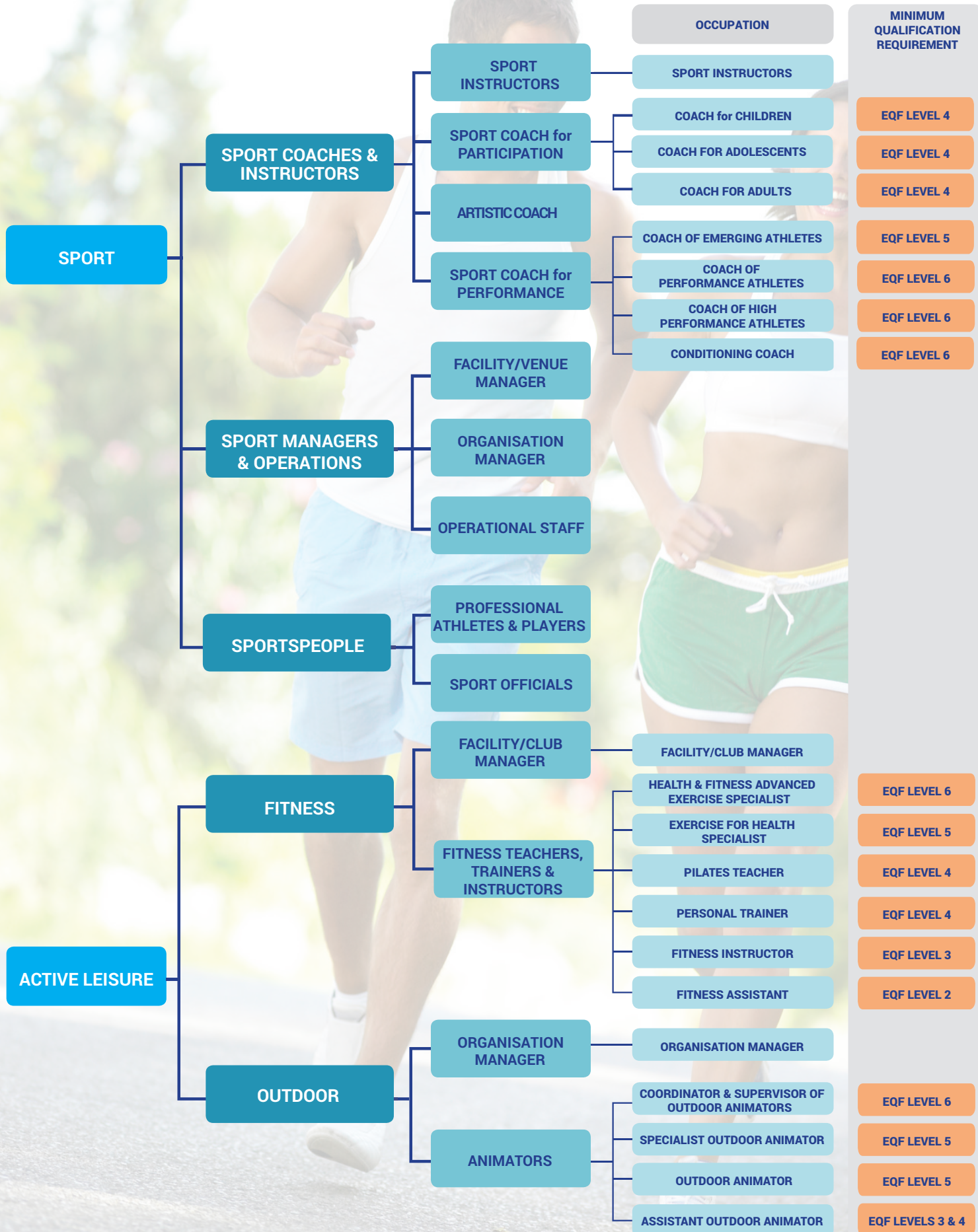


SPORT & ACTIVE LEISURE SECTOR



DEVELOPING THE POSITION FOR THE ACTIVE LEISURE SECTOR

For the past 2 years EHFA and EC-OE have been working with an expert group that is re-classifying sectors of economic activities through a new process called European Skills Competencies Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO). This is a joint initiative at the EU Commission between DG Education and Culture and DG Employment and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training - further details are available at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/esco/home>

ESCO is the multilingual classification of European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations and is part of the Europe 2020 strategy. The EU Commission services launched the project in 2010 with an open stakeholder consultation. The ESCO classification identifies and categorises skills, competences, qualifications and occupations relevant for the EU labour market and education and training. It systematically shows the relationships between the different concepts. ESCO has been developed in an open IT format, is available for use free of charge by everyone and can be accessed via the ESCO portal.

In the expert group covering cultural arts, entertainment, sport and active leisure EHFA and EC-OE have helped to develop an organogram that positions the main occupations for the active leisure sector – as shown overleaf. For most of the occupations listed there are minimum qualification requirements – as referenced to the levels of the European Qualification Framework (EQF).

Some definitions for active leisure, fitness and the outdoor sectors have also been agreed.

DEFINITIONS

Active leisure is a combination of fitness and outdoor-based activities that are generally unstructured and non-competitive. They promote active, healthy lifestyles through activities, events and exercise. They are commonly provided under the direction of qualified animators or instructors so that the activities are tailored to match the abilities of the participants and meet their needs in an enjoyable and safe way.

The fitness sector uses qualified instructors and trainers to deliver diverse, structured exercise programmes that help people of all ages and abilities to improve their health, muscle and cardiovascular endurance, coordination, balance, agility and flexibility. Fitness programmes also build a feeling of individual wellbeing that establishes and helps to maintain a healthy balance of mind, body and spirit.

The outdoor sector uses outdoor related activities (canoe, rafting, horse riding, ... etc.) as the basis of delivery of a recreational or personal development service. Outdoor providers do not generally offer competitions. The outdoor sector uses qualified animators or instructors to deliver these outdoor activities in a context of fun, recreation, tourism, outdoor learning or engagement with the natural environment.



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