Role Description

Position: Head Coach
Team: Under 18 Men's
Club: Ainslie Football Club - Seniors
Season: 2027 (November 2026 – September 2027)

Background

The Ainslie Football Club (AFC) has a proud history of success at all levels of football. We strive to 'be the Club where people want to be', where every player, parent, coach, staff member, supporter and sponsor can join our pursuit of excellence, unity and success.

Our culture is built on tradition, respect, inclusion, commitment and integrity. As Head Coach, you will steward this history and help AFC continue to develop as a premier AFL club in Canberra.

Overview

The Under 18 Men's Head Coach leads the team's development, planning and delivering training, directing match-day strategy and giving players clear feedback. The role supports the club's One Club strategy through close work with Senior, Reserve and Community coaches, and prioritizes player wellbeing and requires about seven contact hours a week.

Applications

To be considered for this role, please submit a letter of interest addressing the following:

- **Coaching philosophy and experience**
  What is your coaching philosophy, and how has your coaching experience prepared you to develop players and the team? Include your current accreditation and plans for Level 2 (Silver).
- **One Club approach and culture**
  How would you support the One Club strategy and club values, working with Senior, Reserve and Community coaches?
- **Match day and wellbeing**
  How would you lead the squad on match day and at training, using analysis and feedback, and work with support staff to manage player wellbeing and injuries?

Please email applications to Annie Reeson (General Manager, Ainslie Football Club) via email to: manager@ainsliefootball.com.au

Role & Responsibilities

One Club

The Head Coach works closely with the Senior, Reserve and Community coaches to support the development pathway and One Club strategy. Integration across our playing groups helps attract and retain players, volunteers and sponsors, so coaches are expected to take a whole-of-club approach to player and squad development.

Coaches should at all times promote and uphold the Club's values, attend Club functions where possible, and inform players of opportunities across AFC.

Philosophy

The coach should have a strong coaching philosophy and a commitment to developing the team as a whole.

Specifically, this coach should:

- Set attainable goals and expectations for the team and players, including behaviour as AFC representatives.
- Develop individual and team skills and tactics at training and on match day.
- Foster a collaborative environment that supports individual growth.
- Demonstrate strong leadership, communication and interpersonal skills.
- Promote engagement between AFC teams and a strong culture of volunteering.

Match Day

- Attend matches, coordinate the team and execute game plans, player positions and in-game decisions.
- Give players feedback and work with support staff and coaches under pressure.
- Use game, individual and team performance analysis to support success.
- Attend senior grade games when applicable.

Training Nights

The Head Coach plans and delivers a clear training plan focused on skill and strategy development, in line with the senior playing structure.

Specifically, this coach should:

- Maintain strong player attendance.
- Plan and run drills within scheduled time allocations, based on session focus areas.
- Attend and contribute to Senior Match Selection Committee.
- Give players individual feedback and the team clear instruction.

Wellbeing & Support

A Head Coach should at all times:

- Ensure equipment and facilities are used safely and appropriately.
- Promote injury prevention and care, ensure injured players follow medical advice, and work with the trainer team for a safe return to play.
- Work proactively across club cohorts, including administrative staff, to align on player development, welfare and the game day experience.
- Draw on the expertise of Assistant Coach(es), Team Manager, trainers and support staff for the benefit of the playing group.

Expectations

The coach should be available for approximately 7 hours of contact per week during the season (February – September) at Alan Ray Oval or alternate venues, as follows:

- Tuesday: 2 hours, 4:30 - 6:30pm
- Thursday: 2 hours, 4:30 - 6:30pm
- Friday: 3 hours, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

The coach should also spend time outside contact hours on training and game plans, match review and collaboration with support staff.

This role reports to the General Manager, with accountabilities to the AFC President and Board of Directors.

Experience & Qualifications

Applicants should have coached their own teams (junior or senior), with sound knowledge of a range of coaching practices and of the skills and match-play techniques required at state level.

A minimum Level 1 (Bronze) AFL Coaching Accreditation is required, with a desire to achieve Level 2 (Silver).

Applicants must also:

- Hold a current Working with Vulnerable People Card.
- Agree to and promote the AFL ACT/NSW Code of Conduct.

Qualifications or experience in business and sports administration, sports sciences or other fields are desirable but not essential.