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As preparations for the 2026/27 academic year continue, this month's update includes a few opportunities and important dates for universities to be aware of. From coach development and new guidance to upcoming events and recruitment opportunities, we encourage you to explore the updates below and share them with the relevant colleagues, coaches and students within your institution. Don't forget to save the date for the BUCS Football Development Network Day in September, and keep an eye out for registration opening in early August. As always, if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the opportunities featured, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the BUCS Football Development Team.

UPDATES:

1. **[England Futsal High-Performance Coach Development Programme – Applications Open](#)**
2. **[New FA Mixed Adult Football Guidance](#)**
3. **[BUCS Football Development Network Day 2026/27](#)**
4. **[Share Your Vacancies with the Network](#)**

[England Futsal High-Performance Coach Development Programme – Applications Open](#)

England Futsal has opened applications for the 2026/27 High-Performance Coach Development Programme, designed to identify, mentor and support ambitious futsal coaches working with players in training and competitive environments. Following a successful first cohort, the programme returns with places for up to 15 coaches looking to further develop their coaching practice and understanding of high-performance futsal. Participants will benefit from personalised mentoring, expert webinars, face-to-face coach development events, opportunities to observe England Futsal performance pathway environments, and the chance to build a strong professional network with coaches from across the country.

The programme is underpinned by England Futsal's Pride DNA Framework, providing coaches with valuable insight into the principles and methodologies that support player and coach development. **Applications close on Wednesday 5 August 2026.** We encourage universities to share this opportunity with futsal coaches, staff and students who are actively coaching and looking to further their development.

Further information and the application pack can be found here :

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<https://www.Englandfutsal.com/latest-news/high-performance-coach-development-programme-applications-open-for-202627>

For any questions, please contact England Futsal at info@Englandfutsal.com.

New FA Mixed Adult Football Guidance

The FA has published new [Mixed Adult Football Guidance](#), introducing mixed adult football as an affiliated format of the game from the 2026/27 season. The guidance supports universities, clubs and leagues wishing to provide inclusive football opportunities where adults can play together in the same team and against each other in a welcoming and respectful environment. Mixed adult football is available across 11v11 football, small-sided football, futsal and walking football, offering institutions greater flexibility to broaden their recreational football provision and engage a wider range of participants. Universities considering introducing mixed football are encouraged to review the guidance to understand the format, eligibility requirements and how it sits alongside existing male and female competitions. The full FA Mixed Adult Football Guidance has been attached to this update.

If you have any questions about delivering mixed football within your institution, please contact [Sean Lofting](#).

BUCS Football Development Network Day 2026/27

We're pleased to confirm that the BUCS Football Development Network Day will take place on Friday 11 September 2026 at the CBS Arena, Coventry. This networking event brings together colleagues from across the higher education football network to share best practice, hear sector updates, explore new initiatives and connect with people from across the game.

Registrations will open on **Monday 3 August and close on Friday 28 August**. We encourage you to save the date and share it with colleagues who may wish to attend. A registration link and full event programme will be circulated in due course.

Share Your Vacancies with the Network

We know many of you are in the process of recruiting new roles to support your football delivery and development and we'd love to help you get the word out. If your university has an upcoming or live football-related vacancy, we're happy to include it in our monthly Football Accreditation updates and,

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where relevant, share it with alumni from our Women's Leadership Programme and other development initiatives.

A great example of this is a Football Development Officer role at AOC, which is open until 7th August 2026. If you know someone who might be interested, take a look: <https://associationofcolleges.livevacancies.co.uk/#/job/details/50>

If you'd like us to include your vacancy in the August update, please send us the job description or a link to the advert.
