



League
Football
Education

Transition Support Package 2026

For Apprentices



lfe.org.uk



Established by



Transition Support Package 2026



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Education

Coming to the end of a two-year apprenticeship can be a challenging experience for you.

To support you at this time and beyond, please find this Transition Support Package which provides information and activities available to apprentices.

National Careers Service



Current and former apprentices can also access the National Careers Service, which provides information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work opportunities. The service offers confidential, helpful and impartial advice, supported by qualified careers advisers.

Visit the NCS Website [here](#).

LFE's Tracking and Monitoring Programme

LFE provides apprentices with support post-apprenticeship via Tracking and Monitoring. For more information, contact LFE's Transition Officer.

The Tracking and Monitoring process is used to identify the current status of former apprentices who have completed the Sporting Excellence Professional (SEP) programme. This activity provides LFE with the opportunity to offer one-to-one support to individuals actively seeking a positive destination in and out of football. LFE is committed and interested in your progress, you can expect LFE to contact you via WhatsApp, email or phone call.

Apprenticeship Opportunities

Apprenticeships are a common Transition pathway for a lot of young people leaving secondary school. Apprenticeships allow you to gain practical skills and get work experience and a qualification that employers require to forge a career in that specific industry sector.

For more information on apprenticeships, visit the Government Website [here](#).

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT LFE'S TRANSITION OFFICER ANTHONY CATO ON ACATO@LFE.ORG.UK

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LFE Assessment Trials



The Assessment Trials provide a platform for released players to showcase their talents in front of professional and semi-professional clubs and UK/USA universities.

The Assessment Trials are scheduled to take place on:

- **Tuesday 12th May 2026**

FC United of Manchester
Broadhurst Park, 310 Lightbowne Road
Moston, Manchester M40 0FJ
Kick off times: 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 3:00pm

- **Wednesday 13th May 2026**

Kidderminster Harriers FC
Aggborough Stadium, Hoo Road
Kidderminster, DY10 1NB
Kick off times: 1:00pm, 2:15pm, 3:30pm

- **Thursday 14th May 2026**

Slough Town FC
Arbour Park, Stoke Road
Slough SL2 5AY
Kick off times: 1:00pm, 2:15pm, 3:30pm

These events are accessible to both LFE and Premier League second year apprentices, as well as first year professionals, who are released. Player registration will be via THE SQUAD app. This will streamline the registration process, as well as automate the team sheets and player information brochure for scouts.

Click [here](#) for how to register as a player.



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT LFE'S TRANSITION OFFICER ANTHONY CATO ON ACATO@LFE.ORG.UK

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Well-being

Here is a list of organisations outside of LFE that can provide support to you during this time:



Professional
Footballers'
Association

Contact the PFA
24/7 Help line
on 07500 000 777

**CLICK TO VIEW THE
THE PFA SAFETY NET**



**CLICK FOR
MORE INFO**



**CLICK FOR
MORE INFO**



**CLICK FOR
MORE INFO**

If you are seeking impartial and confidential advice regarding well-being support options or need to request a 1-2-1 with a qualified counsellor to discuss well-being then contact Simon Williams on swilliams@lfe.org.uk

Higher Education

Academy players who achieve the required academic qualifications at the end of their LFE apprenticeship are able to pursue a route into Higher Education.

League Football Education has built strong partnerships with a variety of different leading universities in the UK and LFE's Guide to Higher Education Applications gives practical and independent advice on what you need to do if you're thinking about going to university.

For more information on Higher Education and for access to the Guide, please click [here](#).



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT LFE'S TRANSITION OFFICER ANTHONY CATO ON ACATO@LFE.ORG.UK

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LFE Career Opportunities

LFE has partnerships with organisations from a variety of industry sectors, as education and training providers.

If you would like 1-2-1 Careers Advice/Support, please reach out to LFE Transition Officer Anthony Cato on acato@lfe.org.uk

You can find information about the opportunities provided by these partnerships [here](#).



Xello | Online Careers Service

League Football Education has secured access to Xello, which has replaced START as a resource providing online career support and information.

