



Unit 6 Sport HQ2 | Sport Ireland Campus | Snugborough Road| Blanchardstown | Dublin 15

*Affiliated to the International Hockey Federation and to the European Hockey Federation*

<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	Ireland U21 Breakthrough Assistant Coach (Two roles: 1 Men's Team and 1 Women's Team)
<b>RESPONSIBLE TO THE POSITION OF:</b>	U21 National Team Head Coach & Talent Development Manager
<b>DAYS REQUIRED:</b>	National Training Sessions: Approx 18 (full days) Regional Training Sessions: Approx 30 Overnight Trips: Approx 12 days Meetings: 4-6 national pathway/HP system meetings
<b>DURATION:</b>	April 2026 – December 2026 with possibility for continuation to December 2027

## **OVERVIEW:**

Hockey Ireland is a non-profit, membership-based organisation recognised by Sport Ireland and Sport Northern Ireland as the National Governing Body for all Field and Indoor disciplines for the sport of hockey on the island of Ireland. Hockey Ireland is affiliated to both the European and International Hockey Federation (EHF & FIH). There is currently c.30,000 registered members and c.155 register clubs throughout the country.

We are currently looking to recruit assistant coaching roles to support the delivery our Pathway Performance Programmes. U21 Breakthrough national training sessions will primarily take place on the Sport Ireland Campus, Abbottstown, Dublin, and at regional training centres.

The National Pathway Programme aims to develop players capable of transitioning to, and impacting, the senior international level. These coaching roles will ensure year-round, high-quality, and consistent technical, physical, and specialist skill development for identified potential senior internationals.

In addition to the opportunity to coach at a high-performance level, the roles will provide opportunities for professional development throughout the year.

## **KEY AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:**

### **1. Programme Delivery**

- o Assist in delivering the U21 Pathway Programme designed by Hockey Ireland, including national and regional sessions and competition blocks.
- o Support the u21 Breakthrough Head Coach by ensuring coaching sessions are of the highest quality, catering to technical, tactical, physical, and psychological development needs.
- o Attend interprovincial and club matches where appropriate.

### **2. Player Development**

- o Progress the development of players to become "senior international ready."
- o Provide regular formal and informal feedback to players to enhance their progress.
- o Liaise with club/interprovincial/school coaches regarding player progress and selection.

### **3. Collaboration**

- o Work as part of a team of pathway coaches in a collaborative, non-hierarchical environment.
- o Engage regularly with the national scouting group and other pathway coaches.
- o Engage with the Talent Development Manager regarding the key player support needs.
- o Act as part of a network delivering regional sessions across Hockey Ireland programmes.

### **4. Communication**

- o Support the Head Coach to manage effective communication with players regarding selection, entry, and exit to/from the programme.
- o Contribute to fostering a performance environment for players and staff to thrive.

## **PERSONNEL SPECIFICATION**

The successful candidates will be experienced coaching professionals, or an emerging high potential coach. They will demonstrate the required coaching and leadership attributes, an understanding of high performance and the current trends in international hockey, and the capability to deliver player development which will convert pathway players to senior internationals.

## **ESSENTIAL CRITERIA- Qualifications and Experience**

- Level 2 and/or FIH coaching qualifications or equivalent (or working towards them)
- Ability to work as part of a team of coaches within the pathway
- Evidence of delivering player development in line with a national pathway approach: balancing individual progression with team performance demands
- Proven record of player development success in multiple environments and age groups
- Understanding and experience of the demands of high-performance sport
- Openness and willingness to share with other pathway coaches & practitioners
- Ability to motivate and inspire
- Excellent communications
- Ability to apply the principles of coaching, sport science, medicine and technology within a high-performance programme
- Proven methodologies in the development of elite talent and performance
- Exceptional people skills, with an emphasis on the management of player
- Capacity to travel domestically and overseas for extended periods.

## **DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

- Previous experience of working in an international hockey coaching environment
- Experience in implementing a comprehensive domestic or international coaching programme
- A competent knowledge of the latest coaching software systems
- An understanding of the Irish sporting landscape, culture and mentality

## **Hockey Ireland will provide the following to successful candidates:**

- A remuneration package commensurate with qualifications, skills and experience.
- A budget towards out-of-pocket expenses
- Hockey Ireland branded uniform
- Support from the Senior Team Coaches, Talent Development Manager and Director of High Performance.

## **Application Process:**

- Applicants will need to be eligible to work within the EU & UK.
- Closing date for applications is the **6pm on Monday April 6th 2026** with interviews expected to take place on April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- A letter of application and full CV (max. 2 pages) should be sent by email to [Christine.oshea@hockey.ie](mailto:Christine.oshea@hockey.ie) with the subject 'u21 Breakthrough Assistant Coach' clearly stating if you have a preference for the men's or women's role.
- Applicants will be short-listed on the basis of information supplied. Your application will be retained as confidential.

**Hockey Ireland is an equal opportunities employer**