

BRITISH POWERLIFTING

COACHING LICENSE

POLICY 2026–27

This document constitutes a binding Policy of British Powerlifting. It sets out mandatory requirements for all coaches wishing to coach at Nationals Events and defines the obligations and enforcement procedures of the Coaching License scheme.

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1.0 Introduction (Purpose of the Policy)

British Powerlifting requires all coaches who wish to coach at Nationals Events within the federation to hold a current and valid Coaching License. The Coaching License certifies that the individual has met a minimum standard of required training and education in order to practise 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 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. British Powerlifting is committed to full compliance with these regulations and requires the same commitment from all coaches operating within the federation.

By establishing a consistent and standardised minimum level of coaching at Nationals Events, British Powerlifting demonstrates its commitment to a professional, responsible, and inclusive sporting environment, providing coaches with the opportunity to further their professional development—to the benefit of every athlete and the sport as a whole.

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.

POLICY STATUS

This document supersedes all previous Coaching License Guidance documents. The requirements set out herein are mandatory. The fact that earlier versions of this document were titled "Guidance" does not affect the binding nature of the requirements they contained; those requirements were, and remain, mandatory conditions of coaching at Nationals Events. This Policy clarifies and reinforces that position.

2.0 Definitions

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

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

Unlicensed Coach (or Unapproved Coach): An individual who engages in coaching practices or offers coaching services, and who currently 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 Championships), as well as additional events that are deemed national qualifying events. These additional events will be promoted as a Nationals Event and the applicable policy requirements will be specified.

3.0 Coaching License Requirements for 2026

ELIGIBILITY SUMMARY — 2026

To obtain a Coaching License for 2026, a coach must:

- (a) Complete the three specified certifications (sections 3.1–3.3); and
- (b) Have their Coaching License approved within the membership section of the Sport80 platform.

No other registrations or affiliations are required beyond those set out in this Policy. In particular, there is no requirement to register as a coach for any specific athlete on Sport80.

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, British Powerlifting promotes and accepts 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.

4.0 Coaching 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 mandatory requirement to obtain the Coaching License:

4.1 Powerlifting Coaching Certification

Evidence of completion (certificate) of a Powerlifting Coaching course or 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
- International Powerlifting Federation: Coach Trainer Level II
- International Powerlifting Federation: Coach Trainer Level I
- International Powerlifting Federation: Basic Trainer

No certificates from any other providers will be considered.

4.1.2 Fast-track System

British Powerlifting recognises that, whilst the Coaching License was not regulated, some coaches may not have previously chosen to engage with the vocational qualification route offered by British Powerlifting or the International Powerlifting Federation, 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 administration 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 refunded in full and will 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 all of the following criteria:

- 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 which can be evidenced; and
- The individual is not under investigation by, or have an active decision against them from, the Disciplinary Committee.

5.0 How to Apply for the Coaching License

All coaches must apply for the Coaching License through the Sport80 platform. A detailed video explaining how to navigate the platform and register certifications can be found on the British Powerlifting website on the following page:

[Coaching License - British Powerlifting](#)

Coaches must first upload their certifications, after which their application will be labelled **“Pending Approval”**. Once reviewed, certificates will be either rejected or accepted. If accepted, certifications will be labelled **“Current”**. Once all required certifications have been uploaded and approved, the coach is then eligible to apply for the Coaching License and must follow the same process.

All coaches are required to submit their Coaching License application with sufficient time to allow for full review and approval. Note that eligibility to coach at a Nationals Event requires an **approved Coaching License**, not merely a submitted application. A coach whose Sport80 profile shows **“Pending Approval”** at accreditation is considered an Unapproved Coach and will not be permitted to coach at the event.

5.1 License Approval Timeline

APPROVAL TIMELINE — MANDATORY

License approvals will be processed up to and including the point **48 hours before the scheduled start of the first flight** of a championship.

No license approval will take place within the 48-hour period immediately before the start of the first group of a championship. Coaches who have not received an approved Coaching License by this deadline will not be permitted to coach at that event, regardless of when their application was submitted.

Coaches are strongly advised to apply well in advance. Processing may take up to two weeks. The 48-hour cutoff is a firm deadline with no exceptions.

It is the coach's responsibility to ensure they have obtained a current and valid license prior to the 48-hour cut-off.

