



## **Qualification Specification for:**

### **OCN NI Level 3 Award in Sports Journalism**

➤ **Qualification No: 603/5178/0**

### **OCN NI Level 3 Certificate in Sports Journalism**

➤ **Qualification No: 603/5180/9**

## Qualification Regulation Information

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OCN NI Level 3 Award in Sports Journalism  
Qualification Number: 603/5178/0

OCN NI Level 3 Certificate in Sports Journalism  
Qualification Number: 603/5180/9

Operational start date: 15 October 2019  
Operational end date: 30 September 2029  
Certification end date: 30 September 2032

Qualification operational start and end dates indicate the lifecycle of a regulated qualification. The operational end date is the last date by which learners can be registered on a qualification and the certification end date is the last date by which learners can claim their certificate.

All OCN NI regulated qualifications are published to the Register of Regulated Qualifications (<http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>). This site shows the qualifications and awarding organisations regulated by CCEA Regulation and Ofqual.

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## Foreword

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This document explains OCN NI's requirements for the delivery and assessment of the following regulated qualifications:

- **OCN NI Level 3 Award in Sports Journalism**
- **OCN NI Level 3 Certificate in Sports Journalism**

This specification sets out:

- Qualification features
- Centre requirements for delivering and assessing the qualification
- The structure and content of the qualification
- Unit details
- Assessment requirements for the qualification
- OCN NI's quality assurance arrangements for the qualification
- Administration

OCN NI will notify centres in writing of any major changes to this specification. We will also publish changes on our website at [www.ocnni.org.uk](http://www.ocnni.org.uk)

This specification is provided online, so the version available on our website is the most up to date publication. It is important to note that copies of the specification that have been downloaded and printed may be different from this authoritative online version.

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## About Regulation

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### OCN NI

Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCN NI) is a regulated Awarding Organisation based in Northern Ireland. OCN NI is regulated by CCEA Regulation to develop and award professional and technical (vocational) qualifications from Entry Level up to and including Level 5 across all sector areas. In addition, OCN NI is regulated by Ofqual to award similar qualification types in England.

All OCN NI regulated qualifications are published to the Register of Regulated Qualifications ( <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/> ). This site shows the qualifications and awarding organisations regulated by CCEA Regulation and Ofqual.

### The Regulated Qualifications Framework: an overview

The Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015: the RQF provides a single framework for all regulated qualifications.

#### Qualification Level

The level indicates the difficulty and complexity of the knowledge and skills associated with any qualification. There are eight levels (Levels 1-8) supported by three 'entry' levels (Entry 1-3).

#### Qualification Size

Size refers to the estimated total amount of time it could typically take to study and be assessed for a qualification. Size is expressed in terms of Total Qualification Time (TQT), and the part of that time typically spent being taught or supervised, rather than studying alone, is known as Guided Learning Hours (GLH).

## Qualification Features

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### Sector Subject Area

9.3 Media and communication

This qualification relates to the following National Occupational Standards:

[NOS - Journalism](#)

### UCAS Tariff

- The OCN NI Level 3 Award in Sports Journalism is recognised by UCAS, with 8 points allocated, and
- the OCN NI Level 3 Certificate in Sports Journalism is recognised by UCAS, with 16 points allocated

### Qualifications' Aim

The OCN NI Level 3 Award and Certificate in Sports Journalism qualifications are designed to provide learners with the skills and knowledge in sports journalism techniques and to prepare them for employment in the sports journalism industry.

### Qualifications' Objectives

The qualifications are designed to assist sports presenters/journalists develop competency and proficiency in the following areas:

- law
- ethics
- writing
- interview skills
- editing and
- multi-media

### Grading

Grading for these qualifications is pass/fail.

### Qualification Target Group

These qualifications are initially targeted at further education colleges but there may also be potential within the schools' market as well as a range of other third sector organisations such as sports community groups and sporting bodies.