Xello is an “innovative, online teaching and learning resource that is accessible 24/7.”

It delivers comprehensive information, advice and guidance in order to help learners manage their own futures and progress.

Xello offers a sneak preview of what the working environment may be like in a wide range of jobs, as well as providing further detail on the qualifications and skills you need to get there.

For more information on how to access Xello, please contact LFE Transition Officer.



CAREERS INFO VIDEOS

LFE has also created short informative videos covering key areas of transition and these can be accessed [here](#).

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT LFE'S TRANSITION OFFICER ANTHONY CATO ON ACATO@LFE.ORG.UK

Transition Support Package 2026



LFE have partnered with Pro Player Pathways who combine global football opportunities with education. All players continue to work towards a career as a professional footballer in a variety of countries. We provide opportunities for players to play in the USA, Canada, South America, across Europe, Dubai, Southeast Asia and Australia. These global football opportunities provide a platform for players to continue to progress as footballers whilst they also work towards an alternative career.

For further information please contact
ProPlayerPathways@gmail.com



NGTU is the #1 website for school and college leavers. Search thousands of jobs, opportunities and apprenticeships in UK.

For more information click [here](#).



LFE has strong links with New Zealand based coaching organisation The Pro Project. The opportunities would include a mandatory coaching contract with The Pro Project whilst playing for clubs from tier 2 and below in the NZ football pyramid. If you would like further information, contact LFE Transition Officer.



Take a look at the variety of course available to you through The FA, such as:

- Coaching Qualifications
- Futsal Courses
- Safeguarding Courses
- PE CPD

For more information click [here](#).



LAPS - Life After Professional Sports

Life After Professional Sports is an online careers resource platform that can offer advice, networking and job opportunities for future, current and former elite athletes.

It's a comprehensive resource that includes:

- Career Advice - guides on how to approach changing careers, writing CVs, optimising your LinkedIn
- Job Guide - details of the various jobs open to you, including interviews with former athletes now working in that role
- Courses - courses elected for their suitability for athletes. These are linked to the Job Roles so if there's a role that interests you, there's probably an appropriate course too!
- Job Board - Here employers post roles that they want to fill with professional athletes
- Events - exclusive events and workshops for LAPS Members

Signing up as a member is free and enables you to view LAPS' jobs board and additional information like careers advice. [Click here](#) to become a member.

PDP Preparation Programme

Sunday 28 June – Wednesday 1 July 2026

Loughborough University



See overleaf for more detail and how to register your interest

**Registration Deadline:
Friday 26 June 2026**



FUTURES

POWERED BY



PDP Preparation Programme

Sunday 28 June – Wednesday 1 July 2026

Loughborough University

This residential four-day programme will provide an elite training experience where players will benefit from the following areas:

Football Preparation

On-pitch performance development with highly regarded coaches, masterclass sessions and establishing your player identity. Talent ID and recruitment staff in attendance for a showcase game on Wednesday 1 July 2026.

Elite Performance Preparation

Expert performance staff to support your physical, technical and mental conditioning for the upcoming pre-season.

Personal Development

Workshops and personalised one-to-one mentoring, pathway and next step guidance.



Register Here

Please complete the short survey using this QR code to register your expression of interest to attend the PDP Preparation Programme.



If you have any questions, please contact your Academy Support Manager, Regional Manager or email player@premierleague.com

Transition Support Package 2026



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USA Scholarships and Verified Partners

League Football Education is delighted to announce it has partnered with both U.S Sports Scholarships and Varsity Nine to provide apprentices with unique opportunities to continue their playing careers, whilst studying a degree overseas.

“It was vitally important for us to bring the expertise of both U.S Sports Scholarships and Varsity Nine on board to facilitate this transition route for those who intend to continue their playing experience while also gaining an education over in the States. We look forward to working closely with the organisations and helping to offer unique and exciting opportunities for our apprentices.”

USA Pathways Showcase Events

LFE's USA scholarship partners, US Sports Scholarships and Varsity 9, are hosting a series of USA Pathways Showcase Events for players interested in combining football with academic study in the USA.

