

WORKING IN SPORTS & RECREATION



Name

Dan Jones

Job Title

Football Development Officer

Company

Littledown Centre,
Bournemouth Borough Council

What are your main responsibilities?

I work with the Littledown Juniors Football Club doing admin during the week and hands-on organising on Saturday mornings. I also go into schools and deliver coaching sessions as well as schools coming here to us to use our facilities.

I look after the two adult football leagues which run on Wednesday and Sunday which are made up of 78 teams. I make the fixture lists, communicate them to the players, budget for the season, organise equipment, update the website, oversee the referees and liaise with the local football association.

Do you work alone or in a team?

I work within the children's programme department with another football development officer and then we have a manager for the children's programme as a whole. There are ten of us in total.

What would a typical day contain for you?

I get to work about 8am and check my emails. Then I might go out to a school and do a bit of coaching. I'd do more admin work in the afternoon, maybe posting news on the website. It's not really a nine-to-five job; I work flexi-time. My only set shifts are Monday and Wednesday evening until about 10.30pm.

How many members of the public do you meet on a day-to-day basis?

We have about 500 adults on a Wednesday and Sunday and 1,500 kids on a Saturday! I try and chat with as many people as possible; it's quite a sociable job.

What is your educational background?

I heard about the training provider Locomotivation through school and they got me a job with Littledown as a recreation assistant. After six months I moved onto a different centre within the authority to get a feel for a smaller, more community-based centre before moving back to Littledown. I began working on football part-time as an assistant and then progressed to full time which I've been doing for the past eighteen months.

I have just completed my Level 2 in sport and recreation, as well as my Football Association Level 2 course and I also have Level 1 hockey, tag rugby and try golf. I've also gone into schools and coached for AFC Bournemouth and Southampton.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The football coaching.

What do you like least?

Having to deal with discipline for the leagues can get a bit tricky.

What skills are important in your job?

Communication, people skills and organisation skills.

What are your career aspirations?

I'd like to move on to solely coaching, maybe going into schools or working for a club.

What is the funniest moment of your career so far?

A couple of months ago two really annoying kids that we coach were in the swimming pool and their mum came onto the poolside to get them out. Whilst I was watching on the balcony she went to grab one of them and ended up falling head first into the pool fully clothed!

What do your friends and family think about what you do?

They think it's great, probably one of the most constructive things I have done after leaving school.

What is the best way to get into the sport and recreation industry?

Stick at it when you first get into the industry as you have to work your way up, it doesn't just happen overnight. Experience is one of the most important things so keep gaining as much experience as possible.

Organisation Overview

Littledown centre is run by Bournemouth Borough Council. Littledown is the second busiest leisure centre in the UK. The centre is set in 47 acres of landscaped parkland, with a children's play area and lake. Littledown boasts six artificial football pitches and three swimming pools. Littledown Juniors Football Club was introduced by Reverend David Wiseman in 1988. He believed that there wasn't enough football activity for young children on a Saturday. Approximately 1,450 children aged between 4-14 years old play football at Littledown, and there are between 170-180 teams.

Key Facts

Personal Qualities

- Good communication and people skills
- An interest in health and fitness

Useful Websites

SkillsActive

www.skillsactive.com

The Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management

www.ilam.co.uk

Leisure Opportunities

www.leisureopportunities.co.uk

Jobs with Balls

www.jobswithballs.com



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