### **Progression Opportunities**

The OCN NI Level 3 Award in Sports Journalism will enable the learner to progress to the OCN NI Level 3 Certificate in Sports Journalism. From the OCN NI Level 3 Certificate in Sports Journalism the learner may be able to access higher education qualifications in broad journalism, or more specifically in sports journalism.

### **Entry Requirements**

Learners must be at least 16 years of age and have a good standard of English.

### **Qualification Support**

A Qualification Support pack is available for OCN NI centres within the login area of the OCN NI website (<https://www.ocnni.org.uk/my-account/>), which includes additional support for teachers, eg planning and assessment templates, guides to best practice, etc.

### **Delivery Languages**

These qualifications are available in English only at this time. If you wish to offer these qualifications in Welsh or Irish (Gaeilge) then please contact OCN NI who will review demand and provide as appropriate.

## Centre Requirements for Delivering the Qualification

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### Centre Recognition and Qualification Approval

New and existing OCN NI recognised centres must apply for and be granted approval to deliver the qualification prior to the commencement of delivery.

### Centre Staffing

Centres are required to have the following roles in place as a minimum, although a member of staff may hold more than one role\*:

- Centre contact
- Programme Co-ordinator
- Tutor
- Assessor
- Internal Verifier

\*Note: A person cannot be an internal verifier for their own assessments.

### Tutors

Tutors delivering these qualifications should be occupationally competent, qualified to at least one level higher than the qualifications and have a minimum of one year's relevant experience in the area of sports journalism.

### Assessors

The qualifications are assessed within the centre and are subject to OCN NI's quality assurance processes. Units are achieved through internally set, internally assessed, and internally verified evidence.

#### **Assessors must:**

- be occupationally competent and qualified to at least one level higher than the qualifications
- have a minimum of one year's experience in the area they are assessing
- have direct or related relevant experience in assessment
- assess all assessment tasks and activities

### **Internal Verification**

OCN NI qualifications must be scrutinised through the centre's internal quality assurance processes as part of the recognised centre agreement with OCN NI. The centre must appoint an experienced and trained centre internal verifier whose responsibility is to act as the internal quality monitor for the verification of the delivery and assessment of the qualifications.

The centre must agree a working model for internal verification with OCN NI prior to delivery of the qualifications.

#### ***Internal Verifiers must:***

- have at least one year's occupational experience in the areas they are internally verifying
- attend OCN NI's internal verifier training

Internal verifiers are required to:

- support tutors and assessors
- sample assessments according to the centre's sampling strategy
- ensure tasks are appropriate to the level being assessed
- maintain up-to-date records supporting the verification of assessment and learner achievement

## Structure and Content

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### OCN NI Level 3 Award in Sports Journalism

In order to achieve the OCN NI Level 3 Award in Sports Journalism learners must complete any of the optional units - 3 credits.

Total Qualification Time (TQT) for this qualification: 30 hours  
 Guided Learning Hours (GLH) for this qualification: 21 hours

### OCN NI Level 3 Certificate in Sports Journalism

In order to achieve the OCN NI Level 3 Certificate in Sports Journalism learners must complete all six units for a total of 18 credits.

Total Qualification Time (TQT) for this qualification: 180 hours  
 Guided Learning Hours (GLH) for this qualification: 126 hours

Unit Reference Number	OCN NI Unit Code	Unit Title	Credit Value	GLH	Level
<a href="#">J/617/8277</a>	CBE655	Law and Ethics for Sports Journalism	3	21	Three
<a href="#">L/617/8278</a>	CBE656	Sports Journalism Research Techniques	3	21	Three
<a href="#">R/617/8279</a>	CBE657	Grammatical Presentation for Sports Journalism	3	21	Three
<a href="#">J/617/8280</a>	CBE658	Sports Journalism Interview Techniques	3	21	Three
<a href="#">L/617/8281</a>	CBE660	Sports Journalism Editing Skills	3	21	Three
<a href="#">R/617/8282</a>	CBE659	Multi-platform Skills for Sports Journalism	3	21	Three