Further details can be found below:

US Sports Scholarships Showcase Monday 11th May

Marine AFC, College Road, Liverpool L23 3AS

CLICK TO REGISTER

Varsity 9 Showcase Events Friday 22nd May and Saturday 23rd May

Stadium MK, Stadium Way West,
Milton Keynes MK1 1ST

To attend either day, email charlie@varsitynine.com
or jonathan@varsitynine.com

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT LFE'S TRANSITION OFFICER ANTHONY CATO ON ACATO@LFE.ORG.UK



PFA Personal Development

The PFA Personal Development Department provides funding support towards the achievement of recognised qualifications along with career coaching and guidance. They advocate lifelong learning and offer exclusive opportunities for members.

personaldevelopment@thepfa.com

or **0161 236 0637**

CLICK FOR MORE INFO

PFA Coaching

The PFA Coaching Department delivers exclusive, subsidised courses to help current and former players pursue a career in coaching and management.

coaching@thepfa.com or **0161 236 0808**

CLICK FOR MORE INFO

PFA Business School

This player centric initiative has been established as an innovative and bold new step to advance the union's work supporting members in education and personal development. The courses, which are led by experts from the world of football, sport and beyond, will enable members to acquire new skills and unlock new career opportunities within the industry.

CLICK FOR MORE INFO

PFA Wellbeing

The PFA Wellbeing department provides support services to all professional football players in the English leagues. They deliver mental health workshops to all clubs and discreetly assess and support players. They also operate a confidential 24/7 wellbeing helpline, so any player in crisis can access immediate support.

If you feel like you're struggling, please get in touch via the 24/7 helpline **07500 000 777**

or at wellbeing@thepfa.com

CLICK FOR MORE INFO

PFA Members Portal

Apply for funding, stay connected and keep your contact information updated.

CLICK FOR MORE INFO



Professional
Footballers'
Association

THE PFA SAFETY NET

Helping young players with
the challenges of playing
academy football

PFA.OUR-SAFETY.NET

REGISTER TO ACCESS CONFIDENTIAL
ADVICE, SUPPORT & VIDEOS



THE PFA INDEPENDENT YOUTH ADVISORY SERVICE

Signing for an academy is an exciting opportunity for any child and their family, but it's also an introduction to the highly competitive, complex nature of football. The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) is not affiliated with leagues, clubs or governing bodies, so they can provide accurate, free and impartial information about the academy system and what it entails.

The PFA Independent Youth Advisory Service can offer Academy Players, Trialists and their families advice about:

- Premier League & English Football League Youth Development Rules
- Academy Registrations
- Academy Inductions
- Contractual Offers
- Football Association and FIFA Regulations
- Scholarship Offers
- End-of-Season Procedures and Requesting Release
- Compensation, Time and Distance Rules and Regulations
- Player Development, Including Coaching and Education Rules
- Player Welfare
- Intermediary / Agent

The PFA is the union for all current and former footballers and scholars in the Premier League, the Women's Super League, and the English Football Leagues.

The PFA team provide the information, advice and support current, former and future players need to help maximise the opportunities that come with playing professional football.

As the only football organisation that solely prioritises players' needs, the PFA offers a variety of educational, financial and wellbeing support services. The union also protects and enhances players' rights and working conditions and helps footballers navigate personal or professional challenges throughout their playing careers and beyond.



youthadvisory@thepfa.co.uk



0161 236 0575

EFL Portal

Your club has access to an online portal that enables them to share your Player Profile and highlight reel with recruitment departments at EFL clubs. If you'd like them to do so, please contact your Player Care Manager directly. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase your abilities and gain visibility with clubs virtually.



TransferRoom

Accelerate your pro football career

Pro players get **FREE** access to
TransferRoom - football's transfer marketplace



Get **5x more**
transfer interest



Be seen by
800+ clubs
in 60 countries



Gain access to
550+ Trusted
Agencies



Scan the QR code to sign up today

Where are they now?

CV Examples

The following example CVs have been created to show how experience gained while an apprentice can be tailored to different roles. A good CV effectively communicates your most useful qualifications and your most attractive qualities.

