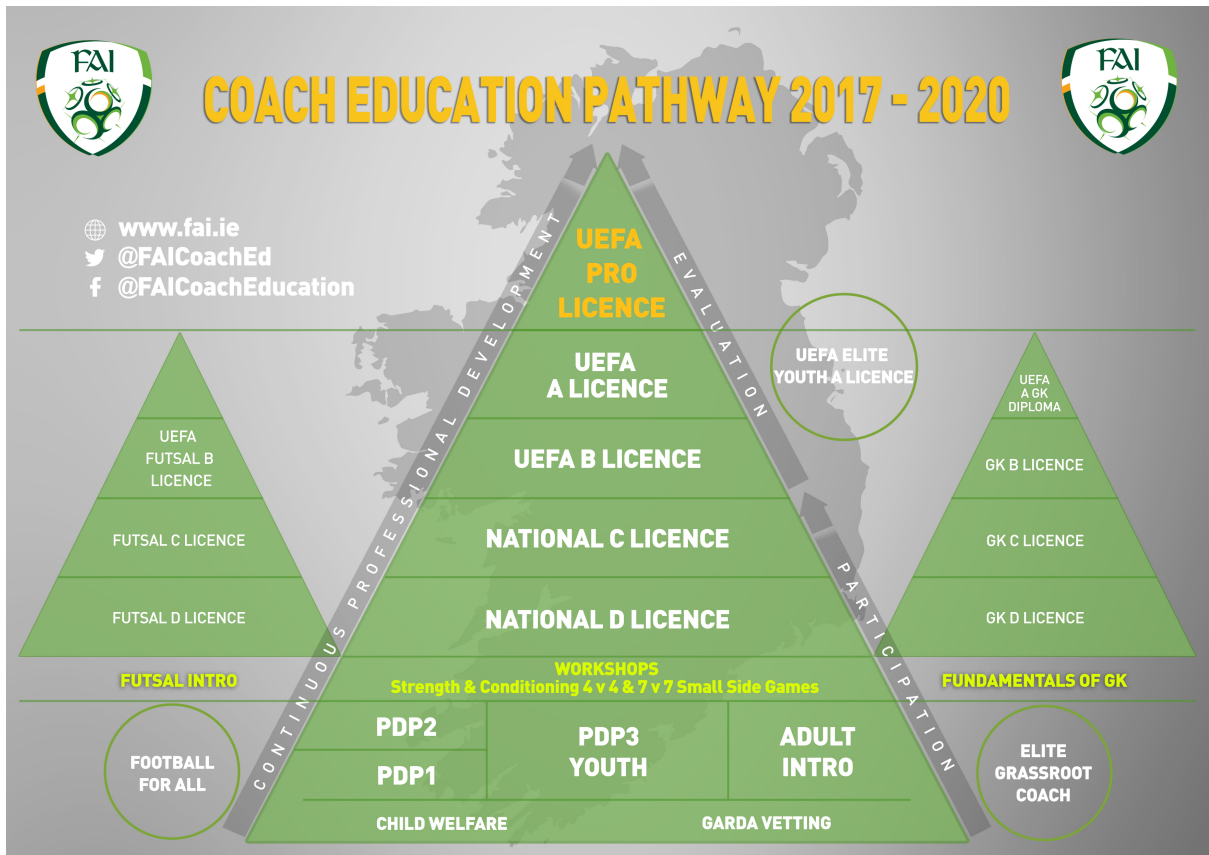




National Sports Campus, Abbotstown, Dublin 15  
 T: +353 1 899 9500 F: +353 1 899 9501  
 info@fai.ie www.fai.ie

# FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND COACH EDUCATION PATHWAY



FOUNDED 1921 | FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND  
 CUMANN PEILE NA HÉIREANN



SPÓRT ÉIREANN  
 SPORT IRELAND

Board of Directors: Tony Fitzgerald **President**, Donal Conway **Vice President**, John Delaney **Chief Executive Officer**, Michael Cody, Eddie Murray, Eamon Naughton, Paraic Treanor, Jim McConnell, John Earley, Mick Hanley, Niamh O'Donoghue. Company Registration No. 17081. Registered Office: National Sports Campus Ireland, Abbotstown, Dublin 15.

