

2026 CWC Report to the CSPA AGM

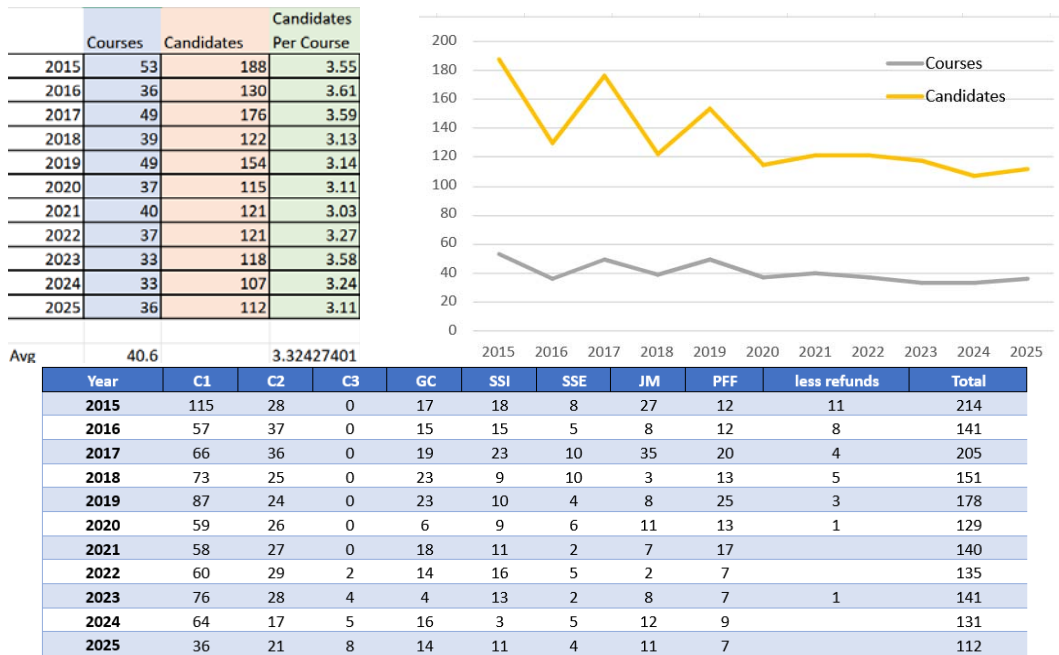
Introduction

Over the past year, the Coaching Working Committee (CWC) was faced with a substantial list of tasks and responded proactively. The committee is pleased with the volume of work completed and the progress made across several key areas, reflecting a continued shift toward forward-looking system development, capacity building, modernization, and inter-committee collaboration.

Composition

The CWC is currently composed of Dustin Renz (Chair & CoP Processor), Monique Andrie (Director of Courses), Alex Dufour (Ratings Processor), Burk Reiman, Candice Stevenson, Robert Schmidt, and Christina Van Halderen. Dave Withrow serves as the Board Liaison.

Rating Trends



Review of multi-year coaching, instructional, and RP data indicates that participation within the coaching and instructional system remains variable, with no clear evidence of a sustained long-term decline in total candidates. While total candidate numbers decreased in 2025, similar year-to-year fluctuations have occurred historically. Course utilization has remained broadly consistent, with an average of approximately three candidates per course, indicating that course availability and Learning Facilitator capacity are sufficient to meet current demand.

Variability in total candidates is driven primarily by fluctuations in C1 participation, which serves as the primary entry point into the coaching and instructional pathway. C1 participation declined in 2025 compared to the prior year; however, given historical volatility, a single reporting period is insufficient to establish a longer-term trend. Participation in most advanced ratings has remained comparatively stable.

Review of overall RP data shows a gradual long-term decline in total registered participants, while new registrations remain relatively consistent. While this does not directly mirror coaching participation, it provides context for the pool of potential coaching candidates and overall instructional demand.

PFFI course availability was expanded with the certification of two new PFFI Learning Facilitators in 2025. Current capacity suggests availability is no longer the primary limiting factor; however, participation remains low. A PFFI course offered in January 2026 was cancelled due to insufficient candidate interest, and a course offered in 2025 was not filled to capacity. The CWC recognizes that PFFI courses are inherently low-frequency and that travel is an expected component of participation.