Standard Single-Page CV Format

YOUR NAME CV

House Number and Street, City/Town, County, Post Code
07000 000 000 email@email.com

Date of Birth: 1 January 2000 Driving Licence: ?

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Introduce yourself, this is the first thing someone will read. Explain who you are, what you stand for, what you are offering and what you are looking for. It is important to briefly point out why you are suitable.

EMPLOYMENT

Football Club, Town/City **Date from - Date to**
Apprentice Footballer

Other **Date from - Date to**
List any other employment or volunteering roles you have undertaken

ACHIEVEMENTS

Describe your previous experiences/achievements and use this section as the opportunity to prove what skills you have by giving examples. Think about how these may link to the specific role that you are applying for.

EDUCATION

Football Club, Town/City **Date from - Date to**
BTEC Sporting Excellence and Performance (Level 3)

- BTEC Extended Certificate/Diploma/Extended Diploma – Grade
- Certificate in Coaching (UEFA C) – Pass
- Functional Skills in Maths and/or English (if applicable)

School, Town/City **Date from - Date to**
GCSE:

- Mathematics – Grade
- English – Grade
- Other Subjects – Grade

Other **Date from - Date to**
List any other education, training or qualifications you have undertaken.
Consider any Life Skills sessions or training events you have attended.

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

It is becoming more common for recruiters to 'hire for personality and then train for skill'. This section allows you to add some personality to your CV and give reason for people to remember you or relate to you in a potential interview. What makes you different? And remember, only offer something here if it will help you because every word counts.

REFERENCES

Name
Organisation, Job Title – Mobile Number, Email Address

Name
Organisation, Job Title – Mobile Number, Email Address

Your Name

DoB: MM/DD/YYYY

Height: __'__

Weight: __ kg

Sport: Soccer

Position: _____

Address:

Tel: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Aim

For example, 'To play at the highest level of College Soccer, through dedication both on and off the field with a parallel desire to fulfil my academic potential.' Describe any career aspirations outside of football.

Skills and Playing Characteristics

List your attributes and strengths on the field here. Remember, a coach wants a player for strengths and not for weaknesses.

Playing History

Football Club:

Coach:

Date: From - To

First Team Appearances:

Goals:

U21 Appearances:

Goals:

U18 Appearances:

Goals:

Describe what you achieved during your time at the club.

Football Club:

Coach:

Date: From - To

First Team Appearances:

Goals:

U21 Appearances:

Goals:

U18 Appearances:

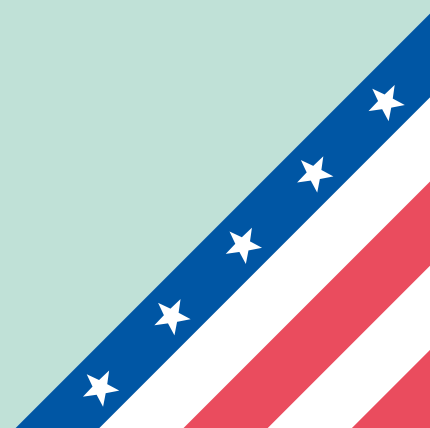
Goals:

Describe what you achieved during your time at the club..

List more of your previous clubs if necessary.



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Leadership Experience

List your leadership qualities and history. For example, if you captained a team. If not, then think of something outside of football that could positively influence your leadership on the pitch.

Personal Awards, Honours and Achievements

List your achievements here. For example, if you received any Player Of The Year awards. If not, think of awards outside of football that could reflect well on you academically or in a sporting way.

Qualifications and Achievement Awards

SAT SCORE: If you don't have a score, then put either 'Test Booked' or 'Test to be Booked'.

GCSE RESULTS: List your subjects and grades here.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS: Remember to list your SEP, BTEC and UEFA C Coaching Certificate you completed during your apprenticeship.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS: School achievements?

