



JOB ADVERT

JOB INFORMATION	
Job Title:	Head of Academy Sports Science
Contract Type:	Permanent: Full Time
Working Hours:	40 hours per week, Flexible Monday to Sunday. To include working evenings.
Location:	Sheffield Wednesday Training Grounds
Salary:	Dependent on experience
POSITION IN THE ORGANISATION	
Reports to:	Academy Manager
Responsible for:	Lead Sports Scientist Part-time/casual staff/interns
JOB PURPOSE	
To lead, develop, and deliver the Athletic Development programme across all age groups within the Academy, ensuring alignment with the club's performance philosophy, the Elite Player Performance Plan (EPPP), and multidisciplinary best practice. In addition to departmental leadership, the post holder will act as the lead Sports Scientist for the Under-21 squad, providing daily performance support, monitoring, physical preparation, return-to-play integration, and match-day services to maximise player development and readiness for senior football.	
GENERAL DESCRIPTION – TASK RELATED	
Department Leadership • Lead and manage the Academy Sports Science department across all academy age groups. • Design and implement the Academy Sports Science strategy aligned with the club's playing philosophy. • Develop and maintain age-appropriate physical development programmes from Foundation Phase through Professional Development Phase. • Line manage academy sports science staff, interns, and placement students. • Ensure consistent standards, working practices, and delivery across all academy teams. • Support recruitment, induction, mentoring, and continued professional development of sports science staff. • Contribute to departmental budgeting, equipment procurement, and resource planning. • Ensure compliance with EPPP requirements, Premier League standards, and club policies.	

Trading address

Sheffield Wednesday Football Club
Hillsborough, Sheffield, S6 1SW
Telephone: 03700 20 1867
Website: www.swfc.co.uk

Registered address

Wednesday 1867 Limited
c/o BDO LLP, Two Snowhill, 7th Floor
Birmingham, B4 6GA
Company number: 17111133



Under-21 Daily Responsibilities

- Lead the daily sports science provision for the Under-21 squad.
- Deliver field-based warm-ups, speed, power, and conditioning sessions.
- Monitor external and internal training loads using GPS, heart rate, wellness, and RPE data.
- Produce daily and weekly player monitoring reports.
- Work closely with coaching staff to inform training design and physical periodisation.
- Deliver individual physical development programmes for players.
- Support transition players between the Academy and First Team.
- Monitor player readiness and fatigue to optimise performance and reduce injury risk.
- Attend all Under-21 training sessions and competitive fixtures.
- Provide pre-match, match-day, and recovery support.

Performance Monitoring

- Collect, analyse, and interpret physical performance data.
- Maintain athlete management systems and ensure accurate data recording.
- Conduct regular physical testing throughout the season.
- Benchmark physical performance against positional and age-specific standards.
- Produce reports for coaches, Academy Manager, and multidisciplinary staff.

Injury Prevention & Return to Performance

- Work collaboratively with Academy Medical staff to reduce injury risk.
- Assist with return-to-play planning and on-pitch rehabilitation.
- Progress players safely from rehabilitation into full training.
- Monitor post-injury loading and performance metrics.
- Contribute to injury audit and performance review meetings.

Multidisciplinary Working

- Collaborate daily with coaches, physiotherapists, analysts, psychologists, nutritionists, and education staff.
- Attend multidisciplinary meetings.
- Contribute to Individual Development Plans (IDPs).
- Support holistic player development through integrated performance planning.

EPPP Compliance

- Ensure Sports Science provision meets Category 2 EPPP requirements.
- Maintain accurate records for audits and performance reviews.
- Contribute to Academy Performance Plans and annual audits.
- Support League inspections and quality assurance processes.

Research & Innovation

- Stay informed on current sports science research and emerging technologies.
- Introduce evidence-based practices that enhance player development.

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- Evaluate new monitoring tools and performance methodologies.

Additional Responsibilities

- Attend all Under-21 home and away fixtures.
- Prepare players physically for competition.
- Monitor match loads using GPS and performance technology.
- Deliver post-match recovery protocols.
- Provide coaching staff with post-match physical performance reports.
- To adhere to SWFC policies and procedures, including the reporting of Safeguarding concerns to the Safeguarding Lead.
- To undertake personal CPD as appropriate to meet the demands of the role.
- Any other duties as required by the Academy Manager

QUALIFICATIONS, TRAINING & REQUIREMENTS:

- Masters' Degree in Sport Science, Strength & Conditioning, or related discipline.
- UKSCA Accreditation.
- BASES Accreditation.
- FA Safeguarding Children.
- FA Emergency First Aid in Football (EFAiF).

SKILLS & EXPERIENCE:

Experience

- Experience working within an Elite Academy or professional football environment.
- Experience leading sports science provision.
- Experience working within the Professional Development Phase.
- Experience using GPS technology and athlete monitoring systems.
- Experience delivering gym and field-based physical development programmes.
- Experience managing return-to-play progressions.

Knowledge

- Elite Player Performance Plan (EPPP).
- Physical development of youth footballers.
- Long-term athletic development principles.
- Periodisation in elite football.
- Load monitoring and athlete management systems.
- Injury prevention strategies.
- Growth and maturation in adolescent athletes.

Skills

- Excellent leadership and management skills.
- Strong communication and interpersonal abilities.
- Data analysis and reporting skills.
- High level of organisational ability - effective planning and prioritisation
- Ability to influence coaches through evidence-based practice.
- IT proficiency, including Microsoft Office and sports science software.

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Personal Attributes

- Professional and approachable.
- High standards and attention to detail.
- Collaborative team player.
- Adaptable and proactive.
- Resilient under pressure.
- Committed to continuous professional development.
- Passionate about developing young players.

BENEFITS:

- 20 days annual leave plus bank holidays
- 10% discount in the Club Megastore
- 2 SWFC Season Tickets
- Professional development opportunities
- Workplace pension scheme.
- Westfield Heath:
 - ✓ 24/7 advice and information line from experienced legal professionals.
 - ✓ 24/7 structured and confidential counselling support.
 - ✓ 24/ Doctorline.
 - ✓ MRI, CT and PET scanning service.
 - ✓ Dental, Optical, Chiropody and Therapy Treatment cash back options.
 - ✓ Gym discounts and wellbeing resources via Westfield Health.
 - ✓ Exclusive rewards, discounts and special offers from over 1,000 retailers, restaurants and destinations.
 - ✓ Kids cover.

Sheffield Wednesday Football Club (SWFC) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. This post will be subject to a criminal record check or an enhanced DBS check.

SWFC is an Equal Opportunities and Disability Confident employer and welcomes applicants from all sectors of the community.

Application Process

If you feel you have all the qualities and experience, please complete our application form and send with your CV to vacancies@swfc.co.uk **Closing Date: 9th August 2026.** A shortlist of suitable applicants will be completed shortly after the closing date, and successful candidates will be contacted about the interview process.

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