from the SRMC review of the NCAS that the ACC develop short non-accreditation introductory training programs for potential coaches; the Council produced guidelines in 1985 for the development and implementation of Level 0 courses.

These courses, developed by the National Sporting Organisations, form the basis of the AUSSIE SPORTS Coaching Program which is promoted and serviced through ACHPER and the AUSSIE SPORTS Co-ordinators in co-operation with the ASC and the ACC.

The Australian Institute of Sport

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) was originally established as a public company limited by guarantee in 1981 and, although not set up in the way originally envisaged by Bloomfield and Coles, it has played a significant role in the development of coaches.

It has done this through the National Training Centre Program (NTCP); the satellite coaches scheme, the information and resource centre services; and through coaching apprenticeship programs operating among some of the resident sports including Gymnastics, Rowing and Swimming.

The NTCP was initiated in 1982 to provide more resident sports with access to the Institute's facilities and programs and many sports have used the NTCP for NCAS or related coaching seminars. ⁴³

High Performance Coaching

In 1986 the Council became aware of the need to make greater provision for elite level coaching development programs. At this stage the NCAS was relatively new and very few sports had yet progressed to the stage of conducting Level 3 courses. Therefore the NCAS was yet to have a great impact at the high performance level in many sports, although most sports have coaches in the field at this level.

The lack of coaches in Australia capable of taking talented athletes to international success was identified as a major problem at a meeting in mid-year between the AIS and State sports institutes.

In the second half of 1986 the ACC implemented a program to overcome the problem. The Council constructed a 5 year strategic plan to co-ordinate the orderly development of coaching into the 1980s.

The plan as it related to the development of high performance coaches included 3 major components.

The first is a concerted effort to assist all sports to totally develop and implement all three levels of the NCAS in all sports.

The second component was the development of a biennial Elite Coaches Seminar aimed at presenting state of the art methodology to coaches and providing them with an opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from each other. The first highly successful seminar was conducted by the Australian Coaching

Council at the AIS in December 1986 in conjunction with the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Olympic Federation, the Australian Institute of Sport and the Rothmans National Sport Foundation, thus bringing together in one project, all of the major agencies involved in fostering high performance sport. Seventy national and other elite coaches, most of whom were fully funded for the seminar by their national sporting organisations, attended the three day program. The major themes of the seminar were planning and periodisation, strength training and applied practical psychology.

The final aspect of the program to develop elite coaches is the development of the ACC's Master Coach award which was first mooted in the original discussion paper on the NCAS prepared by the SRMC in 1978. In late 1979 the ACC commissioned Dr Brian Blanksby of the University of Western Australia to prepare a paper on the proposed Master Coach program.⁴⁴ The report, containing a number of options was presented to the ACC for consideration in November 1980. At that time the Council decided not to proceed with the development until such time as more sports were advanced with the implementation of the existing 3 levels. For reasons outlined earlier in this paper, the proposal was resurrected in 1986 and the ACC has developed guidelines for the implementation of the program. These guidelines are being developed and refined with a view to implementing the program in 1988. The Master Coach program is aimed at educating coaches to prepare elite athletes for successful competition at international level. The program will be based on the needs of each individual coach and will contain practical and applied sports science components.

Coaching Disabled Athletes

The Commonwealth Department for Sport, Recreation and Tourism, which has the responsibility for sport for the disabled through the National Committee for Sport and Recreation for the Disabled (NCSRD) has provided funding for the ACC to employ a National Coaching Co-ordinator for Sport for the Disabled in 1987/88.

The NCSRD was established in 1981 to make recommendations to the Minister on priority areas for development of sport and recreation for disabled people and on the allocation of funds so that disabled athletes could have opportunities similar to those of able-bodied athletes.⁴⁵

Since 1984 the National Sporting Organisations for Sport for the Disabled had been lobbying both the ACC and the Federal Government to provide coaching assistance for disabled athletes. The ACC has responded by including a specific section on coaching special populations in its new Level 1 manual and it has produced a series of seven brochures aimed at assisting coaches to effectively work with disabled athletes.

Tertiary Institutions

The tertiary education sector is increasing its role in coach education. Schools of Physical Education and Human Movement Studies around Australia have always had personnel involved in coach education and most of the presenters of general principles courses come from this sector. At least one specialist course, a graduate diploma in sports science (coaching) designed to extend the scientific and theoretical base for coaches, was instituted at Victoria College, Rusden in 1977, prior to the establishment of the NCAS and the Canberra College of Advanced Education coaching degree course started in 1981.

On 16 May 1983 the Tertiary Education Commission, in a circular entitled "Advanced Education Sports Studies/Science Courses - Guidelines for Development" in the 1984/87 period proposed that advanced education strands and courses be further developed to supplement courses provided by the NCAS. The TEC paper argued that the theoretical aspects of coaching courses could best be provided in colleges of advanced education, at least for those seeking to make a profession of coaching. However, it stopped short of recommending coaching only courses, stating that,

"As the coaching profession is an emerging one and career structures are not yet developed, it is very difficult to assess the need for such courses; if they are to be offered... it may be advisable to structure coaching courses so that

employment options are not too limited, for example:

include units on administration;..."^{4 6}

A number of such courses have now developed, mainly as associate diplomas, and generally they have a formal tie-in to the NCAS. Sports are encouraged to allow credits in Level 2 and 3 courses for students in such courses, and colleges are encouraged to make the completion of Level 1 and 2 NCAS courses part of the program.

It is envisaged that students graduating from tertiary courses would gain some credits towards the ACC's Master Coach Award.

Conclusion

While there have been coaches making a living in private enterprise in sports such as tennis, squash, swimming, boxing, ice skating, skiing, golf, equestrian, fencing and other sports, the main emphasis of their coaching role has often been more in mass teaching of basic skills to beginners rather than the primary role of preparing athletes for competition.

In recent years however, with the development of the AIS, State sports institutes and other professional sporting organisations, there is a growing band of full-time coaches employed in both the elite and talent development areas of many sports.

Coaching is moving closer to becoming a recognised profession with all that this implies - education standards, ethics and employment. The ACC with its unique combination of representatives from Sporting Organisations and Commonwealth and State Governments has had, and will continue to have, a great influence on the development of coaching as a profession in Australia.

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