

Bursary supported places available for existing Coaches on initial UKCC Assimilation Pilot Courses

Registration is now open for existing Coaches to secure their place on one of the first three UKCC Assimilation Pilot courses. Better still by taking advantage of this fantastic opportunity, forward thinking Coaches can access Bursary funding to the tune of 66% of the course costs. Although it is envisaged that support funding for candidates embarking on the Assimilation programme will be made available at some point in the future this is a one-off opportunity for existing Coaches to embrace the UKCC at the earliest available opportunity.

Thanks to a Sport England under spend the BJA have managed to gain support for the first 24 digible Candidates to register on each of the first three Assimilation courses. There will be one course in the North of England; one in the Midland's and one in the Southern part of the Country, (due to the short notice since securing this funding venues and dates are still to be confirmed). To be eligible candidates must simply register prior to the end of March 2009; applications will be handled strictly on a first come-first served basis.

The normal cost of the Assimilation is £200.00 including registration with 1st4sport qualifications who are the chosen Awarding Body for the Qualification that underpins the UKCC for Judo. Unfortunately, the terms of the Bursary scheme does mean that this fee needs to be submitted up front in order to demonstrate a commitment from candidates and candidates must complete the whole programme to remain in receipt of the Bursary. As soon as candidates have registered and paid their fee, details of how to register to receive the National Coaching Bursary will be sent together with the pre-course information. Candidates may then access their individual Bursary of **£132.00** which will be directly refunded to candidates. **PLEASE NOTE:** Candidates not finishing the programme will be liable for the full cost.

The Assimilation process has now been developed in accordance with the guiding principles shared with the membership at the Technical Congress in November, which were that:

- The Assimilation process must value and recognise existing Coaches
- It must tie in and align with the revalidation process
- It must provide fast-track options for positive/forward thinking positive coaches
- It must be designed to be as cost effective as possible
- It must provide opportunities to meet other coaches and form informal networks
- It must provide opportunities for coaches to talk through fears or concerns
- It must provide Coaches with opportunities to share good coaching practice
- The main aim of the whole process is to enhance the quality of Judo Coaching in the UK

Great care has been taken to ensure that these key principles have been adhered to whilst at the same time maintaining the integrity of the underpinning qualification and the UKCC ethos itself. Attendance on the course will count as a revalidation for those in attendance and the course has been designed to recognise the prior knowledge and experience of the Coaches attending but seeks to introduce / reinforce some of the softer Coaching skills that were not always examined under our old Club Coach scheme.

Course structure:-

Outline Assimilation Programme for Existing Coaches – UKCC Level 2 Judo		
Summary of Assimilation - Day 1		Summary of Assimilation - Day 2
The Complete Judo Coach 1	Minimum 8 weeks off-course preparation & Home study tasks	Safe & Effective Coaching Practice
Coaching Judo		The Complete Judo Coach 2
Coaching skills		
Developing Judo players		Developing Coaches

There are a number of pre-course tasks to complete which will help with the evidencing of the qualification requirements and candidates should have no trouble in completing these as they are essentially related to skills Coaches will have acquired in becoming a BJA Club Coach already; this has helped us to streamline the course and the commitment to complete these tasks pre-course is essential.

The two contact days are punctuated by a period of off-course study which along with the completion of a number of portfolio tasks include the planning, delivery and self-evaluation of six Coaching sessions within the Coaches own Club environment tailored to the needs of the players in those sessions. Day 2 rather than being interpreted as an 'Assessment' day should be considered a celebration and sharing of good practice among experienced and valued BJA Coaches.

It is more than likely that further bursaries will be available in the future via Regional Skills Academies and we will update the BJA web-site as soon as we have received any details, the programme of scheduled Assimilation events is still very much in Development and we will look to tailor that programme to take advantage of any future partnership funding opportunities.

Places are expected to go fast and it is advised to book early as those Coaches who have already registered an expression of interest have been notified directly.

For more information about the UKCC see <http://www.britishjudo.org.uk/technical/documents/UKCCFAQv2.pdf> or contact BJA National Coaching Manager at daveduffy@britishjudo.org.uk directly.