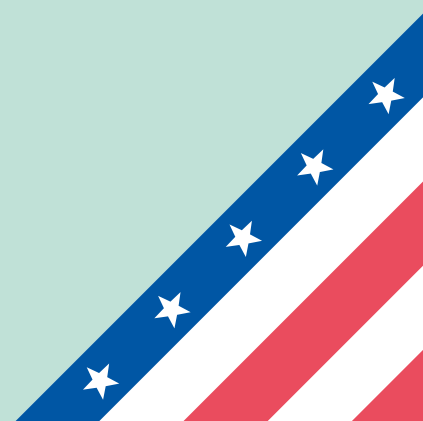
OTHER SPORTS: List any other sports you are competent with.

Video Links

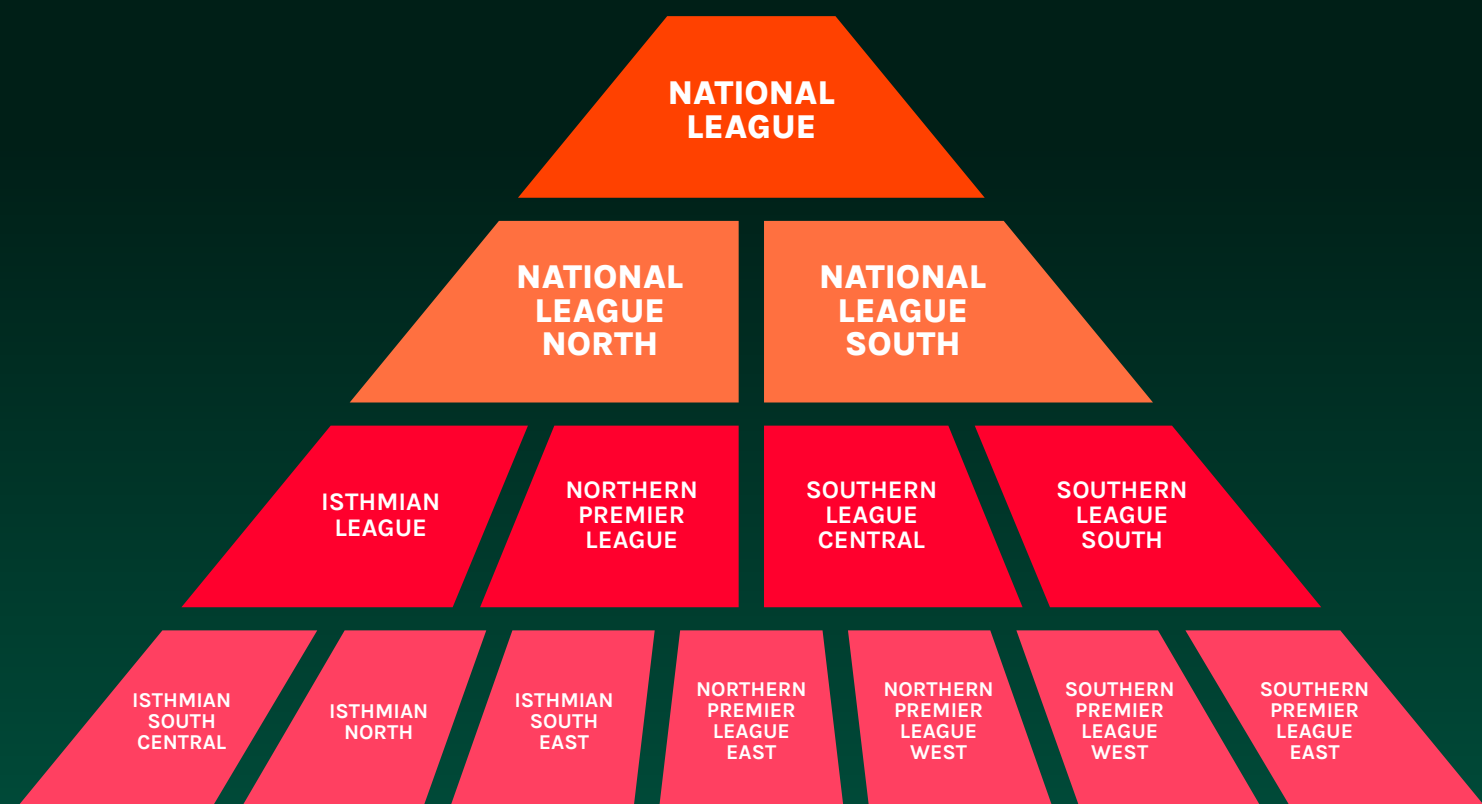
Attach link(s) which contain playing footage of you. A coach will feel more comfortable offering a scholarship to a player that he has seen play. There are various ways to make your footage accessible for free:

