

International Programs Skills Development Lead Role Description

Reports to: USAFL National Program - General Manager

Key Links: USAFL International Program Director, International Program Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Support Staff, Players, and Club Coaches

Direct Reports: Skill Development Coaches (as deemed appropriate)

Employment Type: Volunteer

Position Duration: 3 years

The Role of the Skills Development Lead is to develop the fundamental skills of players in the USAFL International Program.

Responsibilities:

The Skills Development Lead is responsible for the skills development of all International players. Developing a skills development process that can be utilized by Club coaches to enhance the skill of all players of the USAFL is a desired outcome of the role.

The person must be able to demonstrate leadership of the national program values and behaviors, as well as that of the USAFL at all times.

The Skills Development Lead will report to the International Program General Manager.

The Skills Development Lead will be an integral member of the International Programs Football Department. The role will work very closely with both Head Coaches (Freedom and Revolution), along with the assistant Coaches and Reserves Coaches. They will also work with the Program's Medical, Programs Fitness and Strength, and Programs Data Analytics teams.

Role Expectations:

- Align to USAFL International Program Football & Coaching Strategy
- Develop and implement the USAFL International Program Player Skills Enhancement process. This will include a tracking matrix (or rubric) to track individual players skills level and improvement. The tracking matrix should take into account an individual player's position
- Assist in development of the USAFL International Program club drills library and linking the drills to individual skill development. This will require communication and alignment with the Head Coaches
- Drive the selection and usage of a digital library of Australia Football Skills and Drills that easily translates to the USA game
- Attend key games and events as outlined in the International Program Schedule, this includes training camps, Regional and National tournaments. Attendance at Games and international tournaments should be a goal, but does not preclude someone from this role
- Buying into and implementing the USAFL's International program Culture of player development and engagement. Work with the USAFL's Coach and Culture Advisors
- Provide input into the USAFL International Program selection process relating to the Skills component. This will require communication and alignment with the Head Coaches
- Attendance at USAFL Coaching meetings
- Encouraged to attend all AFL Coaching meetings (min 3 per year)
- Participate in a Coach Mentoring Program with a coach from Australia. If you do not currently have a mentor, the USAFL will match you with an appropriate mentor

- Develop an approach and a team of Skills Coaches throughout the country that can work directly with the players
- Building relationships with club-level coaches to accelerate the skill development of players
- Communication: the following expectations outline the cadence of communication.
 - Fortnightly Program Leadership meeting
 - Fortnightly Football Department meeting
 - Monthly All Players meetings
 - Support Assistant Coach meetings, as appropriate
 - Monthly Men's and Women's Player meeting with Coaches, as appropriate

The coach will be selected on a combination of criteria including:

- Previous AFL coaching experience
- Minimum Level 1 Coach Certification
- During the course of the Coaches tenure, they are expected to work towards attaining Level 2 (and ideally 3) Coach Certification (course costs to be reimbursed by the USAFL)
- Well-developed communication skills
- Leadership
- A demonstrated dedication to the USAFL
- An understanding of geographical challenges facing USAFL players
- Commitment to developing Australian Football in the United States and build new relationships with all relevant stakeholders
- An ability to teach new players the skills of Australian Football

The coach will be required to attend a certain number of regional camps per year as well as various selection games. This is a volunteer position. The appointed Lead will be required to pay the same proportion of costs as the players. Additional approved travel will be reimbursed. This position will be appointed to run through the end of 2026.