



Irish Football Association

Coach Education



**UEFA Grassroots Leaders Award
2026**

UEFA Grassroots Leaders Award

Course Entry Requirements

- Applicants must be at least 16 years of age on the first day of the course.
- Must have completed the Irish FA National Coaching Certificate within the last six years.
- This course is currently available to Northern Ireland based coaches only.

Course Overview

The Irish FA UEFA Grassroots Leaders Award is designed to enhance the knowledge and understanding of coaches working with children aged 5–12 years.

The course focuses on developing the coach's ability to create enjoyable, engaging, and effective coaching sessions that support young players' development and love for the game.

Learning Outcomes

Candidates will gain a deeper understanding of:

- **Game Development:** Insight into the Irish FA Small Sided Games Programme.
- **Player Development:** How to create positive environments for children's football and plan sessions that maximise learning.
- **Parental Engagement:** Strategies for building positive communication and relationships with parents and guardians.
- **Club & Community Leadership:** Understanding the benefits of coaching and the broader impact of football on local communities.



Course Delivery

The programme combines face-to-face learning, club-based application, and an online webinar to consolidate and share experiences:

- Face-to-Face Tuition at Local Venues: 3 hours
- Online Webinar: 3 hours
- Reality-Based Learning (within your club): 16 hours
- Total Duration: 22 hours

Please Note: Full attendance & participation is a mandatory requirement.

Courses in 2026

Venues (TBC)	Practical Date (18:00 – 21:00)	Webinar Date (18:00 – 21:00)
Belfast	Monday 19 January	Monday 23 February
Fermanagh	Tuesday 20 January	Tuesday 24 February
Derry~Londonderry	Monday 14 September	Monday 26 October
Coleraine	Tuesday 15 September	Tuesday 27 October

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

UEFA C and B Diploma holders will gain 15 CPD hours upon successful completion of the course.

You are not currently required to complete CPD to maintain the validity of your UEFA Grassroots Leaders Award.

