Unit 3- Careers in the Sports Industry

**Learning aim A: Understand the career and job opportunities in the sports industry**

**A1 Scope and provision of the sports industry**

The size, breadth and geographic spread of the sports industry, locally and nationally and factors that affect sports provision and employment opportunities.

• Sport and recreation industry data, economic significance, number of jobs.

• Geographical factors – location, environment, infrastructure, population.

• Socio-economic factors – wealth, employment, history, culture, fashion and trend.

• Season factors, e.g. swimming pools that only open in the summer, summer camps, holiday sports clubs, competition seasons, training camps.

**A2 Careers and jobs in the sports industry**

• Key pathways – coaching, sports science (e.g. nutritionist, sport psychology, sports therapy and injury management in sport performance, exercise and fitness), sports development (e.g. sports development officers, National Governing Body (NGB) officers, sports administrator) leisure management (e.g. facility management, grounds keeping, activity coordinator) education, sports journalism.

• Sectors – public, private, voluntary, third sector, public/private partnerships.

• Local employers – public, private, voluntary, third sector, public/private partnerships.

• National employers – public, private, voluntary, third sector.

• Sources of information on careers in sports.

• Definitions of types of employment and practical examples across different sports sectors and career pathways, locally and nationally:

* full time
* part time
* fixed-term contract
* self-employment (independent, subcontracted)
* zero-hours contract
* apprenticeships.

**A3 Professional training routes, legislation, skills in the sports industry**

• Career pathways – progression routes and successive jobs in different pathways:

1. Coaching, e.g. NGB awards different disciplines, disability sport, working with
2. Children, safeguarding awareness
3. Sports science – specialisms, e.g. nutritionist, sport psychology, sports therapy and
4. Injury management in sport performance, exercise and fitness
5. Sports development, e.g. sports development officer, NGB leads, sports
6. Administration, talent pathway leads
7. Leisure management, e.g. lifesaving, facilities management/maintenance, health and
8. Safety, customer service, marketing and promotion, finance, management activities
9. Education pathways, e.g. Level 2 and Level 3 specialist qualifications, higher education.

• Job descriptions and personal specifications for sports industry jobs.

• Industry standards – safeguarding (Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)), codes of practice, e.g. Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs), Sports Coach UK, organisational policies and procedures.

• Safeguarding – DBS: self-disclosure, enhanced disclosure, regulations and requirements.

• Sector-specific legislation that impacts on job roles.

• Qualification and professional bodies, e.g. REPs, Sports Coach UK, Minimum Standards for

Active Coaches, NGBs, Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical

Activity (CIMSPA), Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA).

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**A4 Sources of continuing professional development (CPD)**

Maintaining professional development in specific career pathways.

• Memberships of professional bodies: fees, qualification, logs of CPD.

• Required updates to professional competences, e.g. first aid, safeguarding.

• Career progression training – specific to sector, higher levels of qualification, management training sector specific, business or generic management, higher education FdSc, BA, BSc.

• Gaining knowledge and experience through cross-sector opportunities, e.g. participation in cross-sector organisation board working groups, elite performance programmes.

**Learning aim B: Explore own skills using a skills audit to inform a career development action plan**

**B1 Personal skills audit for potential careers**

Producing a personal skills audit against a chosen career pathway.

• Interests and accomplishments.

• Qualities – reliability, organisational skills, commitment, resilience, empathy.

• Basic skills – literacy, numeracy and IT.

• Experience, e.g. sporting, leadership, work, travel.

• Qualifications – educational and sector specific.

• Generic employability skills – teamwork, cooperation, communication, problem solving.

• Specific technical skills, e.g. coaching, instructing, leading, administering test protocols.

• Using SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis.

**B2 Planning personal development towards a career in the sports industry**

• Use of personal skills audit to produce an action plan towards a sports and recreation industry career.

• Identification of key timescales, e.g. immediate actions, next year, two years, five years, and ten years.

• Identification of training/educational/experiential aims at these key times and processes to achieve these goals.

• Careers guidance and support available and education choices.

• Career development action plan (CDAP) – definition; higher levels, specialism and diversification, aims, milestones, measures.

• Professional development activities – workshops, training, job shadowing, self-reflection.

**B3 Maintaining a personal portfolio/record of achievement and experience**

Personal portfolio/record of achievement:

• Educational certificates

• Sport-specific awards

• Sporting achievements

• Testimonials

• Press cuttings

• Work experience

• Volunteering

• Any other relevant evidence

• CVs targeting sports industry jobs.

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**Learning aim C: Undertake a recruitment activity to demonstrate the processes that can lead to a successful job offer in a selected career pathway**

**C1 Job applications**

Selection of a job role in a suitable career pathway, identified from skills audit and CDAP and then

Preparation of all the relevant documents:

• A job advertisement giving suitable examples of where it could be placed

• Job analysis

• Job description

• Person specification

• Application form

• Personal CV

• Letter of application.

**C2 Interviews and selected career pathway-specific skills**

• Communication skills required for interview situations: body language and listening skills, professional approaches, formal language, skills and attitudes of interviewee, role play, body language, dress, interview questions.

• Presentation skills – for micro-teach, for micro-coach.

• Career pathway-specific technical knowledge/skills displayed, e.g. coaching, instructing, leading, handling equipment, following testing protocols.

• Interview feedback form.

• Observation form.

• Reviewing applications from peer group.

• Submitting applications to peer group.

• Demonstration of a work-related competence (interviewing and being interviewed),analysis of how the activity worked, if the correct questions were asked to achieve the desired outcome, if the advertisement, job description and person specification led to the application form and covering letter being completed with the right level of information; adherence to equal opportunities legislation.

**Learning aim D: Reflect on the recruitment and selection process and your individual performance**

**D1 Review and evaluation**

• Role-play activity.

• Individual appraisal of own roles in being interviewed, interviewing and observing.

• Review of communication skills.

• Review of organisational ability.

• Assessment of how the skills acquired support the development of employability skills.

**D2 Updated SWOT and action plan**

• SWOT analysis on individual performance in the role-play activities.

• Self-critique of the events and documentation prepared and how it supported the activity.

• Review of how effective the process was and how learners feel they may need to develop skills further to be able to conduct and participate in interviews more effectively.

• Action plan to highlight how to address any weaknesses in skill set.