



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

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. Specifically, female coaches, young coaches, coaches living in an area of deprivation, coaches with a disability and coaches positively impacting riders with a disability.

The Coach Education funding available from April 2026 – March 2027:

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 (%)
Female coaches	Any female coach/leader.	75%
Young coaches (14-25)	Any coach/leader who is aged 14-25yrs.	75%
SIMD coaches	Any coach/leader whose permanent residence is within SIMD 1-4.	75%
Coaches with a disability	Any coach/leader who has a registered disability.	75%
Coaches positively impacting riders with a disability	Any coach/leader who can provide evidence of working with riders with a disability (such as the club being a recognised "limitless" club.)	75%

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

The Off-Road 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)
- Mountain Bike 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 or MTB Night Leader course or training element of the Trail Leader or Mountain Bike Leader courses.

The Off-Road Leadership funding available from April 2026 – March 2027:

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

Sportscotland Off-Road Leadership Subsidy		
Must be applied for <u>after</u> booking, and up until the first training day		
Funding Demographic	Intended audience	Discount (%)
Female leaders	Any female leader	50% of training element cost
Young leaders (14-25)	Any leader who is aged 14-25yrs	
SIMD leaders	A leader whose permanent residence is within SIMD 1-4	
Leaders with a disability	Any leader who has a registered disability.	
Leaders working with riders with a disability	Any leader who can provide evidence of working with riders with a disability (such as the club being a recognised “limitless” club)	

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

Subsidy category	Application Link
Coaches/Leaders with a disability	<u>sportscotland - Subsidy Application 2026/27 – Fill in form</u>
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 should be resident within Scotland, have a valid British Cycling membership and meet one of the specified subsidy demographics.

Guidance on specific demographics:

- **Women and Girls Coaches/Leaders** - Any female coach/leader.
- **Young Coach/Leaders** - Any coach/leader who is aged 14-25yrs.
- **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/leader who has a registered disability.
- **Coaches/Leaders positively impacting riders with a disability** – Any coach/leader who can demonstrate their positive impact of working with riders who have a disability. One example of this could be coaching within an identified British Cycling “Limitless” club.

Can I apply under more than one category of funding?

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

When should I apply for Scottish Cycling subsidy?

Applications must be completed once you have booked onto your course and **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 after booking on the course.

The requirement that coaches book on and pay for their course before applying for funding is to ensure that a learner is committed to undertaking the course. We do however understand that up front payment could be an absolute barrier to engaging for some learners. If this is an issue for you, please get in touch via the email address below and we can discuss this on a case by case basis.

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.

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.

Please also note that **sportscotland** asks Governing Bodies to prioritise volunteer coaches in club and community settings for support with a subsidy.

If successful, when will I receive funding?

Scottish Cycling subsidy is processed when a candidate attends the final **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.

Are there any other requirements of those receiving funding?

There is a requirement from **sportscotland** that both individuals and NGB's who receive subsidy funding complete a short online reporting form. This will be sent to individuals at the end of the financial year.

Are there other funding opportunities if I do not meet one of the outlined demographics?

Many local authorities operate funding schemes to support coach education costs for coaches within their area. It is worth checking with your local council and/or their sports/leisure trust to see if there is any funding available.

sportscotland funding can be available to support learners from rural or island communities with the specific challenges that are faced in accessing coach education courses for these communities. If you are from a rural or island community and are struggling to access a course please get in touch with us.

Should you have any further questions regarding 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

