



Irish Football Association

Coach Education



UEFA A Diploma 2026/27

UEFA A Diploma requirements

Course participants on the UEFA A diploma are required to have:

- A valid UEFA B licence
- Completed at least one years experience, after graduating with a UEFA B licence, as a coach in 11-a-side football.



Course length

The UEFA A Diploma requires a total minimum 180 hours of education. A minimum 140 hours will be spent studying guided interactive content, with a minimum 40 hours made up of work experience in a club environment. The course is delivered approximately 50/50 between on- and off-pitch activity. The UEFA A diploma course is spread out over 18 months and requires two practical content blocks.

Four Pillars of the UEFA A Diploma

The coach

- Working predominantly as the head coach of top amateur teams or in some cases as a member of the coaching staff at the professional level
- Working closely with coaching staff and support staff
- Being involved in developing and applying a club's technical policy
- Ensuring the right balance between the players' football, professional and private lives
- Working with players from different cultural backgrounds, of different ages and experience
- Dealing with all other factors affecting the team's performance: media, parents, players' agents, fans/supporters, scouts, sports ethics, etc
- Being accountable to the club's management: president, technical director, club board, etc

The player and team

- Planning, executing and supporting individual player development, including their own objectives, and complying with the club's technical policy
- Involving the players in the learning process and enabling them to take responsibility for themselves
- Working on the team's development in cooperation with all support staff, i.e. technical, medical and performance staff
- Managing all aspects of the team's performance
- Creating a winning mentality and a performance culture in a positive environment



The training environment

- Preparing and conducting individual and team training sessions at top amateur level
- Working with individual players and the team and understanding how the training session design can affect performance
- Designing the game-oriented training sessions in terms of opponents, pressure and intensity
- Planning, delivering and reviewing training sessions in accordance with the club's coaching philosophy
- Embracing and adopting an interdisciplinary approach to physical preparation and development, wherever possible in cooperation with other members of the multidisciplinary team, e.g. performance analysts, fitness/sports scientists, medical and other performance staff

The match

- Preparing a team for and coaching them during top amateur level matches
- Using the game to develop each player and the team, but also to create a winning team mentality
- Preparing the match plan in accordance with the club's playing philosophy, taking the opponent team into account
- Analysing the matches as an evaluation and learning tool for individual players and the team as a whole.



Course 1 Schedule

	UEFA A Diploma Block 1	
Introduction	Online	20th April 2026 6.30pm - 8pm
Workshop 1 - Philosophy	Online	18th May 2026 6.30pm - 8pm
Workshop 2 - Coaching Journey	Online	8th & 9th June 2026 6.30pm - 8pm
Practical Week	Crowne Plaza, Belfast	15th June - 19th June 2026
Workshop 3 - Course Recap	Online	20th July 2026 6.30 - 8.30pm
Workshop 4 - Elite game preparation	Online	28th September 2026 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Workshop 5 - A2 Preparation	Online	22nd February 2027 6.30pm - 8.30pm



Course 2 Schedule

	UEFA A Diploma Block 1	
Introduction	Online	22nd June 2026 6.30pm - 8pm
Workshop 1 - Philosophy	Online	15th July 2026 6.30pm - 8pm
Workshop 2 - Coaching Journey	Online	10th & 11th 2026 August 6.30pm - 8pm
Practical Week	Crowne Plaza, Belfast	17th August - 21st August 2026
Workshop 3 - Course Recap	Online	28th September 2026 6.30 - 8.30pm
Workshop 4 - Elite game preparation	Online	9th November 2026 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Workshop 5 - A2 Preparation	Online	5th April 2027 6.30pm - 8.30pm



Candidate Requirements

Candidates are required to

- Attend the practical days which will be delivered over a 5-day practical week and are timetabled from 09:00 to 21.00 each day
- Attend online workshops pre and post the practical weeks
- Submit 36 hours of session plans
- Complete online safeguarding modules
- Attend principles and philosophy Workshop
- Complete technical periodisation task
- Complete match analysis and set piece task
- Complete and present coaching journey task
- Complete individual player development task
- Submit coaching report and reflections from formative and summative assessments.

