



Ivan Raykov

UEFA A Licensed Academy Coach

Youth Development Phase Specialist (U13-U18) | 11v11 Development | Match-Based Learning

UEFA A License

Active: 2016 - Present

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Glasgow, Scotland | Open to relocation

LinkedIn: ivan-nikolov-raykov

YouTube: Video Portfolio

Bulgarian (Native)

English (Fluent)

German (Fluent)

Spanish (Elementary)

UEFA A Licensed Academy Coach with experience working across U11-U18 in professional and high-performance environments. My coaching is centred on learning from real match situations, using Individual Learning Plans (ILPs), video analysis, and elite reference to support player decision-making and game understanding.

My training sessions are high-intensity and detail-oriented, designed to challenge players technically, tactically, and cognitively while maintaining clarity of learning. I have lived and worked abroad from an early age, moving to a boarding school in Bulgaria at 14 and later coaching internationally, which has shaped my adaptability and resilience in demanding environments.

I have coached within leading academies in the UK and Europe, contributing to the early development of players who have progressed to professional first-team football. Fluent in Bulgarian, English, and German, with conversational Spanish, I bring strong communication skills and cultural awareness to multidisciplinary academy settings.

Education, Qualifications & Professional Development



Education

University of Strathclyde

BA (Joint Hons) Journalism & Human Resource Management

Graduated 2016



Coaching Licences



UEFA A Licence Coach

2025



UEFA B Licence

2021



Certifications

- Level 2 Emergency First Aid in Football
- Safeguarding Children Certificate



Ongoing CPD

Focused on game-based learning, Individual Learning Plans (ILPs), and video-supported development



Elite Academy Internships



AC Milan, Atalanta, FC Barcelona & S.L.Benfica

- Completed academy internships with leading Italian sides AC Milan and Atalanta, Spanish giants FC Barcelona, as well as the most productive academy in the last 15 years, S.L.Benfica
- Observed training sessions, participated in discussions with coaching staff, academy directors, multidisciplinary staff
- Gained insight and understanding into the inner working of elite professional academies

Professional Experience



U17 Lead Coach

Greenock Morton FC

2026 - Present

Scotland - Scottish Championship | Elite Academy Environment

- Direct the technical and tactical development of the U17 squad, acting as a key transition point between Youth Development and senior football environments
- Lead Phase Management: Oversee all aspects of the U17 age group, ensuring high-potential players are prepared for progression into senior and first-team pathways
- Design and implement cohesive technical curriculum aligned with first-team philosophy while addressing individual development needs
- