Rochdale Association Football Club
CROWN OIL ARENA, SANDY LANE, ROCHDALE, OL11 5DR

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JOB TITLE: Youth Development Phase Lead Coach

REPORTING TO: Academy Manager / Head of Academy Coaching & Coach Development

RESPONSIBLE FOR: YDP age group Coaches, and players within phase.

LOCATION: Various training venues, plus and home / away fixture locations

HOURS: Full time

REMUNERATION: In line with EFL salary benchmarking data

ROLE DESCRIPTION:

Founded in 1907, Rochdale AFC is an established professional football club, who will compete in EFL League Two for the 2026/27 season, alongside FA Cup, Carabao Cup, and Vertu Trophy knockout competition commitments. We are involved in a broad range of sporting, commercial, and charitable activities, following the acquisition of a controlling stake in the club by The Ogden Family in May 2024.

To strengthen and further develop our youth development staff, the club is currently seeking a Lead Youth Development Phase Coach to oversee provision for U12-U16 players within our Academy. As well as frequent on-field delivery, the successful candidate will be a senior point of contact for all players, parents, and coaches within the phase. This role will work collaboratively with the Head of Coaching to ensure that both trabing sessions and matchdays within the phase are delivered to very high standards.

The successful candidates will hold a minimum of a UEFA A Licence, as well as relevant age-appropriate qualifications (FA Advanced Youth Award). Experience in a professional academy football environment would be highly advantageous, with priority given to individuals who have previously worked on a full time basis within a club running an EPPP programme. All positions are contingent upon a Category 3 Licence under EPPP being awarded this summer.

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

o Plan and deliver engaging coaching sessions for all players, in line with the RAFC Academy syllabus.
o Actively review coaching sessions delivered by Coaches withing the Youth Development Phase against the session learning objectives, focusing on what went well, as well as areas for development.
o Rotate through various Youth Development Phase age groups on matchdays, ensuring that the games programme is being delivered to a high standard.
o In conjunction with the Academy Management Team, advise on release/retain decisions for all players within the phase.

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o Lead Individual Learning Plans and Multi-Disciplinary reviews across the phase, ensuring that coaching staff are delivering against agreed priorities.
o Drive a high performance, age specific coaching culture, focused on individual player development.
o Direct responsibility for assisting The EFL, PGAAC, and any other relevant organisations, in any Academy audit processes, ensuring that the phases is meeting the appropriate standards.
o Ensure staff within the phase have the relevant kit and equipment in order to deliver professionally.
o Collaborate effectively with staff across all Academy departments (Sports Science & Medical, Recruitment, Education, Player Care, etc) in order to ensure the wider needs of each player are met.
o Ensure that the relevant health and safety standards of both training and matchday environments are maintained.
o Conduct all duties with due regard for RAFC policies and procedures.

PERSON SPECIFICATION:

ESSENTIALS	**'NICE TO HAVE'S'**
UEFA A Licence.	Further coaching qualifications.
FA Advanced Youth Award.	Knowledge of child development from 12-16.
Current EFAiF qualification.	Coach education or mentoring experience.
In date DBS clearance.	Leadership experience in a football environment.
Working knowledge of EPPP.	Able to cultivate positive relationships quickly.
I.T. literate.	Based in / around Greater Manchester.

From time to time, the successful applicant may be asked to assist with activities essential to club operations that are not outlined in the above day to day duties. The successful applicant must carry out his/her duties with due regard for Rochdale Association Football Club Limited policies and procedures, and act in the best interest of Rochdale Association Football Club Limited at all times.

The successful applicant must ensure a positive commitment towards equality and diversity by treating others fairly and not committing any form of direct or indirect discrimination, victimisation or harassment of any description and to promote positive working relations. The Rochdale AFC family is wholly committed to safeguarding, and promoting the welfare and safety of young people. We fully expect our Board, employees, and volunteers to demonstrate and communicate this commitment at all times. As such, a DBS check will be required in order to undertake this post, and two references will be sought prior to appointment.

Any applications or expressions of interest should be submitted via the EFL iRecruit platform before the application deadline of Friday August 7th 2026 at 5.00pm. Due to the nature of the role early applications are encouraged, and the interview process may commence prior to the date listed above if suitable candidates are identified.