

# Roles within the UKA Coaching Framework

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## PURPOSE:

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the roles and functions leaders and coaching assistants can fulfil under the new UKA Coaching Qualifications. Leaders and coaches working within the roles defined below are insured under the UKA public liability cover. Those requiring further information should go to the British Athletics website at: <https://www.uka.org.uk/grassroots/coaching/coaching-useful-links/>

## DEFINITION OF ROLES:

The new UKA coaching awards are built to address the various roles that leaders and coaches serve within the athletics environment. It is important to note that the Leaders and Coaching Assistant awards were constructed with a fundamental aim: to provide successful candidates with the skills required to lead training groups at the foundation level under the **supervision or direct supervision** of a fully qualified coach. These awards should be considered supplemental to the Athletics Coach, Children's Coach and Coach in Running Fitness (CiRF) awards, the stage at which a coach is qualified to work independently with athletes. The awards also serve a practical function: Leaders: when deployed appropriately can help offset some of the demand placed on fully qualified coaches. Coaching Assistant: to assist with demand **and** to provide an entry point into the coach education pathway. With a basic level of knowledge of the principles of Run, Jump, and Throw, the Coaching Assistant is in a good position to practice the skills that will be required of them when they embark on a qualification at the "Coach" level.

### **Roles Defined:**

**Athletics Leader** – should work from a session plan or task card, given to them by the Supervising Coach and be **directly supervised**.

**Leader in Running Fitness** – should be working from session plans or task cards and can lead a group of runners on a run. This is not a coaching role. The LiRF leader can take a group out for a run unassisted as they will have covered health and safety and risk assessment on the course to cater for this aspect of the role. LiRF leaders are qualified to lead sessions to athletes aged 12 years and older. Please refer to the Couch to 5K Leader Requirements found [here](#).

**UKA Level One Coaches** (from the previous qualifications system) - should work from a session plan or task card, given to them by the Supervising Coach and be **supervised**.

**Coaching Assistant** – should be working from session plans and /or task cards using adapted activities but they are insured to use competition javelins and shot. The Coaching Assistant may deliver a whole session unassisted but **a Supervising Coach should be present at the venue (with the exception of U18 Coaching Assistants who must be directly supervised)**

**N.B.** The Coaching Assistant course does not cover the coaching of event specific: **Pole Vault, Hammer, Discus, Triple Jump or Steeplechase** (with full sized athletics equipment). These events should be delivered by a qualified and licensed Coach in these areas, although the Coaching Assistant may assist the coach in the session.

## KEY DEFINITIONS:

**Supervision** – a leader, assistant or coach is considered to be supervised provided the said person has been told what to do or has agreed what should be done by the licensed coach. A licensed coach **must be present at the venue**.

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**Direct Supervision** – a licensed coach should be *in eyeline and earshot* of the person being “directly supervised”.

**A Licensed Coach** – is someone who has undertaken and completed the following qualifications and who has a current police records check (DBS check) ie one that is not more than 3 years old. They may hold one or more of the following qualifications: Coach in Running Fitness, Children’s Coach, Athletics Coach, Athletics Coach Endurance, Athletics Coach Throws Athletics Coach Speed, Athletics Coach Jumps, UKA Level 2, Event Group Coach, UKA Level 3 Performance Coach, UKA Level 3 Development Coach, UKA Level 4 Performance Coach, UKA Level 4 Development Coach.

A licensed Coach is insured to coach unsupervised. They will have been assessed on their ability to coach specific areas of specialism, these areas are listed on their coaching licence. All Level 2 licenses and above, show that the bearer is insured to coach at level 2.

- **Group Event Coach** – this person is insured to coach whichever groups of events appear on their license. E.g. jumps, throws, speed or endurance (or a combination of these).
- **Athletics Coach Endurance**– Sprints, Hurdles, Javelin, Shot, Long Jump, High Jump, Endurance Running, Wheelchair Racing and Walking.
- **Athletics Coach Throws** – Sprints, Hurdles, Javelin, Shot, Hammer, Discus, Long Jump, High Jump, Endurance Running and Walking.
- **Athletics Coach Speed** – Sprints, Hurdles, Javelin, Shot, Long Jump, High Jump, Endurance Running, Wheelchair Racing and Walking.
- **Athletics Coach Jumps** – Sprints, Hurdles, Javelin, Shot, Long Jump, High Jump, Pole vault, Triple Jump, Endurance Running and Walking.
- **Coach in Running Fitness** – endurance activities to over 12s\*, including uphill & downhill running, running over obstacles and running at speed.  
\*You are insured to coach endurance activities on the track if you completed your CiRF course after September 2014. If you completed your CiRF course prior to this, you will not be insured and will need to take the free CiRF Bridging Module on My Learning if you wish to take your athletes on the track.
- **Children’s Coach** – all athletics activities using non-competition equipment i.e. adapted equipment for 8 - 12 year olds.

## ROLE OF THE SUPERVISING COACH:

**A Supervising Coach** - should discuss the allocation of session units with Coaching Assistants and Leaders, supervise Coaching Assistants during session delivery, directly supervise Leaders' in session delivery and review Coaching Assistant and Leader development. Please see the Role of the Coach video on the uCoach site to watch this relationship in practice.

## SUPERVISION RATIOS:

Please note the exact number of Coaching Assistants' and Athletics Leaders' that could be supervised by any one Coach will be dependent on the content of the session, the environment, the space available, the number of athletes, the number of Coaching Assistants' and Athletics Leaders' available to support and ensure best practice operating ratios. The decision regarding manageable numbers to ensure the session can be delivered in a safe and developmental manner is ultimately the decision of the Coach.

When working with children the advised ratio of adults (Coaches, Coaching Assistants) to children is 1:12 but with never less than two adults with a group at any one time.

The ratio for Leaders is also 1:12 provided that the Leader is above 18 years of age.

In older groups the advised ratio of adults (Coaches, Coaching Assistants) to athletes is also 1:12.

**MORE INFORMATION:**

For more information please visit the British Athletics Website:

<https://www.uka.org.uk/grassroots/coaching/>.