## Unit Details

Title	Law and Ethics for Sports Journalism	
Level	Three	
Credit Value	3	
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	21	
OCN NI Unit Code	CBE655	
Unit Reference No	J/617/8277	
<i>Unit purpose and aim(s):</i> This unit will enable the learner to understand essential media law, ethical codes and how to apply them within sports journalism.		
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>		<b>Assessment Criteria</b>
1. Understand essential media law and how it should be applied within sports journalism.	1.1. Explain key media law required to create legally competent products within sports journalism. 1.2. Explain with examples possible consequences of not adhering to media law within sports journalism. 1.3. Explain with examples the process for strictly adhering to media law within sports journalism.	
2. Be able to produce sports journalism products which comply with media law.	2.1. Produce at least five products strictly adhering to media law and assess final products for compliance within sports journalism.	
3. Understand essential ethical codes applicable to sports journalism.	3.1. Explain key media ethical codes required to create ethically competent products for sports journalism. 3.2. Summarise with examples possible consequences of not adhering to ethical codes within sports journalism. 3.3. Summarise with examples the process for strictly adhering to ethical codes within sports journalism.	
4. Be able to produce sports journalism products which comply with ethical codes.	4.1. Produce at least five sports journalism products strictly adhering to ethical codes and assess final products for compliance.	
<b>Assessment Guidance</b>		
The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.		
<b>Assessment Method</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Possible Content</b>
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion

Coursework	Research or projects that count towards a learner's final outcome and demonstrate the skills and/or knowledge gained throughout the course	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Tutor notes/record Learner log/diary
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Title	Sports Journalism Research Techniques	
Level	Three	
Credit Value	3	
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	21	
OCN NI Unit Code	CBE656	
Unit Reference No	L/617/8278	
<i>Unit purpose and aim(s):</i> This unit will enable the learner to understand essential research techniques and how to apply them within sports journalism.		
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>		<b>Assessment Criteria</b>
1. Understand the importance of research techniques in sports journalism.	1.1. Summarise why research is an important tool in sports journalism. 1.2. Explain with examples how research techniques should be used effectively to produce sports journalism products.	
2. Be able to use research techniques in sports journalism.	2.1. Demonstrate research techniques in sports journalism to produce at least five articles and/or products. 2.2. Evaluate own research techniques identifying areas for improvement.	
<b>Assessment Guidance</b>		
The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.		
<b>Assessment Method</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Possible Content</b>
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
Practical demonstration/assignment	A practical demonstration of a skill/situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to practise and apply skills and knowledge	Record of observation
Coursework	Research or projects that count towards a learner's final outcome and demonstrate the skills and/or knowledge gained throughout the course	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Tutor notes/record Learner log/diary

Title	Grammatical Presentation for Sports Journalism	
Level	Three	
Credit Value	3	
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	21	
OCN NI Unit Code	CBE657	
Unit Reference No	R/617/8279	
<i>Unit purpose and aim(s):</i> This unit will enable the learner to understand and apply grammar techniques to sports journalism.		
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	
1. Understand how nouns, adjectives and verbs are used in sports journalism grammar.	1.1. Summarise with examples how the following are used in media grammar in relation to sports journalism: a) nouns b) adjectives c) verbs	
2. Understand how punctuation is used in sports journalism grammar.	2.1. Summarise with examples how punctuation may be used accurately in media grammar in relation to sports journalism.	
3. Be able to create articles using appropriate sports journalism grammar.	3.1. Produce the following articles ensuring they make sound grammatical sense: a) news report (350 words) b) feature article (800-1000 words) c) online tweet (150 characters) d) audio report (40 seconds) e) moving image script (90 seconds)	
4. Be able to evaluate own use of appropriate sports journalism grammar within articles and products.	4.1. Evaluate own sports journalism articles and products identifying areas for improvement.	
<b>Assessment Guidance</b>		
The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.		
<b>Assessment Method</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Possible Content</b>
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
Practical demonstration/assignment	A practical demonstration of a skill/situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to practise and apply skills and knowledge	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Learner log

