

Sports development officer

Sports development officers help schools and communities get more actively involved in sport by organising projects and initiatives.

As a sports development officer, you'll make sure that everybody has the chance to take part in sport by ensuring that all sections of the community are aware of available activities and where they can go to get involved. You'll distribute information and organise sport-related projects, classes, programmes, coaching, club development and training. You'll also need to target those who want to take part for fun, as well as those who are interested in competing at all levels, from local to national and international.



Skills:

You will need to show:

- excellent leadership ability
- initiative, self-motivation and the ability to motivate others
- the ability to make decisions under pressure
- excellent communication skills, both written and oral, to communicate effectively with all sections of the community
- the ability to work with other individuals in a group setting
- project-management skills and the ability to manage people, including groups of volunteers
- the capacity to work independently
- negotiation skills and political awareness of current sports issues
- excellent organisation, administration, and IT skills

Qualifications:

This career is open to all graduates and those with a Higher National Diploma (HND), but the following subjects may increase your chances: health and exercise sciences/leisure studies/physical education/recreation or leisure management/sport development or management/sport in the community/sports science or sports studies. Entry without a degree or HND is possible. In this case, coaching qualifications and related work experience are likely to increase your chances. A postgraduate qualification is not required for entry, although some sports development officers do hold such qualifications. Search for postgraduate courses in sports development. Employers usually request an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check as part of their conditions of service.

Working hours:

A willingness to work flexible, unsocial hours, including weekends and school holidays, is essential. Working hours can include evening meetings and occasional absence from home.

Salary:

- Starting as an assistant sports development officer, you can expect a salary in the region of £18,000 to £23,000.
- Typical starting salaries for sports development officers are around £18,000, rising to £30,000 with experience.
- A sports development manager can earn up to £40,000.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/sports-development-officer>

