



IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SCOTTISH FA LEVEL 1 COACH EDUCATION COURSES: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)

We are now approaching one calendar month since all football-related activity in Scotland was unfortunately stopped, to protect the health, safety and well-being of all attendees due to the coronavirus pandemic. Whilst this is a short time in the grand scheme of things, it is also one that really heightens a sense of “community lost” and players, coaches, parents, referees, volunteers and administrators in the game have all been affected by this disruption. It is a huge credit to the football-family in Scotland, witnessing how people have endeavoured to stay connected with one another, whether it be setting one another challenges on social media outlets, offering webinars and online chats, or clubs redeploying staff to volunteer in their local communities.

In Coach Education, we too recognise the importance and need to stay connected with one another, as we embark on this indefinite period of isolation from in-person connection. In the same period, we have done our utmost to ensure that our coaching workforce can continue to stay connected with our courses and that coaches can maintain their own development journeys, by implementing new online delivery methods whilst retaining our ambition to always have a world-class offering.

Whilst the usual processes for booking and engaging with our courses and their delivery are no longer the norm, we have outlined the following FAQs to assist you, but also ensure that you can continue on what you had planned prior to the football shutdown. More importantly, please ensure to look after yourselves and your families during this time in particular. We look forward to welcoming you to a Scottish FA Coach Education course in the near future.

Greig Paterson, Head of Coach Education & Development

With the COVID-19 pandemic dictating that people cannot come together to deliver coach education courses, how do you intend to manage this situation for the Scottish football coaching workforce?

From the onset of the coronavirus crisis, we have always followed advice from UK Government, Scottish Government, Public Health Scotland and of course our own Scottish FA Medical Consultant Dr John MacLean. We will continue to do so until the situation allows us to return to normal. The latest advice is that all football provision will be suspended until at least 10 June. With this in mind, we have decided to postpone all face-to-face coach education delivery until 1 September 2020, in order to give certainty on the implementation and delivery of coach education courses. We believe that this certainty in our delivery will also help our coaching workforce and coach education course attendees in their planning and decision-making for future attendance.

You have always said that Scottish FA coach education courses have been *postponed* rather than *cancelled*. With football provision on hold for such a long period of time, how can this be the case?

We understand the impact that cancellation of courses will have on our coaching workforce, and the needs of coaches and volunteers to appropriately upskill and educate themselves so that they can continue when football returns. It is our intention that no one needs to cancel their place on a course, or even delay their own coach development journey, due to the coronavirus crisis.

Since we entered the delay phase imposed by UK Government, Scottish FA staff have been working hard to put contingency plans in place, allowing us to offer alternative delivery models. We can now provide the opportunity to complete courses online and change delivery schedules appropriately, to keep our course offerings accessible to all. Our first stage of this is to offer these alternatives to those that were already booked on courses between 13 March and 31 August 2020.

I booked on a Level 1 course that has been postponed. What happens next?

All Scottish FA Level 1 courses scheduled for delivery in-person between 13 March and 31 August have been postponed. Everyone who had booked a place on a course during this period will be sent an email on Friday, 10 April with alternative delivery methods made available to them, so that they can complete the course online. Please reply to this email, and the links within it, with your preferred choice of course attendance.



How will the postponed courses now be delivered?

All Level 1 courses will now be delivered online, allowing people to complete courses from their own home. The only exception to this rule is that the Award Level courses (Level 1.3) will need some time in person to complete, once football returns to normal.

Courses will now be delivered online, as follows:

Course	In-person delivery method	Online delivery method
Introduction to Coaching (Level 1.1)	6 hours	3 x 90min online tutorials
Coaching Children’s Certificate (Level 1.2)	12 hours	6 x 90min online tutorials
Youth/ Adult Coaching Certificate (Level 1.2)	12 hours	6 x 90min online tutorials
Children’s Coaching Award (Level 1.3)	12 hours	2 x 90min online tutorials & 6 hours on-pitch (to be scheduled)
Youth/ Adult Coaching Award (Level 1.2)	12 hours	2 x 90min online tutorials & 6 hours on-pitch (to be scheduled)

In the first instance, places on online courses, above, will only be available to those that had previously booked on a Level 1 course between 13 March and 31 August. In order to promote interaction between course attendees and course tutors, each course is strictly limited in places available. The new online courses will start to be delivered on Monday, 27 April.

