



Rochdale Association Football Club

CROWN OIL ARENA, SANDY LANE, ROCHDALE, OL11 5DR

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JOB TITLE: Lead Professional Development Phase Coach

REPORTING TO: Academy Manager / Head of Coaching

RESPONSIBLE FOR: Professional Development Phase Coach, Professional Development Phase players

LOCATION: Crown Oil Arena, Sandy Lane, Rochdale, OL11 5DR, plus training venues, and home / away fixture locations

HOURS: Full time

REMUNERATION: In line with EFL salary benchmarking data

ROLE DESCRIPTION:

Founded in 1907, Rochdale AFC is an established professional football club, who will compete in EFL League Two for the 2026/27 season, alongside FA Cup, Carabao Cup, and Vertu Trophy knockout competition commitments. We are involved in a broad range of sporting, commercial, and charitable activities, following the acquisition of a controlling stake in the club by The Ogden Family in May 2024.

To strengthen and further develop our youth development staff, we are looking to recruit a Lead Professional Development Phase Coach, who ideally will have previous experience in a similar role. The role will be full-time, predominantly overseeing youth team on field and off field commitments. The post holder will lead the delivery of the PDP coaching and matchday programme on a day-to-day basis.

The successful candidate will be a UEFA A License holder, with a strong preference given to graduates of The FA Advanced Youth Award. Demonstratable experience in a professional academy football environment would be highly advantageous, although those from other backgrounds such as first team football environments may still be considered.

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- o Lead the coaching programme for all players within the Professional Development Phase.
- o Manage the youth team on a matchday in all competitive and non-competitive fixtures.
- o Construct and contribute to Individual Learning Plans and Multi-Disciplinary reviews across the Professional Development Phase.
- o Collaborate effectively with staff across all Academy departments (Sports Science & Medical, Recruitment, Education, Player Care, etc) in order to ensure the wider needs of each player are met.
- o Drive a high performance, age specific coaching culture, focused on individual player development.





- o Provide regular player feedback, performance reviews, and devise development targets for each player within the Professional Development Phase.
- o Support match preparation, player and team analysis, and post match reviews.
- o Support any / all Academy audit processes, assisting The EFL, League Football Education, PGAAC, Bernado's, and any other relevant organisations.
- o Ensure all coaching sessions and other activities comply with the relevant safeguarding / health and safety standards.
- o Show a commitment to undertaking continual professional development in order to maintain an up to date understanding of industry-wide changes.

PERSON SPECIFICATION:

ESSENTIALS

- UEFA A Licence.
- Demonstrable professional coaching experience.
- Current EFAiF qualification.
- In date DBS clearance.
- Working knowledge of EPPP.
- I.T. literate.
- Full driving licence.

'NICE TO HAVE'S'

- FA Advanced Youth Award
- Understanding of LFE apprenticeship programme.
- Knowledge of PMA platform.
- PDP experience in a CAT 3/4 environment.
- Able to cultivate positive relationships quickly.
- Ability to lead and develop a small team.
- Based in or around Greater Manchester.

From time to time, the successful applicant may be asked to assist with activities essential to club operations that are not outlined in the above day to day duties. The successful applicant must carry out his/her duties with due regard for Rochdale Association Football Club Limited policies and procedures, and act in the best interest of Rochdale Association Football Club Limited at all times.

The successful applicant must ensure a positive commitment towards equality and diversity by treating others fairly and not committing any form of direct or indirect discrimination, victimisation or harassment of any description and to promote positive working relations. The Rochdale AFC family is wholly committed to safeguarding, and promoting the welfare and safety of young people. We fully expect our Board, employees, and volunteers to demonstrate and communicate this commitment at all times. As such, a DBS check will be required in order to undertake this post.

Any applications or expressions of interest should be submitted via the EFL iRecruit platform before the application deadline of Friday July 3rd 2026 at 5.00pm. Due to the nature of the role early applications are encouraged, and the interview process may commence prior to the date listed above if suitable candidates are identified.

