

BRITISH POWERLIFTING

COACHING LICENSE GUIDANCE 2026-27

(UPDATE AS OF 30/12/2025)

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1.0 Introduction and Purpose

British Powerlifting encourages all coaches to obtain their Coaching License if they wish to coach within the federation. The Coaching License certifies that the individual has met a minimum professional standard of training and education in order to practice as a coach in a safe and effective manner. It provides assurance to the athletes they work with that the individual is adequately qualified and in good standing with the federation.

The Coaching License scheme is part of a longer-term broader initiative designed to enhance governance, raise awareness, and protect our communities, athletes, coaches, and supporters. It is British Powerlifting's goal to attain UK Sport's Tier One Governance status, from which government funding opportunities may become viable. In order to reach this enhanced status as a national governing body (NGB), certain requirements and policies must be established.

The Coaching License addresses the need for coaches to be certified for governance and safeguarding purposes under the "Position of Trust" Act 2022. It is important that British Powerlifting does everything in its power to ensure compliance with these regulations.

By establishing a consistent and standardised minimum level of coaching at Nationals events, we demonstrate our commitment to a professional, responsible, and inclusive sporting environment by providing coaches with the opportunity to further their professional development, which is not only to the benefit of every athlete, but also to the coach.

By applying for, and being granted a Coaching License, the applicant agrees to abide by the British Powerlifting Code of Conduct and its [bylaws](#), and agrees to conduct themselves in a professional manner both during and outside of Nationals events. British Powerlifting reserves the right to remove or revoke any person's Coaching License at any time if poor conduct is apparent.

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2.0 Definitions

Coaching License: The Coaching License is accessible via the British Powerlifting Sport80 membership platform, and comprises of various certifications and qualifications that define a minimum standard of coaching for an individual to hold to ensure safe and effective practice.

Licensed Coach (or Approved Coach): An individual who engages in coaching practices or offers coaching services, who holds a valid Coaching License.

Unlicensed Coach (or Unapproved Coach): An individual who engages in coaching practices or offers coaching services, who does not hold a valid Coaching License.

Nationals Event: All British Championships (both Equipped and Classic, as well as all age group and University National Championship), as well as additional events that are deemed national qualifying events. These additional events will be promoted as a National event and guidance will be specified if the licence is required or not.

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3.0 License Requirements for 2026

The following certifications are required in order to obtain a British Powerlifting Coaching License:

3.1 Anti-doping Training

A certificate in Anti-doping awareness is required. Only certifications from the following providers will be accepted:

- UK Anti-doping (UKAD) Clean Sport Hub eLearning platform: [Coach Clean course](#) (only the Coach Clean course will be accepted)
- [WADA ADeL Education for Coaches](#)

3.2 Safeguarding Training

A certificate in Safeguarding in Sport is required. Only certifications from the following providers will be accepted:

- UK Coaching: [Safeguarding Children in Sport course](#)
- NSPCC: [Safeguarding Children in Sport course](#)
- Any Local Partnerships (Supported by Sport England): [Safeguarding Children in Sport course](#)

3.3 Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) Training

A certificate in Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) training is required.

For this element of the Coaching License, we promote and accept certificates from time- and cost-effective providers

3.4 Additional Requirements

Additionally, the applicant must:

- Hold a current and valid British Powerlifting membership, and;
- Not be under investigation by, or have an active decision against them from the Disciplinary Committee.

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4.0 License Requirements for 2027 and Onwards

In addition to the requirements detailed under section 3.0, effective from **1st January 2027**, the following elements will become a requirement to obtain the Coaching License:

4.1 Powerlifting Coaching Certification

Evidence of completion (certificate) of a Powerlifting Coaching course/qualification is required. At minimum, a **British Powerlifting Level 1 / Assistant Coach Course** qualification is required, but any of the following superseding or adjacent qualifications will be accepted for the purposes of the Coaching License:

- British Powerlifting: [Level 1 / Assistant Coach Course](#)
- British Powerlifting: [Level 2 / Lead Coach Course](#)
- British Powerlifting: [Level 3 / High Performance Coach Course \(in development\)](#)
- International Powerlifting Federation: [Coach Trainer Level II](#)
- International Powerlifting Federation: [Coach Trainer Level I](#)

No certificates from any other providers will be considered.

4.1.2 Fast-track System

British Powerlifting recognises that, whilst the Coaching License wasn't regulated, some coaches may not have previously chosen to engage with the vocational qualification route that British Powerlifting or the International Powerlifting Federation has to offer, and that these coaches may hold years, or decades of experience within British Powerlifting. The Education team offers a "fast-track" system to obtain the British Powerlifting Level 1 /Assistant Coach Course qualification. Individuals who are accepted onto the fast-track system will be required to pay a nominal £40 admin fee, and will be required to sit the short online test which is part of the Level 1 / Assistant Coach course. Should the individual pass, they will be awarded the Assistant Coach qualification. Should the individual fail, they shall be required to book onto a full Assistant Coach course at their own expense.

Individuals may apply for the fast-track system if they meet the following criteria:

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- The individual holds **an undergraduate degree** (of any classification) in Exercise Science, Strength and Conditioning, Sports Coaching, or other related field;
- The individual has amassed more than three years of experience in coaching within British Powerlifting at National standard which can be clearly and explicitly evidenced, and;
- The individual is not under investigation by, or have an active decision against them from the Disciplinary Committee.