Title	Sports Journalism Interview Techniques	
Level	Three	
Credit Value	3	
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	21	
OCN NI Unit Code	CBE658	
Unit Reference No	J/617/8280	
<i>Unit purpose and aim(s):</i> This unit will enable the learner to understand the importance of interview techniques in gaining information in sports journalism.		
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>		<b>Assessment Criteria</b>
1. Understand the role of interviews in sports journalism.	1.1. Summarise with examples how interviews are used in sports journalism. 1.2. Compare how techniques may be used in the following interviews: a) print b) radio c) television d) social media	
2. Be aware of different interview techniques used in sports journalism.	2.1. Summarise and compare different interview techniques used in sports journalism. 2.2. Demonstrate at least five interview techniques used in sports journalism. 2.3. Assess own interview techniques planning for a range of sports.	
3. Be able to carry out and evaluate own sports interviews.	3.1. Carry out both a preview and review sports interview for the following matches: a) GAA b) soccer c) rugby 3.2. Carry out both a preview and review sports interview for at least two sporting events not including those identified in AC3.1 3.3. Evaluate own sports interviews identifying areas for improvement.	
<b>Assessment Guidance</b>		
The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.		
<b>Assessment Method</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Possible Content</b>
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
Practical demonstration/assignment	A practical demonstration of a skill/situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to practise and apply skills and knowledge	Record of observation

Coursework	Research or projects that count towards a learner's final outcome and demonstrate the skills and/or knowledge gained throughout the course	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Tutor notes/record Learner log/diary
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Title	Sports Journalism Editing Skills	
Level	Three	
Credit Value	3	
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	21	
OCN NI Unit Code	CBE660	
Unit Reference No	L/617/8281	
<i>Unit purpose and aim(s):</i> This unit will enable the learner to edit sports journalism products using multi-platform skills.		
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>		<b>Assessment Criteria</b>
1. Be able to edit sports products for print media.	1.1. Summarise the key editing skills associated with print media in a sports journalism context. 1.2. Apply editing skills to create a print media product in a sports journalism context. 1.3. Assess own editing skills in producing a print media product in a sports journalism context.	
2. Be able to edit sports products for audio media.	2.1. Summarise the key editing skills associated with audio media in a sports journalism context. 2.2. Apply editing skills to create an audio media product in a sports journalism context. 2.3. Assess own editing skills in producing an audio media product in a sports journalism context.	
3. Be able to edit sports products for moving image media.	3.1. Summarise the key editing skills associated with moving image media in a sports journalism context. 3.2. Apply editing skills to create a moving image media product in a sports journalism context. 3.3. Assess own editing skills in producing a moving image media product in a sports journalism context.	
4. Be able to edit social media sports products.	4.1. Summarise the key editing skills associated with social media in a sports journalism context. 4.2. Apply editing skills to create a social media product in a sports journalism context. 4.3. Assess own editing skills in producing a social media product in a sports journalism context.	
<b>Assessment Guidance</b>		
The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.		
<b>Assessment Method</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Possible Content</b>
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion

Practical demonstration/assignment	A practical demonstration of a skill/situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to practise and apply skills and knowledge	Record of observation
Coursework	Research or projects that count towards a learner's final outcome and demonstrate the skills and/or knowledge gained throughout the course	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Tutor notes/record Learner log/diary

