

**Guidance on the deployment of PGA Trainees
who hold an ASQ Level 1 Certificate in Coaching Golf.**

PGA Regulationsⁱ state that a PGA registered Trainee is only allowed to teach golf following successful completion of the ASQ Level 1 Certificate in Coaching Golf qualification.

At that time, they are permitted to teach beginners and juniors under the supervision of their Training Professional.

However, this can only be done when the Trainee has also satisfactorily completed an approved child protection course and completed a Criminal Records check. Until such time, they shall not be entitled to teach juniors.

Even then, the Trainee must spend the majority of their teaching/coaching time under the supervision of their Training Professional.

It is expected that any teaching undertaken will be in familiar environments (i.e., home facility/ place of work) and with limited numbers of individuals initially, until such time as the Trainee demonstrates successful management of the teaching/coaching environment on a regular basis.

The Training Professional should not put the Trainee into a new environment without the Training Professional being in attendance for several sessions, and until the Training Professional can be confident that the Trainee can safely manage the environment and participants.

From the commencement of **Year Two** of the PGA Training Programme, the PGA registered Trainee (who still only holds a Level 1 qualification) may develop their coaching programme individually with the input of their Training Professional. This must be at the Training Professional's sole discretion.

This decision should be based on an individual review of the past experiences of the Trainee and consider how much coaching the Training Professional has seen the Trainee deliver in a supervisory capacity. If in doubt, caution in allowing the Trainee to work in more 'chaotic' environments with younger participants is encouraged (e.g., allowing them to go into schools unsupervised and with large number of participants).

Public Liability Insurance

The PGA members' insurance cover is available once an individual is paying a subscription, so a Trainee waiting to be admitted to the PGA training course is not covered until he/she is on the course and starts paying a PGA subscription.

It is largely down to the Training Professional what level of supervision they provide, and he/she should take responsibility for the development of the Trainee. It does not necessarily mean that the Trainee must be watched all the time, rather that the Training Professional gradually gives them more responsibility as the Trainee shows greater competence.

The regulations (5.1(b)) provide much more flexibility from **Year 2** of the PGA training programme even though the Trainee may not have passed the Level 2 coaching qualification and the PGA members' insurance cover is available under these guidelines.

Please Note: A first year Trainee without a Level 1 qualification should not be coaching and is not covered by the PGA members' insurance and a first year Trainee that is not 'supervised' by his/her Training Professional would also not be covered.

If there was an incident where the Training Professional had put forward a Trainee to coach, who had no Level 1 qualification or was unsupervised, The PGA insurance would not cover the Training Professional in that instance, nor would the Trainee Professional be covered.

It is worth remembering that even if the Trainee was coaching under PGA guidelines and has the PGA members' public liability insurance, there could be an instance where the golf club or another third party were at fault and may be liable, in which case the PGA's insurers would seek to avoid liability.

ⁱ Part 4 – Training, Section 5.1 -5.3. (Page 35)

Please note the terms 'teaching' and 'coaching' are used interchangeably to mean one individual leading a session with someone learning to play golf (at all levels)