

# Job of The Week

## Professional Football Player

### Key Skills

- leadership skills
- physical fitness and endurance
- persistence and determination
- ambition and a desire to succeed
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- physical skills like movement, coordination, dexterity and grace
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

**Salary**  
Variable

### Working hours

44 – 46 a week

Variable

Evenings/ weekends  
could work away from home

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# Football Player

## Top Tips

Some professional sports careers can be quite short, so it's useful to have plans for what you will do when you can no longer play or compete.

## Education & Football

You could take a sports course whilst receiving professional football training, such as:

- Level 2 Certificate in Activity Leadership
- Level 2 Certificate/Diploma in Coaching Sport
- Level 3 Sports & Physical Activity

## Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English Language and Maths, for the Level 3 course.
- 4 GCSEs at grade 3 or above, one being in English or Maths for the Level 2 course.

## Apprenticeship

The apprenticeship gives talented amateur sports players the chance to develop their sporting talent alongside their education.

Once you've completed your apprenticeship, you may turn professional or continue as an amateur while you get more experience.

## Entry requirements

Employers will set their own entry requirements.

## Other Routes

Typically you'll start by joining a club, academy or amateur organisation where you can train and receive professional coaching.

Most sports professionals are spotted early on by talent scouts at this stage.

## Day to Day tasks:

- Play in matches against other teams in your league
- maintain your general fitness and stamina by training
- Attend regular training sessions to improve your skills and general fitness
- Act on advice on diet and lifestyle from nutritionists and doctors
- Work on tactics, sometimes watching videos of matches to analyse your strengths and weaknesses
- Work with specialists such as physiotherapists, sports psychologists, coaches and your team manager
- keep up and improve your skills with regular practice.

## Career path and progression

After your career ends, you could stay involved in sport by moving into areas like:

- coaching
- refereeing
- team management
- sports journalism and broadcasting
- sports centre work

## Working conditions

You could work on a sports field or at a fitness centre. Your working environment will be physically and emotionally demanding. As you'll be outdoors in all weathers, you'll travel often and you may spend nights away from home.



# Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

## Sports players

Weekly Pay <b>£1,290</b>	Annual Pay <b>£67,080</b>
Hours/Week <b>39h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£33</b>

### Workforce Change (projected)

Growth <b>0.9%</b>	Replacement <b>57.9%</b>
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The workforce is projected to grow by 0.9% over the period to 2027, creating 200 jobs.  
In the same period, 57.9% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 11,800 job openings.

You might find this job in  
Sport & recreation

[More info](#)

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## Sports coaches, instructors and officials

Weekly Pay <b>£460</b>	Annual Pay <b>£23,920</b>
Hours/Week <b>36h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£13</b>

### Workforce Change (projected)

Growth <b>0.9%</b>	Replacement <b>57.9%</b>
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The workforce is projected to grow by 0.9% over the period to 2027, creating 1,100 jobs.  
In the same period, 57.9% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 66,900 job openings.

You might find this job in  
Sport & recreation  
Education  
Gambling  
Employment activities  
Other personal service

[More info](#)

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## Groundsmen and greenkeepers

Weekly Pay <b>£440</b>	Annual Pay <b>£22,880</b>
Hours/Week <b>60h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£7</b>

### Workforce Change (projected)

Growth <b>3.2%</b>	Replacement <b>98.1%</b>
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The workforce is projected to grow by 3.2% over the period to 2027, creating 800 jobs.  
In the same period, 98.1% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 25,200 job openings.

You might find this job in  
Agriculture, etc  
Sport & recreation  
Libraries, etc  
Civil engineering

[More info](#)

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# Labour Market Information

## Groundsmen and greenkeepers

Groundsmen and greenkeepers cut and lay turf and maintain areas for golf courses and other sports grounds.

Common tasks in this job:

- levels ground and installs drainage system as required;
- cuts and lays turf using hand and machine tools and repairs damaged turf;
- moves soil to alter surface contour of land using mechanical equipment and constructs appropriate landscaping features and maintains such features;
- monitors and maintains the quality and condition of turf;

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## Sports coaches, instructors and officials

Sports coaches, instructors and officials work with amateur and professional sportsmen and women to enhance performance, encourage greater participation in sport, supervise recreational activities such as canoeing and mountaineering, and organise and officiate at sporting events according to established rules.

Common tasks in this job:

- coaches teams or individuals by demonstrating techniques and directing training and exercise sessions;
- controls team selection and discipline and recruits ancillary staff such as coaches or physiotherapists;
- monitors and analyses technique and performance, and determines how future improvements can be made;
- deals with administrative aspects such as arranging matches, contests or appearances for athlete or team, and organising required transport and accommodation;

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## Sports players

Professional sportsmen and women train and compete, either individually or as part of a team, in their chosen sport for financial gain.

Common tasks in this job:

- participates in exhibitions, pre-qualifying events, tournaments and competitions;
- attends training sessions to develop skills and practice individual or team moves and tactics;
- builds stamina, physical strength and agility through running, fitness exercises and weight training;
- maintains clothing and other specialised sporting equipment;

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# Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

## Useful Websites

[Boston United 16-18 years Football and Education programme \(bostonuniteddcf.co.uk\)](http://bostonuniteddcf.co.uk)

[National governing bodies | Sport England](#)

[Courses | England Football Learning](#)

[Education courses policies and procedures - Lincolnshire FA](#)

[How to become a professional footballer | Goal.com UK](#)

[FIFA](#)

[Careers in the Football & Sport Industry - UCFB](#)

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

### Education Programme



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usmVMauUZsc>

### Women's Professional Football Trials



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfqHz6hFcu0>

### Theo Walcott Tips



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g vzGgkwsHQU>

### Like A Pro



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omX8kYuFYqk>

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