



Education & Employment in the Coaching sector

## **AN EVALUATION OF THE COMPETENCY-BASED COACH EDUCATION PROGRAMME OF THE INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION**

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### **Introduction/background**

During the last decades, competence-based approaches have been incorporated into the education of sport coaches. In tennis, the professional competence of the coach has been defined around a framework which takes into consideration the areas of education, training, competition and management at different levels.

### **Purpose/Aim**

The purpose of this presentation is to reflect on the specific process of detection and analysis of the professional competences of the tennis coach. This will be done from a general perspective as well as in relation to the level of expertise of the players the coach works with (i.e. beginner and intermediate, advanced or high performance players) and according to the role of the job (assistant, coach, advanced or senior, and master or expert coach).

### **Materials and Methods**

The experts, tutors and facilitators who are responsible for the coach education programmes of national tennis federations worldwide and the Development Officers of the International Tennis Federation provided their views using an online self-administered questionnaire which was previously validated statistically.

### **Results and Conclusions**

Results showed a series of various competence profiles, which included common key competences for the different levels and roles (i.e. those associated to education and updated knowledge, communication and coaching plans) as well as specific profiles related to each level and role.

### **Discussions and Implications**

The competency-based coach education programme of the ITF was investigated in order to find its applicability to the job market. A considerable number of competencies were found already existing in the programme. However, there were certain specific competencies that were not present in the various syllabi. Further research is needed to fully understand the competences needed for tennis coaches in order to fulfill the different roles of their jobs.

### **Keywords**

tennis, professional competence, tennis coach, coaches education.