



JOB TITLE: Academy Age Group Coach

REPORTING TO: Academy Manager / Head of Academy Coaching & Coach Development / Phase Leads

RESPONSIBLE FOR: Players within allocated age group

LOCATION: Various training venues, plus and home / away fixture locations

HOURS: Sessional (evenings and weekends)

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, the club is currently seeking Lead Coaches and Assistant Coaches for some of our U9-U16 boys age groups for the 2026/27 season. This role would suit Coaches looking to extend their experience and progress their careers. The club has a strong record in developing staff across areas including coaching, with many individuals progressing on to exciting positions within the game.

The successful candidates for Lead Coach positions will hold a minimum of a UEFA B Licence, as well as relevant age-appropriate qualifications. Assistant Coaches currently enrolled on the UEFA B Licence may be considered. Demonstratable experience in a professional academy football environment would be highly advantageous. All positions are contingent upon a Category 3 Licence under EPPP being awarded this summer.

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- o Plan and deliver engaging coaching sessions for all players, in line with the RAFC Academy syllabus.
- o Actively review all coaching sessions delivered against the session learning objectives, focusing on what went well, as well as areas for development.
- o Manage squad matchdays, ensuring that individuals, units, and the team as a whole are developing in line with expectations.
- o Assess trialist players from time to time, and provide recommendations as to whether they are of the appropriate standard to be offered a permanent place with the squad.





- o Contribute to Individual Learning Plans and Multi-Disciplinary reviews across the phases.
- 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 Support any / all Academy audit processes, assisting The EFL, League Football Education, PGAAC, Bernado's, and any other relevant organisations.
- o Show a commitment to undertaking continual professional development in order to maintain an up to date understanding of industry-wide changes.
- o Ensure that the relevant health and safety standards of both training and matchday environments are maintained.
- o Conduct all duties with due regard for RAFC policies and procedures.

PERSON SPECIFICATION:

ESSENTIALS

UEFA B Licence (or awaiting assessment).
Age appropriate qualifications.
Current EFAiF qualification.
In date DBS clearance.
Working knowledge of EPPP.
I.T. literate.

'NICE TO HAVE'S'

Further coaching qualifications.
FA AYA.
Current IFAiF qualification.
Knowledge of PMA.
Able to cultivate positive relationships quickly.
Based in / 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, and two references will be sought prior to appointment.

Any applications or expressions of interest should be submitted via the EFL iRecruit platform before the application deadline of Friday July 10th 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.

