



CLARIFY PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES

ICA COMPETENCY NO. 2

**INTERNATIONAL COACHING ALLIANCE
VERSION 21.2+**



DEFINITION OF THE COMPETENCY

The coach clearly understands and communicates how coaching differs from therapy, mentoring, consulting, and training, and maintains boundaries that define coaching as a distinct professional practice.

PURPOSE OF THE CHARTER

This document sets forth the professional principles that a coach must uphold in order to maintain clarity around the distinct role of coaching. Mastery and consistent application of this competency is a required condition for accreditation under the International Coaching Alliance.

CORE PROFESSIONAL PRINCIPLES OF ICA

1. Professional Identity

The coach understands the essence of coaching as a collaborative, client-centered process focused on unlocking potential and does not equate it with consulting, teaching, or therapeutic intervention.

2. Clear Communication with the Client

Before beginning any coaching engagement, the coach must explain how coaching differs from mentoring, psychotherapy, consulting, and training.

3. Role Clarity

During client interaction, the coach adheres to the agreed professional role and does not combine it with other roles unless explicitly clarified, justified, and consented to by the client.

4. Referral When Appropriate

If it becomes evident that the client's needs fall outside the scope of coaching, the coach must responsibly refer the client to an appropriate professional.

5. Avoiding Unintentional Therapeutic Practices

The coach refrains from using methods, tools, or techniques that may produce therapeutic effects unless they are formally qualified and acting under a therapeutic contract.

6. Respect for Related Professions

The coach acknowledges the value of adjacent professions (such as psychologists, mentors, consultants, and educators) and avoids devaluing or misrepresenting them in client communication or public discourse.



COACH'S DECLARATION

By signing this document, the coach confirms:

- A complete understanding of the boundaries of the coaching profession and a commitment to uphold them
- The ability and willingness to clearly communicate the differences between coaching and other support modalities
- Professional accountability in referring clients when their needs go beyond coaching

Note:

This document is a required component of the accreditation process under the International Coaching Alliance. The coach's signature affirms acceptance of professional responsibility for Competency No. 2 and becomes part of their accreditation file. Accreditation cannot be granted without a signed declaration.

Date: _____

Coach's Full Name: _____

Signature: _____

ICA Accreditation ID (if applicable): _____
