



Overview & FAQ's - Coaching Education Subsidy 2026-27

MARCH 2026 – PLEASE NOTE

Scottish Cycling are awaiting a decision from **sportscotland** on our 2026-27 subsidy funding application. We have been advised that a decision will be communicated by end of March 2026. Scottish Cycling will not be able to finalise subsidy details for 2026-27 until we receive this information and therefore all information contained in this document should be read as TBC.

If you are undertaking a course with a practical day between April 2026 – March 2027 and feel you are likely to meet a subsidy demographic (based on previous years subsidy groups shown) please complete the application form at the link below.

We will make final decisions on subsidy support categories & amounts and review applications that have been made once we have clarity on our subsidy funding from **sportscotland**.

sportscotland's Coaching Scotland framework sets out a vision where they will work together with governing bodies to create a workforce with greater diversity that is representative of the Scottish population.

sportscotland and Scottish Cycling have worked together to agree an approach to coach/leadership education subsidy that supports this aim. The approach is designed to be applied directly to British Cycling's Coach Education Framework.

This approach has the following aims:

- Build the capacity of coaches and leaders with a focus on inclusion.
- Support and develop a more diverse workforce.
- Ensure qualifications in Scotland are affordable and accessible.
- Embed equality, diversity and inclusion through the education system in Scotland.

In line with Scottish Cycling strategy 'Developing a nation of cyclists 2.0', this iteration of subsidy will be aligned towards a select number of identified underrepresented groups in cycling across Scotland. Those from a rural location, coaches with a disability, coaches living in an area of deprivation, female coaches, and young coaches (under 25).

The **proposed** Coach Education funding available from April 2026 – March 2027 (**TBC following sportscotland funding decisions**):

Please note that this funding is not guaranteed should the available funds be exhausted before 31st March, the funding will be discontinued.

sportscotland Coaching Subsidy		
Must be applied for <u>after</u> booking, and up until the first seminar		
Funding Demographic	Intended audience	Discount (%)
Rural Coaches	Coaches from a rural area.	TBC
Coaches with a disability	Any coach/leader who has a registered disability.	TBC
SIMD coaches	Any coach/leader whose permanent residence is within SIMD 1-4.	TBC
Female coaches	Any female coach/leader.	TBC
Young coaches (14-25)	Any coach/leader who is aged 14-25yrs.	TBC

Alongside the subsidy available for coaches, we are delighted to provide a subsidy for Mountain Bike Leaders to upskill and progress through qualifications.

The Mountain Bike Leadership course subsidy applies to the Off-Road Leader course (previously FUN-MBL), and the training element of the following courses but not the assessment section.

- Trail Leader course (previously Level 2 MTB Leader)
- Level 3 MTB Leader course
- MTB Night Leader course

Candidates must apply for the subsidy prior to the course taking place and will only be reimbursed after successfully completing the Off- Road Leader course or training element of the Trail Leader, Level 3 MTB Leader or MTB Night Leader courses.

The **proposed** Off-Road Leadership funding available from April 2026 – March 2027 (**TBC following sportscotland funding decisions**): Please note that this funding is not guaranteed, should the available funds be exhausted before 31st March, the funding will be discontinued.

Sportscotland Mountain Bike Leadership Subsidy		
Must be applied for <u>after</u> booking, and up until the first training day		
Funding Demographic	Intended audience	Discount (%)
Rural Leaders	Leaders from a rural area.	TBC
Leaders with a disability	Any leader who has a registered disability or who can demonstrate a positive impact working with riders who have a disability. This demonstration is captured through the application process.	

SIMD leaders	A leader whose permanent residence is within SIMD 1-4	
Female leaders	Any female leader	
Young leaders (14-25)	Any leader who is aged 14-25yrs	

Application process for **sportscotland** subsidy from April 2026 to March 2027:

Subsidy category	Application Link
Rural Coaches/Leaders	sportscotland - Subsidy Application 2026/27 – Fill in form
Coaches/Leaders with a disability	
SIMD Coaches/Leaders	
Female Coaches/Leaders	
Young Coaches/Leaders	

See over page for coach education subsidy further info and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Step by Step

Step	Coaching Courses (i2C/CiC)	MTB Leadership
1	Book on and pay for a course.	
2	sportscotland - Subsidy Application 2026/27 – Fill in form	
3		Applicant to provide copy of the invoice of the course to Scottish Cycling.
4	Receive an email of confirmation and notification of application outcome.	
5	Funds will be processed after the first 'in person' element of the course and once the candidate has confirmed attendance.	

What are coach education subsidies?

This is funding provided by **sportscotland** via Scottish Cycling to assist coaches/leaders to reduce the cost of their learning and development as this can often be seen as a barrier to participation and development.

Is this new support and what are the changes?

Coach education funding has been in place since 2010 supporting hundreds of coaches. The funding available to individuals through this programme is revised quarterly, any changes to the fund will be communicated. Funding will continue to be offered to developing coaches/leaders but with a focus on identified underrepresented groups.

Who can apply for coach education funding?

Coaches/leaders applying for funding must have a valid British Cycling membership.

Guidance on specific categories (To be confirmed following sportscotland funding decision):

- **Rural Coach/Leaders** – Any coach/leader from a rural or island community. The government's core definition of rurality which defines Settlements of less than 3,000 people and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000.
- **Young Coach/Leaders** - Any coach/leader who is aged 14-25yrs.
- **Women and Girls Coaches/Leaders** - Any female coach/leader.
- **SIMD Coaches/Leaders** – 'SIMD' refers to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. This is a Scottish Government measure across seven domains: income, employment, health, education, skills and training, housing, geographical access and crime, proving an overall rank of deprivation. To find out if your postcode falls within deciles 1-4 please head to [SIMD \(Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation\)](#) . Any coach whose permanent residence postcode is within [SIMD](#) deciles 1-4 will have access to the subsidy.
- **Coaches/Leaders with a Disability** - Any coach who has a registered disability or who can demonstrate working with riders who have a disability.

Can I apply for more than one category of funding?

Coaches/leaders should only apply for one funding under one category.

When should I apply for Scottish Cycling subsidy?

Applications must be completed **prior** to the commencement of your course. Subsidy cannot be guaranteed for applications that are received after the course has commenced. We recommend that coaches/leaders apply for subsidy as soon as possible.

Am I guaranteed to receive funding?

Coaches/leaders are not guaranteed to receive funding. If you are unsuccessful in an application for funding the reasons for this will be communicated to you directly.

Scottish Cycling receives a set amount of subsidy each financial year from **sportscotland**. In the circumstance where demand is greater than the level of subsidy available, Scottish Cycling will aim to make subsidy available, but this cannot be guaranteed.

If successful, when will I receive funding?

Scottish Cycling subsidy is processed when a candidate attends the first **in-person** session with their tutor.

Can I apply for subsidy as a private course organiser?

This will be done on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the Scottish Cycling Coach Education team to discuss further.

Can I apply on behalf of someone else?

You are only permitted to apply on behalf of someone if you are a representative of a club using a club account for reimbursement, or if you are a parent of a child taking part in a course. Details of both the applicant and the person applying will be captured.

Should you have any further questions with regard to the 2026/27 subsidy information or application process, please contact the email address below and we will come back to you as soon as possible.

coacheducation@scottishcycling.org.uk