With courses being delivered online, I am not sure that I am competent enough in using a computer, or suitably IT literate to complete a coach education course. What should I do?

Our new online delivery model is extremely user-friendly. Essentially, all you need is a laptop or computer with a camera and/or microphone as well as a Wi-Fi link. Alternatively, you could use a mobile phone or tablet with an internet connection. You will be sent a link via email prior to the course dates which is easy to click on and join the course. All courses will be delivered on the platform Zoom (<https://www.zoom.us/>) and you will also be sent a user guide in advance of course delivery.

Alternatively, should you wish to wait to complete the course in-person after the passing of the coronavirus crisis, we can move your booking to a course nearer the end of the calendar year.

Given the coronavirus crisis, my financial situation has changed since I originally booked the course, and I am concerned about payment for future courses that I had planned to do.

We recognise that the landscape is changing on a daily basis during these times. As a reflection of this, we would like to offer everyone who had booked a Scottish FA Level 1 course between 13 March and 31 October the following discounts:

- Those that booked on a 1.1, 1.2 or 1.3 course scheduled between March 13 and August 31 2020, will receive a £20 discount on their next course, once the original course they booked on has been completed in full.
- In addition to the above discount, Level 1 course prices will be reduced accordingly, as depicted by the table below.

Course	In-person delivery (pre & post coronavirus crisis)	Online delivery (during coronavirus crisis)
Introduction to Coaching (Level 1.1)	£50	£45
Children’s/ Youth & Adult Certificate (Level 1.2)	£70	£60
Children’s/ Youth & Adult Award (Level 1.3)	£70	£60

By means of an example, someone who had booked to attend an Introduction to Coaching Course (Level 1.1) between 13 March and 31 August will receive a £20 discount on a Certificate Level course (Level 1.2). If they choose to complete the Certificate Level course online (i.e. prior to August 2020) they will be able to purchase at the cheaper course price of £60, therefore only paying £40 to attend the Certificate Level course.



I had booked one of the Level 1 courses, but my intention was to complete the subsequent course upon completion. Can this still be done?

Of course. We would encourage this and welcome your continued development on the Scottish FA Coach Education pathway. In fact, during the period up until 31 August, you will be given an increased discount for subsequent courses that you book on. We will endeavor to stay in touch with you during these times, and explain things along the way.

I understand that after completion of a Level 1 course, I need to complete Continuous Coach Development (CCD) to keep my qualification active. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I will have less of a chance to attend CCD events. What is the process in this instance?

The validity of all Scottish FA coaching certificates and UEFA licence diplomas held with the Scottish FA will be extended for a further year. This will be applied automatically to each person’s Coach ID record on Scottish FA Live, but will not be visible on your account until December 2020.

For those of you completing a Level 1 course in 2020, you will now have until 31 December 2023 to attend a CCD event and extend your qualification by a further three-year period.

Certificate/ qualification due to expire:	Certificate/ qualification expiry extended to:
31 st Dec 2020	31 st Dec 2021
31 st Dec 2021	31 st Dec 2022
31 st Dec 2022	31 st Dec 2023
31 st Dec 2023	31 st Dec 2024

This benefit does not apply to certificates or qualifications already expired on 31 December 2019 or prior.

With so much changing at present, how can I ensure that I receive updates?

As we send our email communications to many people at once, quite often the emails can end up in junk or spam folders, so please ensure to check these folders. You should also ensure that your contact details on Scottish FA Live are accurate and up-to-date. You may also wish to sign up for our Coach Education newsletter:

<https://www.scottishfa.co.uk/football-development/coaching/coach-education-newsletter/>

We will also provide updates on our social media channels:

- Facebook: 'Scottish FA Coach Education & Development' group
- Twitter: @ScottishFA
- @grpat (Greig Paterson, Head of Coach Education & Development)
- @ScotFASouthWest (Scottish FA, South West Region)
- @ScotFAWest (Scottish FA, West Region)
- @ScotFACentral (Scottish FA, Central Region)
- @ScotFASouthEast (Scottish FA, South East Region)
- @ScotFAEast (Scottish FA, East Region)
- @ScotFANorth (Scottish FA, North Region)

Further queries?

We remain here to help, and will do our best for you during these uncertain times. If there is anything else that you would still like to ask, please email coaching@scottishfa.co.uk