



Irish Football Association

Coach Education



UEFA C Diploma 2026

UEFA C Diploma

Eligibility

Please note: Only candidates based in Northern Ireland are eligible for the UEFA C Diploma Regional Courses.

International candidates (i.e. those from outside Northern Ireland) are only eligible to apply for the course held at the Crowne Plaza. This course has higher facility costs and provides daily catering, which is why it is more expensive than the Regional UEFA C Diploma course.

The course content is the same for both International and Regional courses.



Course Entry Requirements

- Candidates must be at least 18 years of age on the first day of the course.
- Northern Ireland–based candidates must have successfully completed the Irish FA National Coaching Certificate or Irish FA Level One within the previous six years.
- International candidates (outside Northern Ireland) must hold a valid coaching qualification equivalent to or higher than the Irish FA NCC.
- Candidates should be actively coaching at a football club with players aged 11 years and over, as the course focuses on player development.
- The course will be delivered in English; therefore, candidates must have a good command of written and spoken English.

Course Objectives

The UEFA C Diploma is the highest participation award in the Irish FA coaching pathway. It equips coaches with the skills to create a positive, developmental experience that enhances player enjoyment, knowledge, and skill—regardless of age, ability, gender, or background.

The course focuses on both theoretical and practical elements across four key pillars, helping coaches learn how to plan, deliver, and reflect on effective coaching sessions. There is a particular emphasis on the Principles of Play, and candidates should therefore be working with players aged 11 years and older.



Course Outline

The UEFA C Diploma comprises five learning blocks covering topics across the four pillars:

1. Coach
2. Environment
3. Player
4. Game

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

Courses in 2026

	Venues	Online Dates (6pm start)	Practical Dates (9am – 5pm)
Regional Course	Colin Glen and Balmoral Hotel Blacks Road, Dunmurry, Belfast BT10 0NF	Monday 12 January Tuesday 13 January Wednesday 14 January	Monday 26 January – Thursday 29 January
Regional Course	Wellington Rec Football Club Willowbank Road, Larne BT40 2SF	Monday 9 February Tuesday 10 February Wednesday 11 February	Monday 2 March - Thursday 5 March
Regional Course	Mountjoy Football Club Omagh BT78 5NL	Monday 9 March Tuesday 10 March Wednesday 11 March	Monday 30 March - Thursday 2 April
For International and Local Coaches	Crowne Plaza and Queens 117 Milltown Rd, Belfast BT8 7XP	Monday 1 June Tuesday 2 June Wednesday 3 June	Monday 22 June - Thursday 25 June
Regional Course	Moyola FC 26 Bridge St, Castledawson, Magherafelt BT45 8EB	Monday 7 September Tuesday 8 September Wednesday 9 September	Monday 28 September - Thursday 1 October

Block 1 – Pre-Course Preparation

- Complete and submit a Self-Evaluation Task
- Complete and submit a Psychology Task
- Complete online Safeguarding Modules
- Watch video and complete an online First Aid Quiz
- Read resource and complete an online Nutrition Quiz

Block 2 – Online Workshops

Irish FA Coach Developers will host three interactive online workshops (2 hours each).

As per UEFA requirements, attendance and active participation are mandatory. Candidates who do not attend will not be permitted to continue the course.

Workshops include:

1. Introduction to the UEFA C Diploma & Principles of Play
2. Session Planning – Coaching the Principles of Play
 - Candidates will be grouped for coaching tasks and expected to deliver a micro-session in Block 3.
3. Psychology & Effective Communication



Block 3 – Face-to-Face Delivery (4 Days)

Tutor Demonstrations:

- Principles of Play
- Conditioned Small-Sided Games
- Conditioning for Games

Candidates are expected to participate in on-pitch practical sessions during tutor-led and peer-coaching activities.

Any injuries should be declared to Irish FA staff prior to the course.

Theoretical Topics:

- The Four Pillars of the UEFA C Diploma
- Player Development
- Teaching and Learning
- Effective Communication
- Session Planning
- Reflective Practice
- Goal Setting

Block 4 – Regional or Club-Based Learning

After the practical block, candidates will join a Community of Practice—small groups of coaches working at similar levels. Each group will be supported by an Irish FA staff member who will provide guidance and feedback as candidates apply their learning.

- Local candidates will be expected to organise at least two club-based visits.
- International candidates will be required to record and submit two video sessions.

Candidates must also upload the following to the Irish FA Online Learning Platform for assessment:

- Completed UEFA C Diploma Candidate Logbook
- Evidence of 10 hours of practical coaching
- Tutor observations on coaching performance



Process of Accreditation

Timeframes for task completion will be provided before the course begins. Candidates must adhere to these deadlines to meet accreditation criteria. The course should be completed within three months from the start date. UEFA criteria for awarding the UEFA C Diploma include:

- Full attendance at all practical days and online workshops. Absence will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, and missed content must be completed later.
- Completion and submission of all tasks via the Irish FA Online Education Platform (www.irishfacoaching.com).
- Demonstration of the skills, attributes, and knowledge required to provide a positive developmental experience that enhances players' enjoyment, learning, and development.

Formative and summative feedback will be provided throughout the Community of Practice process. Successful candidates will receive a UEFA C Diploma Certificate, which can be downloaded and printed from the online platform.

Re-Assessments

If a candidate does not meet the required standard within the course timeframe, they may undertake up to two further assessments to achieve the necessary standard for certification.