

## Sports Development Officer

Sports development officers organise projects, activities and training courses to encourage people to take part in sport and lead a healthier lifestyle. They may focus on sport in general or on a specific sport.

### The Work

You could be:

- working with sports bodies, politicians and local authorities to help develop policies and strategies to encourage more people to take part in sport
- targeting specific groups such as young people with disabilities or those from disadvantaged communities, to encourage them to play sport
- attending meetings to plan sports projects and allocate funds
- setting up links between schools and sports clubs, and between local authorities and the governing bodies of various sports
- organising and running training courses for teachers, promoting sport
- organising activities for children, youth organisations or adults
- keeping records and helping write reports for government organisations
- sometimes coaching or supervising your own particular sport.

### Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the level of skill which you are offering
- the size of company or organisation you work for
- the demand for the job.

As an assistant sports development officer in Scotland your salary might be around £25,000 a year. Sports development officers can earn between £35,000 to £40,000 a year or more.

As an Active Schools Co-ordinator, you would earn around £30,000 to £38,000 a year.

### Conditions

- You might work unsocial hours, including evenings and weekends.
- You will usually be based in an office, but will travel widely around your area, possibly around Scotland.
- As an active schools co-ordinator you would travel to different schools, usually within a local authority.
- You may also have to spend time outdoors in all weathers, overseeing the smooth running of activities.
- Some jobs are with fixed term projects, so you may have to look for a new job every few years.

### Getting In

There are no set entry routes into this profession. Employers consider a range of educational qualifications.

- An HNC (SCQF Level 7), HND (SCQF Level 8) or degree (SCQF Levels 9-10) in a subject such as sports studies, sports science, sport and recreation management, coaching and developing sport or physical education.
- A degree in another subject, plus a postgraduate (SCQF Level 11) qualification in a sports subject.
- For entry to an HNC or HND you normally need 1-2 Highers, for entry to a degree, 4-5 Highers.
- It would help to get some experience, such as volunteering at a local club.
- A first aid certificate may be required.
- You will require a satisfactory criminal record check from Disclosure Scotland to show that you are suitable for this type of work. Contact [Disclosure Scotland](#) for details on the type you would need.

Employers also consider applicants with a particularly impressive record in sports performance. Most jobs are with local authorities, schools, sports councils or the governing bodies of individual sports.

## What Does It Take

You should be:

- enthusiastic about sport
- a good organiser to manage projects
- confident, with initiative to think up new ideas
- able to influence and motivate others
- able to communicate clearly, with people of all ages and from all backgrounds
- flexible and adaptable.

## Training

- Training is on the job.
- You may take coaching and officiating qualifications for your own sport, if you do not already hold them.
- You may also want to keep your knowledge up to date by doing courses organised by the [Chartered Institute Management of Sport and Physical Activity](#) (CIMPSA).
- [UKCoaching](#) also run workshops in coaching performance and safeguarding issues.

## Getting On

- You would probably start as an assistant development officer.
- You might then become a development officer.
- There is no set promotion structure beyond this but you might become a sports development manager, a senior manager in a local authority or with a sports body.
- Note that some posts are with fixed term projects, so you might have to move to another area to develop your career.

## More Information

For more information please see organisations listed below:

- [SkillsActive](#)
- [sportscotland](#)

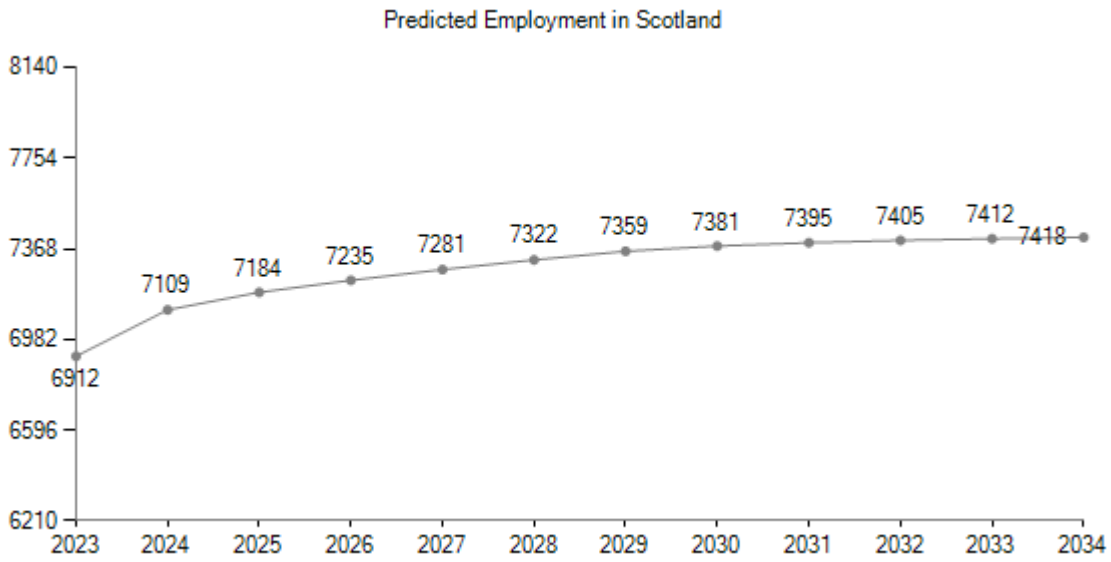
## Contacts

**Statistics**

Employment Status : Not available this career.

**Past Unemployment - Scotland**

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.



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