## Compulsory Requirements

- Each coach will be required to have completed their Garda Vetting (or international equivalent) for their certification to be valid from the completion of the course. Coaches without Garda Vetting can complete the course but their qualification is not acknowledged as valid until evidence of their Garda Vetting is provided.
- Each coach will be required to have completed their Safeguarding course (or international equivalent) for his or her certification to be valid from the completion of course. Coaches without Safeguarding can complete the course but their qualification is not acknowledged as valid until evidence of their Safeguarding is provided.
- As of 2019, each coach working within Association football will have a **Coaches ID Card**. The ID Card will be a mandatory ID when involved in any coaching activity in relation to Association Football. This ID will be an annual registration which will see the coach renew their ID in January of each year for the following calendar year. Coaches with a UEFA Qualification will be eligible for an additional UEFA ID Card (blue) once they have a valid FAI National ID Card and their UEFA Licence is currently valid with CPD requirements completed.

The pathway is based on the theory of *Reality-Based Learning* and is directly aligned to the *FAI Player Development Plan*, and is underpinned through the *competency model of coaching competencies*.

Pathway Explained:

### Grassroots

PDP1	Coaches working with 6-9 year olds.
PDP 2	Coaches working with 9-12 year olds.
PDP3 Youth Intro	Coaches working with 13-18 year olds.
Adult Intro	Coaches working with adult players.
Workshops	Multiple workshops will allow for coaches to continuously up skill and develop themselves as well as providing an access point for coaches who were unable to attend formal coaching courses due to work or lifestyle commitments, the workshops now make it easier for coaches to have regular engagement with formal Coach Education.
Specialist Workshops	These events are designed to allow for coaches to develop or complete CPD in a Specialist area of the game such as Goalkeeping, FUTSAL, Football For All (FFA) and or Psychology.

Multiple workshops will allow for coaches to continuously up skill and develop themselves as well as providing an access point for coaches who were unable to attend formal coaching courses due to work or lifestyle commitments, the workshops now make it easier for coaches to have regular engagement with Coach Education. The significant change to the grassroots pathway is that now coaches enter in the reality based learning model where they enter at the level they are coaching.

On entry to formal coach education the coach has a number of progression points.

### **Option 1: Professional Coach**

This requires the coach to complete 40 hours of formal coach education within the grassroots pathway. There are exemption situations for professional players who can avoid this step. (See Appendix 1.1) On completion of the 40 hours, coaches then complete the National D Licence, and then progress to the National C Licence. On completion of the National C Licence Coaches will be given feedback and direction as to when they can progress to the UEFA B Licence based on their demonstrated competencies at C Licence. On completion of the UEFA B, progress is then to the UEFA A, with a mandatory minimum 12 months between each UEFA Licence being enforced. On completion of the A Licence, a coach is left with two options from the Elite Youth A Licence (Academy Director and or Head of Youth Development), and or UEFA Pro Licence.

## Option 2: Elite Grassroots Coach

This option is based around an amateur, volunteer coach working towards becoming an *Elite Coach*. This coach must complete a minimum of five years of coaching within the Amateur game. In addition to this the coach must complete 100 hours of formal coach education. An example of this would be as follows:

Child welfare Safeguarding	3 hrs.
Garda Vetting Process	2 hrs.
PDP1(formerly KS1)	8 hrs.
PDP2(formerly KS2)	16 hrs.
PDP3 Youth Intro	24 hrs.
Adult Intro	24 hrs.
4 v 4 Workshop	3 hrs.
7 v 7 Workshop	3 hrs.
Football Fitness Workshop	8 hrs.
Fundamentals of Goalkeeping	8 hrs.
National D Licence	12 hrs.
Total Hours:	101 hrs.

Once the coach has completed the required 100 hours of formal coach education and also has the mandatory five year's minimum experience the coach will be eligible to apply for the Elite Grassroots Licence. On application, the coach will be required to provide evidence of their coaching experience, through a formal letter of recommendation from their Grassroots/Amateur Club. The coach will also have to provide evidence of their 100 hours of coach education. In addition to this the coach will be required to demonstrate the correct entry competencies for an elite coach working in this environment, and by simply completing the mandatory requirements for application does not imply immediate acceptance onto the program. Successful applicants will complete the Elite Grassroots Licence over two contact blocks, with both blocks being 3 days with a three-month gap between each block to allow for the completion of course assignments. On completion of both contact blocks, the coach will be required to present their learning outcomes and assignments and a final club evaluation may be required before certification is complete. The Elite Grassroots Licence will follow the same guidelines as UEFA in terms of mandatory CPD every three years from the date of completion of the course.