- Hudl – <https://www.lfe.org.uk/careers/hudl/>
- YouTube – www.youtube.com
- Vimeo – www.vimeo.com

You may also wish to include a photograph of you in action, although it's not imperative.



LIFE IN THE NON-LEAGUE



LEAGUE SYSTEM

NON-CONTRACT VS CONTRACT

A contract would mean you are paid week in week out, all season round, whether you are in the match day squad or not i.e. if you're injured, you'll still be paid!

Non-contract means you will only be paid if you are in the match day squad, for the most part you are not paid for mid-week games unless you agree this with your club.

TRAINING AND MATCH DAYS

For the most part, Semi-Professional teams below National League South/North will train on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with a 3:00pm KO on a Saturday afternoon.

The schedule can be hectic, so expect lots of mid-week games through out the season, these are usually on a Tuesday or Wednesday.

LIFE IN THE NON-LEAGUE

FA CUP TIMELINE/SCHEDULE

AUGUST	Early August: Non-league clubs in tiers 9 and 10 enter the 'Extra Preliminary Round' of the FA Cup Mid August: Tier 8 come into the competition at 'Preliminary Round'
SEPTEMBER	Early September: Tier 7 at 'First Round Qualifying' Mid September: Tier 6 at 'Second Round Qualifying' Late September: Winners from 'Second Round Qualifying' enter 'Third Round Qualifying'
OCTOBER	Mid October: Tier 5 enters 'Fourth Round Qualifying'
NOVEMBER	'First Round Proper' League One and Two clubs enter the competition
DECEMBER	'Second Round Proper'
JANUARY	Early January: Championship and Premier League clubs enter at 'Third Round Proper' Late January: 'Fourth Round Proper'
FEBRUARY	'Fifth Round Proper'
MARCH	Quarter Final
APRIL	Semi-Final The Final

WEEK/DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SEMI-PROFESSIONAL PLAYER

TUESDAY

8:30am - 5:00pm	Work
6:00pm	Tea/Dinner
7:30pm - 8:30pm	Train
8:45pm	Free time

THURSDAY

8:30am - 5:00pm	Work
6:00pm	Tea/Dinner
7:30pm - 8:30pm	Train
8:45pm	Free time

SATURDAY

9:30am	Breakfast
1:30pm	Arrive at ground
3:00pm - 5:00pm	Game
5:15pm	Go into 'club house' for food with both team/fans/committee
5:30pm	Travel home

CUP COMPETITIONS



The FA Vase

The FA Vase is a tournament that consists of a total of nine rounds: two qualifying, followed by six "proper" rounds, then semi-finals and a Final, the last of which is played at Wembley Stadium. Clubs from tiers 9 and 10 can enter and play in the FA Vase.



The FA Trophy

The FA Trophy is similar to the FA Vase but consists of teams from tiers 5-8, the competition consists of three qualifying rounds, and seven proper rounds. Like the FA Vase, if you make it to the final you'll play at Wembley!



SPORTING CHANCE

THE MENTAL HEALTH PEOPLE FOR PROFESSIONAL SPORTSPEOPLE

We understand that it takes courage to ask for help, either during or following a career in football - so when you're ready to reach out, we're ready for **you**.



24 HOUR HELPLINE

Our helpline is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by trained professionals



TALKING THERAPY

A network of 250 mental health experts that can be connected to within 24 hours



RESIDENTIAL

The only rehabilitation clinic in the world exclusively for professional sportspeople with an addictive disorder

You can contact us confidentially on **07500000777** or visit our website for information on accessing support.



Professional
Footballers'
Association

WWW.SPORTINGCHANCECLINIC.COM