Title	Multi-platform skills for Sports Journalism	
Level	Three	
Credit Value	3	
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	21	
OCN NI Unit Code	CBE659	
Unit Reference No	R/617/8282	
<i>Unit purpose and aim(s):</i> This unit will enable the learner to understand the role of multi-platform skills and apply these skills to different products in sports journalism.		
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>		<b>Assessment Criteria</b>
1. Understand the role of multi-platform skills in modern sports journalism.	1.1 Explain and compare multi-platform skills which are used to create sports journalism products. 1.2 Summarise the importance of a multi-platform approach to modern sports journalism. 1.3 Explain with examples how multi-platform skills may improve the journalistic coverage of at least three different sports.	
2. Understand the multi-platform planning process in sports journalism.	2.1 Summarise the key components in planning the coverage of the following sports using multi-platform skills: a) GAA b) Soccer c) Rugby 2.2 Use multi-platform skills to create a plan which demonstrates effective coverage of the sports identified in AC2.1 2.3 Evaluate own plan identifying areas for improvement.	
3. Be able to create sports journalism products using multi-platform skills.	3.1 Create, apply and present journalism products using multi-platform skills for at least three sports not including those identified in AC2.1	
4. Be able to evaluate the effectiveness of own sports journalism products using multi-platform skills.	4.2. Evaluate own sports journalism products using multi-platform skills identifying areas for improvement.	
<b>Assessment Guidance</b>		
The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.		
<b>Assessment Method</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Possible Content</b>
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion

Practical demonstration/assignment	A practical demonstration of a skill/situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to practise and apply skills and knowledge	Record of observation
Coursework	Research or projects that count towards a learner's final outcome and demonstrate the skills and/or knowledge gained throughout the course	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Tutor notes/record Learner log/diary

## Quality Assurance of Centre Performance

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### External Verification

All OCN NI recognised centres are subject to External Verification. External verification visits and monitoring activities will be conducted annually to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of recognition, review the centre's risk rating for the qualifications and to assure OCN NI of the maintenance of the integrity of the qualifications.

The External Verifier will review the delivery and assessment of the qualifications. This will include the review of a sample of assessment evidence and evidence of the internal verification of assessment and assessment decisions. This will form the basis of the EV report and will inform OCN NI's annual assessment of centre compliance and risk. The External Verifier is appointed by OCN NI.

### Standardisation

As a process, standardisation is designed to ensure consistency and promote good practice in understanding and application of standards. Standardisation events:

- make qualified statements about the level of consistency in assessment across centres delivering a qualification
- make statements on the standard of evidence that is required to meet the assessment criteria for units in a qualification
- make recommendations on assessment practice
- produce advice and guidance for the assessment of units
- identify good practice in assessment and internal verification

Centres offering units of an OCN NI qualification must attend and contribute assessment materials and learner evidence for standardisation events if requested.

OCN NI will notify centres of the nature of sample evidence required for standardisation events (this will include assessment materials, learner evidence and relevant assessor and internal verifier documentation). OCN NI will make standardisation summary reports available and correspond directly with centres regarding event outcomes.

## Administration

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### Registration

A centre must register learners within 20 working days of commencement of a qualification.

### Certification

Certificates will be issued to centres within 20 working days of receipt of correctly completed results marksheets. It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that certificates received from OCN NI are held securely and distributed to learners promptly and securely.

### Charges

OCN NI publishes all up to date qualification fees in its Fees and Invoicing Policy document. Further information can be found on the centre login area of the OCN NI website.

### Equality, Fairness and Inclusion

OCN NI has considered the requirements of equalities legislation in developing the specification for these qualifications. For further information and guidance relating to access to fair assessment and the OCN NI Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations policies, centres should refer to the OCN NI website.

### Retention of Evidence

OCN NI has published guidance for centres on the retention of evidence. Details are provided in the OCN NI Centre Handbook and can be accessed via the OCN NI website.

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**Qualification Number: 603/5178/0**

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**OCN NI Level 3 Certificate in Sports Journalism**  
**Qualification Number: 603/5180/9**

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Operational start date: 15 October 2019  
Operational end date: 30 September 2029  
Certification end date: 30 September 2032

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