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5.0 How to Apply for the Coaching License Through the Sport80 Platform

Coaches must apply for the Coaching License through the Sport80 platform. A detailed video explaining how to navigate the platform and register your certifications can be found on the British Powerlifting YouTube Channel, found at the hyperlink below:

[How to upload Certificates to Sport:80](#)

Coaches should first upload their certifications in to the certificate section, after which they will be labelled as “**Pending Approval**”. Once these have been reviewed, the certificates will be either rejected or accepted, and if accepted, the certifications will be labelled as “**Current**”. Once all required certifications have been uploaded, the coach is then eligible to apply for the Coaching License in the Coaching section and follow the same process.

British Powerlifting encourages all coaches to apply for their Coaching License in good time, as it may take up to 2 weeks to approve a license application. Please note that in order to be eligible to coach at a Nationals Event, a coach must have been approved for their Coaching License, not just have submitted it. This means if a coach presents themselves at accreditation, and their Sport80 profile shows “**Pending Approval**”, they are considered an Unapproved Coach (i.e., a coach without a Coaching License), and will not be permitted to coach at the National Series Event.

Please note that the team managing the approvals process are all volunteering their time for the good and benefit of the members.

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6.0 Responsibilities and Enforcement

All Licensed / Approved Coaches are responsible for adhering to the British Powerlifting Code of Conduct and its [bylaws](#) at all times to ensure the safety and wellbeing of not just their own athletes, but of all other athletes and persons present at the National Series Event.

6.1 Enforcement Procedure

Coaching Accreditation should occur at the relevant check in desk, which will be prepared by the competition organiser and communicated before the event. Here, a representative of the Coaching Committee or the championship organiser/representative should position themselves with wristbands. These wristbands should be of a different colour to those given to athletes and spectators.

Coaches should present themselves to the Accreditation official / representative and present their Coaching License (either through Sport80, Google Pass or Apple Wallet, or through downloaded PDF). A Coaching License application (i.e., “Pending Approval”) will not be accepted.

The Accreditation official / representative MUST place the wristband themselves around the wrist of the coach to ensure no unauthorised persons receive a coaching wristband.

Athletes are not permitted to collect a coaching wristband for their coach. The coach must present themselves in person to the Accreditation official / representative.

If a coach presents themselves and is unable to produce a current and valid Coaching License, they will not be permitted to coach at the Nationals Event.

6.2 Enforcement of Unauthorised / Unapproved Coaches

Any individual who is found to be coaching or handling at a Nationals Event, who does not hold a current and valid (at the time of the competition) Coaching License, either during the competition or retrospectively, will be subject to investigation, which may result in the following action:

- Referral of the matter and the unapproved coach to the Disciplinary Committee;
- Disqualification of the coaches’ athlete/s, rendering each athlete as a Guest Lifter (meaning they cannot place, and cannot be considered for international selection), and;

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- Suspension of the individual's British Powerlifting membership pending investigation.

No decision to disqualify an athlete should occur during the championships (incidents should be documented, and investigated retrospectively by the Coaching and Disciplinary Committees), however Unapproved Coaches will be ejected from all coaching areas (including warm-up, holding, and platform areas) at any time if found to not hold a Coaching License, or are not wearing a coaching wristband.

7.0 Coaching License Renewal and Removal

It is the Coach's responsibility to ensure their Coaching License remains up to date, current and valid. Individual elements of the Coaching License (apart from the 2027 requirement for a Level 1 / Assistant Coach qualification) are required to be renewed at minimum every 3 years, however **the Coaching License must be renewed every 12 months**. This can be done through the Sport80 platform.

Presenting oneself at a Nationals Event with an expired Coaching License will result in the individual not being permitted to coach at the championships.

British Powerlifting reserves the right to revoke, remove, or reject any Coaching License or Coaching License application at any time for one or more of the following reasons:

- The applicant does not hold a current and valid British Powerlifting membership;
- The applicant's Anti-doping, Safeguarding or DEI training certificates are not issued within the previous 3 years, or are not from approved providers as detailed in section 3.0;
- The applicant is currently under investigation by, or has a decision against them from the Disciplinary Committee, or;
- The applicant is considered not in good standing with the federation.

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8.0 Coaching License Review

The Coaching License will be continually reviewed, and British Powerlifting reserves the right to make changes to the implementation of the Coaching License. For all amendments, British Powerlifting must provide members with a minimum of 6 months notice.

The cost of operating the Coaching License model will be continuously reviewed. If in the future it is deemed that a cost is required to facilitate the administration and governance of the licence, then a small fee will be implemented.

9.0 List of Current Licensed Coaches

Below is a hyperlink which provides a live list of those coaches with an in-date Coaching License in the Sport:80 membership system. If a coach appears on this list, then they currently hold an in-date Coaching License, and are eligible to coach at a Nationals event.

[Live List of Coaches with a Coaching Licence](#)

10.0 Further Information

For further information, please refer to the British Powerlifting website or contact the British Powerlifting Coaching Committee by emailing coaching@britishpowerlifting.org

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