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## **Coaches Education from an International Perspective: The case of the International Tennis Federation**

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The International Tennis Federation (ITF) is the world governing body of tennis. Coaches education is one of the aspects that the ITF develops among its member nations. The aim of the ITF Coaches Education Programme is to help National Associations create their own coaches' education programme and to improve the level of tennis coaching throughout the world. The ITF motivates the National Associations to establish a solid, coherent and realistic long-term coach's education structure in the nation. By achieving this at global level, the ITF tries to provide the required standards and homogeneity to all the courses organised by the ITF worldwide.

Each year, over 60 countries worldwide participate in the ITF Coaches Education Programme by organising a course for their coaches. The quality of these syllabi is demonstrated by the fact that they are currently being used by more than 120 ITF member nations.

The ITF has 2 websites: [www.itftennis.com/coaching](http://www.itftennis.com/coaching) and [www.tennisicoach.com](http://www.tennisicoach.com) which include videos of interviews to experts, footage of players strokes, drills, on-court and off-court presentations as well as e-learning that cover a wide range of tennis specific sports science and coaching topics.

Several issues need to be considered when implementing coaches courses such as: cultural differences, language barriers, academic levels, and development standards, among others.

Since the start of the ITF Coaches' Education Programme, its main goal has been making nations self-sufficient in coach education and providing coaches the most up-to-date information possible.