5.2 Sport80 Registration Requirements

SPORT80 REQUIREMENTS — CLARIFICATION

There are **two** Sport80 actions required to obtain and hold a Coaching License are:

- (a) Upload and obtain approval for the required certifications; and
- (b) Apply for and obtain approval of the Coaching License within the membership section of Sport80.

Coaches are not required to register on Sport80 as a coach for any specific athlete. There is no requirement within this Policy to link a coach account to an individual athlete's entry on Sport80. Eligibility to coach at a Nationals Event is determined solely by whether the coach holds an approved Coaching License — not by any athlete-specific registration.

The blue “Coach Registration” button can be ignored on the event page. Coaches should simply turn up on the day having obtained their Coaching License.

5.3 Public Licence Register

British Powerlifting maintains a publicly accessible register of coaches who currently hold an approved Coaching License. This register is updated in real time via the Sport80 platform and is available at the following address:

<https://britishpowerlifting.sport80.com/public/widget/1>

Athletes, parents, clubs, and event officials may use this register to verify that a coach holds a current and approved Coaching License before or during a Nationals Event. A coach's name appearing on this register confirms that their license has been approved and is currently valid.

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 a Nationals Event.

6.1 Enforcement Procedure and Venue Access

Coaching accreditation must occur at the relevant check-in desk, which will be prepared by the competition organiser and communicated to all participants before the event. A representative of the Coaching Committee or the championship organiser must be positioned at the accreditation desk with coaching wristbands. These wristbands must be of a different colour to those issued to athletes and spectators.

Coaches must present themselves to the accreditation official and present their Coaching License (either through Sport80, Google Pass, Apple Wallet, or through a downloaded PDF). **A Coaching License application showing “Pending Approval” will not be accepted under any circumstances.**

The coach’s name will be included on an approved coach list held at the registration desk. Accreditation officials may also verify licence status in real time using the public register at <https://britishpowerlifting.sport80.com/public/widget/1>. Upon verification, the coach will be issued with a wristband to enable access to the warm-up room and all coaching areas. The accreditation official must place the wristband on the coach’s wrist personally, to ensure no unauthorised persons receive a coaching wristband.

IMPORTANT: Athletes are not permitted to collect a coaching wristband on behalf of their coach. The coach must present themselves in person to the accreditation official.

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, and their athlete(s) may be required to self-coach.

6.2 Enforcement of Unauthorised / Unapproved Coaches

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

- Referral of the matter and the unapproved coach to the Disciplinary Committee;
- Disqualification of the coach’s athletes, rendering each athlete a Guest Lifter (meaning they cannot place and cannot be considered for international selection); and
- Suspension of the individual’s British Powerlifting membership pending investigation.

No decision to disqualify an athlete should be made during a championship. Incidents must be noted, documented in detail, and investigated retrospectively by the Coaching and Disciplinary Committees. However, Unapproved Coaches may be ejected from all coaching areas (including warm-up, holding, and platform areas) at any time if found not to hold a Coaching License or not to be wearing a coaching wristband.

6.3 Warm-up Room Supervision

WARM-UP ROOM ACCESS CONTROL — NEW REQUIREMENT

In the organisation and running of any championship, a designated individual must, where possible, be allocated to supervise access to the warm-up room and ensure that only authorised and appropriately accredited individuals are permitted entry.

The designated supervisor should, where possible, be:

- A volunteer who is a member of the relevant division committee; or
- A qualified or ratified British Powerlifting referee.

The purpose of this role is to ensure that only coaches in possession of a valid coaching wristband are admitted to the warm-up room, and that the integrity of the accreditation process is maintained throughout the championship. Where it is not possible to allocate a dedicated supervisor, responsibility for warm-up room access control falls to the championship organiser or their nominated representative.

7.0 Coaching License Renewal and Removal

It is the coach's responsibility to ensure their Coaching License remains current and valid at all times. Individual elements of the Coaching License (with the exception of the 2027 requirement for a Level 1 / Assistant Coach qualification) must be renewed at minimum every three years. The Coaching License itself must be renewed every 12 months. Renewal is completed through the Sport80 platform.

Presenting at a Nationals Event with an expired Coaching License will result in the individual not being permitted to coach at the championships. No exceptions will be made.

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 three 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 to be in good standing with the federation.

8.0 Coaching License Review

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

The cost of operating the Coaching License model will be continuously reviewed. If in the future it is deemed that a fee is required to justify the workload placed on volunteers in managing the Coaching License and its individual elements, a small fee will be implemented, with appropriate notice to members.

9.0 Further Information

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

British Powerlifting

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