



JOB TITLE: Head of Academy Sports Science & Medicine

REPORTING TO: Academy Manager

RESPONSIBLE FOR: Any Physiotherapy, Sports Therapy, and Sports Science staff members who may be engaged by the Academy on a permanent, temporary, or internship basis

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 Head of Academy Sports Science & Medicine, who ideally will have previous experience in a similar role. The role will be full-time, covering all academy activity, including but not limited to training, fixtures, and off field commitments. The post holder will lead the delivery and development of all physical and medical related areas.

The successful candidate will be a Physiotherapy graduate, either at BSc or MSc level, and must also be HCPC registered. Additionally, football-specific qualifications are required, with the Intermediate Trauma Medical Management in Football (ITMMiF) being the minimum acceptable level. Recent experience in an Academy football environment would be a significant advantage.

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- o Manage the implementation and ongoing development of the Academy Sports Science and Medicine Programme across all development phases.
- o Attendance at Professional Development Phase, Youth Development Phase, and Foundation Phase training sessions and matchdays on a systematic basis.
- o Ensure medical cover is in place for all Academy training sessions, matchdays, tournaments, etc.
- o Oversee injury prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and return to play protocols for Academy players across all development phases.





- o Collaborate effectively with staff across all Academy departments (Coaching, Recruitment, Education, Player Care, etc) in order to ensure the wider needs of each player are met.
- o Construct physical development strategies appropriate to each Academy age group.
- o Ensure accurate medical records, screening data, and treatment documentation are maintained securely and professionally.
- o Support any / all Academy audit processes, assisting The EFL, League Football Education, PGAAC, Bernado's, and any other relevant organisations.
- o As a critical member of both the Academy Management Team, play a leading role in both multi-disciplinary reviews, and individual learning plan construction.
- 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

'NICE TO HAVE'S'

Physiotherapy graduate.
Working knowledge of Sports Science, S&C, etc.
Current ITMMiF qualification.
In date DBS clearance.
Working knowledge of EPPP.
I.T. literate.
Full driving licence.

MSc Physiotherapy.
UKSCA accreditation.
Current ATMMiF qualification.
Knowledge of PMA platform.
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 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 May 29th 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.

