



Insurance guidance - update

This information is released by England Athletics after guidance from UKA regarding coaching, leading and insurance.

We would remind all coaches and clubs that ensuring insurance is in place is an absolute minimum. The well-being and safety of athletes should be seen as paramount and therefore best practice rather than 'minimum standards' should be followed to enable coaches and athletes to have full confidence in the training that is being done.

The advice from UKA is as follows:

What insurance cover does a Coaching Assistant have or how should a Coaching Assistant operate? This has been raised as there are Coaching Assistants who are thought to be capable of taking well-constructed and safe sessions away from a supervising coach.

- 1. The answer is that to operate the Coaching Assistant should have a 'licensed coach normally and routinely present'. These are the key words that will be added to material on uCoach around FAQ's on coaching insurance and are the words that should be used to advise coaches of what they are covered or not to do.*
- 2. Coaching Assistant is defined as an assistant. The description applied to this is, of being under supervision or routinely present, CAN be interpreted to mean that a Coaching Assistant can take a session if the supervising coach has cleared the session and is aware of the details of the session and environment it is being carried out in. We would give an example of a running session being carried out for a club on a field that is outside the track environment, so is not in direct line of sight of a Coach. A Coaching Assistant could take that session on their own, if a risk assessment had been carried out by the Coach of the plan and the environment. Safe practice would then need to be followed. (Note risk assessments are not covered in the Coaching Assistant Course hence the need for the Coach to carry this out)*
- 3. There has been discussion over the delivery of other events by Coaching Assistant's i.e. activities that may have more risk. Again coaches should refer to the statement a 'Licensed coach normally and routinely be present'. But provided the qualified COACH was aware of the session details and risk associated with the activity/session and had judged the competency of the Coaching Assistant to be equal to the task of delivery as well as the general risk assessment of activity and environment, then the activity can be carried out by the Coaching Assistant as described in 2. An example would be if a Coaching Assistant was to run a session in a school as part of a Satellite Club. Provided the environment and activities had been risk assessed, and the Coach has been appraised of, and cleared, the session plans then the coaching activity would be insured. It is recommended that a plan of activities is maintained and it must be noted that under 18's are not covered to coach sessions without direct supervision.*

What coaching activities is an 'Old' Level 2 coach insured to coach/oversee?

- 1. The 'old' Level 2 qualification was event group specific. Coaches did look at run, jump and throw activities however may only have been assessed in one technical discipline. Therefore coaches qualified under the old Level 2 system are insured to oversee all events to the level of content and competency covered in the Level 2 course. We would, however, encourage coaches to update their knowledge through the online courses that are available on ULearn. Coaches should also ensure they are following the correct*

progressions and operating in a risk assessed environment whatever event they are coaching.

Who is insured to coach Wheelchair racing?

1. *A coach qualified under the old system as Level 2, is covered even if they didn't do wheelchair racing as a specific element. However, we would encourage them to do the available online Wheelchair module as this would be best practice.*
2. *Coaches who had completed an Athletics Coach Award or CiRF Award would need to do the online wheelchair module to be insured to coach a wheelchair athlete*
3. *Coaches who have successfully complete the AC or CiRF course can progress to the wheelchair racing module.*

Who is insured to deliver lifting of weights for athletic performance in their coaching practice?

1. *Qualifications pre 1997 BAF Strength and Conditioning module was included as part of the course assessment pre 1997 at Level 2 and above. If a coach has this qualification then **YES they are insured.***
2. *Coaches with a current UKA Level 3 or 4 who undertook a conditioning element but no assessment. **A coach with this qualification is insured but it would not be seen as best practice and we would advise the coach to gain further qualifications and/or seek to carry out Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in this area. This could be a formal 'lifting' qualification (BAWLA/UKSC) or a CPD session run by EA/UKA with the purpose of giving knowledge and experience in lifting for athletic performance.***
3. *If a coach has qualified from 2010 onwards they are **NOT insured if the Coaching Assistant or Athletics Coach qualification is the only award a coach has. This is because although physical preparation has been included in the CA course since April 2014 and AC course since September 2014, 'lifting' was not included in these qualifications.***
4. *If a qualified 'Athletics Coach' has done a CPD workshop with England Athletics or other Home Country this may cover the individual IF the content of the course was practical and designed to give the coach the practical tools to coach lifting for athletic preparation. The CPD workshop they had undertaken must have been delivered by a 'competent' person i.e. UKSC, BAWLA or EA accredited. England Athletics will from August 2015 retain a record of CPD workshops that meet these criteria.*

Practical assessments for hammer, discus and pole vault at Athletics Coach Award Level.

1. *Currently on the Athletics Coach Award there are seven core events which do not include hammer, discus, pole vault, triple jump, race walking and wheelchair racing To gain a qualification at Athletics Coach Award Level in these other areas you need to complete an extra online module, and for hammer, discus, and pole vault you also need to complete a practical assessment. Because the practical assessment criteria have taken a long time to be drawn up there are quite a lot of coaches waiting to do them. (Note without them you cannot progress to Event Group Level in throws – without hammer or discus assessment, or in jumps – without pole vault assessment) These barriers are being addressed as quickly as possible.*
 - a. *Practical Assessment criteria have now been worked out. (July 2015)*
 - b. *Assessors are being identified and trained now. (Aug 2015)*
 - c. *Assessors will be attached to practical assessment days which EA will organise as quickly as possible to clear the back log. September 2015 onwards*



- d. In the medium term, assessment days may be carried out alongside CPD workshops or we will look to include within the 4th assessment day of the Athletics Coach Award.*

For further information on any of the items contained within this update please contact Martin Rush, Head of Coaching and Athlete Development, England Athletics mrush@englandathletics.org or Paul Moseley, Coach Development and Education Manager, England Athletics. pmoseley@englandathletics.org