While no immediate capacity vulnerabilities are evident, sustained reductions in entry-level participation at the C1 level could, over time, affect progression into advanced ratings and future instructional roles. The CWC recognizes that maintaining Learning Facilitator capacity requires long lead times and that participation trends must be monitored closely to support timely planning rather than reactive measures.

Rating and LF Updates

Early in the 2025 season, the CWC hosted a Learning Facilitator Town Hall, which was met with very positive feedback. The committee intends to continue offering these sessions annually and is exploring virtual opportunities to provide ongoing training and update sessions for rating holders prior to skydiving season.

Mid-season, and at the request of a member drop zone, the CWC conducted a review of the PFFI portfolio requirements. A revised portfolio was released that introduced additional flexibility while maintaining the intent and experience requirements of the rating. This update was well received by candidates and Learning Facilitators.

Minor adjustments were also made to the structure of Learning Facilitator progression to allow additional flexibility and increased participation in rating programs beyond the basic level, while maintaining appropriate oversight and standards.

Document / PIM Updates

During the past year, the CWC produced and published guidance on the provision of virtual First Jump Courses and, in partnership with the Technical & Safety Committee, developed a canopy formation briefing document to support consistent delivery of safety-critical knowledge by coaches. Basic Safety Rule (BSR) 2.8 was also updated after ambiguous wording was identified by a member drop zone, improving clarity around real-world student supervision practices.

The CWC completed the technical update of PIM 2A in the previous year and progressed design planning during the 2025 season. The committee continues to await completion of graphic design and translation prior to release. Once complete, PIM 2A and PIM 2B will be merged into a consolidated PIM 2 to reduce duplication and simplify the document library.

The Sport Canopy Endorsement manual is being updated and is expected to be completed and rolled out in the near future. Additional work is underway to provide clearer guidance related to camera use, including safety and equipment considerations.

Rating Updates

The C1 and C2 manuals are undergoing comprehensive updates to reflect modernized educational concepts, alignment with Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) standards, and integration of the updated Making Ethical Decisions (MED) model.

As part of the transition to the CAC's updated MED framework, CSPA will receive increased funding associated with coach education delivery. In addition to this confirmed financial benefit, alignment with CAC programming provides opportunities to access translation support. The CWC is also exploring the potential use of CAC's eLearning platform to host select CSPA-developed coaching content. While the scope of these opportunities remains under review, they represent potential long-term benefits related to cost efficiency, accessibility, and modernization of course delivery. The MED transition is scheduled for rollout on 1 April.

At the time of writing this report, the minimum jump requirement for entry into the Jumpmaster (JM) course is proposed to be increased to 200 jumps. This change was suggested to better align the Jumpmaster rating with the Skydive School Instructor rating and to reflect the responsibilities and experience expected of Jumpmaster rating holders. The update followed a member survey that did not identify any negative feedback regarding the proposed change.

CoP Updates

There have been few changes to CoP requirements during the 2025 season, aside from wording clarification and minor adjustments to examination question requirements. The CWC is working toward expansion of CoP options to include wingsuiting requirements to keep pace with the continued evolution of the sport. Release is anticipated prior to the upcoming season.

Ongoing and Planned Work

The CWC continues to advance several initiatives that are currently in progress or planned, including development of a camera safety reference document for coaches, publication of guidance related to tracking suit use, and further revisions to several manuals. Work is also progressing toward more formalized Night and Water endorsements, including standardized knowledge assessment questions.

In addition, the CWC has engaged in thoughtful discussions, in collaboration with appropriate stakeholders, to consider lessons learned from serious incidents during the 2025 season, with the aim of supporting continuous improvement of coaching practices and system oversight.

Miscellaneous

During this reporting period, the CWC elected to forgo a standalone in-person meeting in favour of exploring a combined meeting with the Technical & Safety Committee at the end of the 2026 season. This approach is intended to support cost efficiencies while also creating opportunities for enhanced collaboration and coordinated work in areas of shared mandate.

As CSPA's members, dropzones play a critical role in the delivery of training and the ongoing health of the coaching and instructional system. The CWC intends to continue strengthening engagement and communication with drop zones, coaches, instructors, and Learning Facilitators, and looks forward to maintaining a proactive approach to system improvement in collaboration with the Board and office staff.

Dustin Renz, CD, ChPC

Chair, CWC