## Available Workshops and Workshop in Design

- 4 v 4 Small sided Games
- 7 v 7 Small Sided Games
- 9 v 9 Small Sided Games
- PDP Workshop – Ruud Dokter
- Strength and Conditioning
- Fundamentals of GK
- International GK Workshop
- FUTSAL Intro
- Football Fitness
- Soccer Specific Psychology
- Small Sided Games working back from 11 v 11
- Performance Analysis
- Football For All
- Fundamental Development 3 – 6 year olds

## *Appendix 1.1 Entry Routes to Licensed Coaching*

The following will identify the entry routes to

Professional Coaching:

### **Entry route 1: National D Licence:**

- From Grassroots Pathway in which the coach has completed 40 hours of grassroots education and then apply for the National D Licence. A coach who has formerly completed the FAI Youth Certificate would be acknowledged as a National D Licence Holder.
- Any coach with historical qualifications such as Level 1 and 2 would be eligible to complete the National D Licence.

### **Entry route 2: National C Licence:**

- Any coach who has a historical qualification such as the Youth Certificate, would be eligible to apply for National C Licence.
- A coach who has completed the National D Licence.
- Professional Players within Airtricity League with over three year's experience can enter at National C Licence.

### **Entry point 3: Elite Grassroots Licence:**

- A coach must have a minimum of five year's experience coaching within the amateur game.
- A coach must have completed 100 hours of formal grassroots coach education as aforementioned.



## **Entry point 4: UEFA B Licence:**

- Once a coach has completed the National C Licence they will be recommended a time frame to progress to the UEFA B.  
*Specialist Criteria* Under UEFA Convention can see a former/current professional player whom has a minimum of 5 years of active playing (minimum 10 appearances annually) can apply to enter at UEFA B Licence Level.
- The coach must be working with Elite Youth Players at U15 and or above to be eligible to enter the course.

***After this point coaches would be required to have completed one of the above to be eligible to progress to the Further Education and Qualifications Section.***

## **Further Education and Training Qualifications**

### **UEFA A Licence Requirements:**

- Coaches must have the UEFA B Licence for a minimum of 12 months.
- Coaches must have a valid UEFA B Licence on entry to the course.
- Coaches must be working at an Elite Youth Level at U17 and or above.

### **UEFA Elite Youth A Licence Requirements:**

- Coaches can enter this once they have a Valid UEFA A Licence.
- Coaches can enter this once they can provide evidence of working within a professional academy environment and or an internship to work within such an environment for the duration of the course.

## **UEFA Pro Licence Requirements:**

- Coaches must have an A Licence for minimum 12 months and be working at the required level.
- Coaches must have a valid UEFA A Licence
- Coaches must be working at the highest level of the game, in National League Football, International Football and or equivalent. In the event a coach is not working within such an environment; the coach will be required to complete an internship to satisfy UEFA criteria for entry to the course.

## **UEFA CPD Requirements:**

Mandatory Requirement - Coaches under UEFA Coaching Convention (2017) must complete a minimum of 15 hours CPD every three years from the date of certification. Coaches with additional specialist qualifications must complete an additional 5 hours CPD within the specialist area (e.g. Goalkeeping, Futsal).

## Appendix 1.2

### Entry Routes to Specialist Licensed Coaching

#### Goalkeeping Pathway:

**Entry Point 1:** Coaches must complete the Fundamentals of Goalkeeping, then they progress to complete the International Goalkeeping Skills Workshop, progressing then onto the National GK D Licence, National Gk C Licence, and then onto the National GK B Licence. Once completed a coach must complete the UEFA B Licence (which may see a coach having to complete all the pre-required steps to the UEFA B). On completion of the UEFA B Licence a coach is then eligible to apply for a UEFA GK A Diploma.

**Entry Point 2:** Coaches whom have played at the highest level and or who can demonstrate substantial experiential learning can apply to enter at the National GK C Licence Level and work through the aforementioned steps once accepted onto the course.

#### FUTSAL Pathway

Coaches must complete the Futsal Intro, then move onto the FUTSAL National D Licence, before completing the FUTSAL National C Licence and then this would see them being eligible to complete the UEFA FUTSAL B Licence.

*Any questions and or queries can be directed to the Football Association of Ireland Coach Education Manager Niall O'Regan through [niall.oregan@fai.ie](mailto:niall.oregan@fai.ie) and or +353831530524*