



# ICU Coaching Skill Credentialing (CSC)



*Selena Sager, ICU Certified CSC Instructor*

## Why Credential:

Getting your coaching credential from the IOC recognized International Federation is an important step in legitimizing your knowledge, experience, and coaching position in our sport. It is a valuable tool when applying for coaching positions and is recognized globally. It is a thorough exam that verifies the coaches' knowledge of the rules, glossary, technical standards, and coaching concepts.

## Mission Statement:

The ICU Coaching Skill Credentialing Program has been created for cheerleading coaches around the world to enhance their coaching abilities. It is meant to encourage coaches to learn and improve their skills by regularly testing and receiving feedback from experienced facilitators. The goal of the ICU is to increase the knowledge of safe and reputable technical standards, in order to safely promote growth of the sport.

The ICU CSC Program is for any and all cheerleading coaches worldwide. Experienced and trained cheerleading professionals in each region administer the ICU CSC Program. They are selected based on their coaching experience, integrity, and unbiased commitment to coaches' education.

## Eligibility & Maintaining Valid Credentials:

- Credentialing is progressive. You must begin at level 1 and complete that level successfully before moving on to level 2 and so on. However, you can book select multiple levels to do at the same time if you are confident in your knowledge and have meet the PFE requirements.
- Credentials are valid for three years and it is the coaches' responsibility to keep them current. Coaches must re-credential before their credentials expire at the end of the three year term.
- Coaches who initially credential lower level(s) may test to the next level without recredentialing the lower levels at any time during the three-year period during which their credentials are valid. Expiration dates will extend an additional three years as each level is successfully completed.
- Coaches will be expected to provide appropriate documentation of their previous levels credentialed and the valid dates. Any failure of a lower level will result in not being allowed to continue testing.

## Terms:

Cycle 1 (cycle 1 means it is the FIRST time a coach has credentialed at that level; if a coach is adding a new level that level will be cycle 1)

Cycle 2+ (cycle 2+ means coaches have credentialed these levels in the past)

## Credentialing Process:

**TO GET STARTED** For full credentialing information, please visit the [ICU Credentialing page](#). Sign up as a New Member on the [ICU Education Portal](#) or login in if you have previously signed up.

Go to the 'Store' and select the level(s) you want to credential, add item to cart, enter billing information and finalize checkout. Costs are in USD.

You will immediately receive confirmation of payment and a copy of your invoice.

You will then receive an email in approximately 5 minutes with product activation confirmation and a link to begin your online tests. If you are returning to the portal at a later time, you can find all enrolled courses/programmes by selecting the 'Online Training' tab.

If you are a coach under 18 years old can you please read and sign this [form](#) with your parent/guardian AND coach/supervisor.

### PRACTICAL FIELD EXPERIENCE

All candidates participating in Cycle 1 credentialing (Levels 3+) are required to provide documentation and verify that they qualify for credentialing in that skill set and level. If this applies to you, please have your supervisor fill out this [PFE form](#) to confirm your experience hours. ICU suggests you use [Clockify](#) to track hours and export time sheets to upload into the PFE form, but if you have another way you track your time please feel free to upload that.

- Novice and Intermediate (Levels 1 and 2): No PFE form required. This is the entry level for cheerleading.
- Median (Level 3) requires a minimum of 200 hours of combined coaching at Novice (Level 1) & Intermediate (Level 2)
- Advanced (Level 4) requires a minimum of 150 hours of coaching at Median (Level 3)
- Elite (Level 5 / IASF 6) requires a minimum of 150 hours of coaching at Advanced (Level 4) • Premier (Level 6 / IASF 7) requires a minimum of 150 hours of coaching at Elite (Level 5) plus 100 hours of assistant coaching, shadowing, or athlete experience.

### ONLINE TEST NOTE

ICU do not refund if an applicant does not pass. Payment must be made up front for all the levels to be tested. Certification for passed levels will be awarded.

- The online testing is based on [glossary](#) definitions, skill comprehension, and rules questions related to the level. It is compliant with [ICU](#) and [IASF](#) Rules and regulations.
- To pass the online testing portion, you must receive a score of 80% or higher. If you fail, have any issues with the Education Portal or need to change/refund your purchase please contact [portal@cheerunion.org](mailto:portal@cheerunion.org).
- Once you have completed the online tests, email your results through to the Facilitator to book in your verbal exam: [selena.sager22@gmail.com](mailto:selena.sager22@gmail.com)
- You will then be contacted to arrange a date and time for your verbal exam.

### **Pass/Fail Policy**

If a coach fails the online exam after 2 attempts, they must wait at least **3 months before attempting again**. There is no refund for failed attempts. If a coach fails the practical exam portion, they must wait **3 months before attempting again**. They should also retake the online exams. There is no refund for failed attempts. The goal is to encourage the coaches to use the materials at their disposal (the rules document which contains the glossary, general rules & guidelines) as well as take the time to seek additional education in the areas they are lacking. The exams are not meant to be easy, but they are also not designed to be impossible. The intent is to ensure the **safety of the athletes** by examining the foundational knowledge of the coaches.

### **VERBAL EXAM**

The Verbal Exam via video call and it will take approximately 20 mins per level.

During the Verbal Exam, the credentialing candidate will demonstrate their understanding of and ability to teach certain skills within each level. Coaches will neither have to perform these skills nor will they be working with athletes during the interview. Coaches will, however, have to explain to a credentialing administrator how to perform each skill just as if they were coaching a team.

Concentrate on safely teaching and troubleshooting athlete technical issues. The facilitator's job is to validate that the credentialing candidate, in their own words, covered the key points of each skill in order to teach proper technique and ensure that they possess the knowledge and effectively communicate their ability to keep the athletes safe.

If the credentialing candidate is attempting multiple levels, the facilitator will start with the first level and progress through the levels as each is completed to satisfaction. The facilitator will stop the exam if the coach is not confident and will not progress with the other levels. In this case, you will only receive certification for the levels that have been successfully demonstrated.

### **CERTIFICATE**

Following the verbal exam you will receive a congratulations email outlining your passed status and you will be added to the register of Credentialed Coaches. Once the verbal exam information has been processed by ICU, you will receive an email with a direct link to your digital download (pdf) certificate. This digital download (pdf) certificate will also be located in your portal by selecting "Online Training" and then selecting the course/programme under "Enrolled Training Courses".

Any questions or concerns please email [selena.sager22@gmail.com](mailto:selena.sager22@gmail.com).