

# Head Coach (U18s) & Backs Specialist



- **Portobello Youth Rugby Academy (PYRA) Season: start of August 2026 – end of April 2027**
- **Status: Self-Employed (Part-Time)**
- **7-9 hours per week during regular rugby season**
- **£6,000-£8,000 per annum dependent on final agreed scope**

- **Impact of the role**

As the Head Coach for the U18s, you are the critical bridge between youth development and the future of senior rugby in Portobello. This role isn't just about winning matches; it's about shaping the "Porty player" of the future. By leading our most senior youth squad, you will create a high-performance environment that balances technical excellence with the community values of an OSCR-registered charity. You will be a visible leader across the academy, mentoring younger age groups and inspiring the army of volunteers, referee, and managers who make PYRA possible. Your influence ensures that when our players leave the U18s, they do so as skilled athletes and grounded members of our community. You will be supported in this role by a strong PYRA committee but given the freedom to make your own imprint on the squad.

- **What you will do**

**Lead the squad:** Take ownership of U18 training on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (times of session flexible/negotiable), designing and delivering sessions with a specific focus on backs and attacking strategy. You will have experienced coaching support at all sessions.

**Pathway development:** Deliver one session per week for the S1/S2 age group (ideally pre-6pm at Portobello High School) to ensure coaching consistency as players move up the academy.

**Technical specialist:** Coordinate and lead technical "Friday Afternoon" sessions (2-4pm), collaborating with other coaches to sharpen specific skill sets across the wider playing group.

**Match day presence:** Lead the U18s on Saturday mornings (09:30 meet for 10:30 KO).

**The performance network:** Connect regularly with our S&C coach and school teachers to maximize the physical and educational benefits for PYRA players.

**Volunteer inspiration:** Act as a mentor and motivator for our volunteer coaches and referees - often just through "good chat" and shared expertise when you see them on the touchline.

- **What you will bring with you**

**Scottish Rugby credentials:** You hold a minimum of a Scottish Rugby (SRU) UKCC Level 2 (or the "Coaching Youth & Adult Rugby" award) and are ideally working toward the Advanced Coaching Programme.

**Tactical backs expertise:** A deep understanding of attacking structures and the ability to devise game plans that suit the unique strengths of a maturing U18 group.

**Inclusive leadership:** A "player-led" philosophy that inspires confidence and self-belief while promoting an ethos of good conduct on and off the field.

**Communication skills:** Strong interpersonal skills to keep parents updated and build quality relationships with students, colleagues, and club stakeholders.

**Compliance & safety:** A valid PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) certificate and a commitment to Scottish Rugby's safeguarding standards.

- **How to apply**

Please submit your CV and a supporting statement outlining how your experience aligns with the role to [info@pyrarugby.org](mailto:info@pyrarugby.org)

Closing date: **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026**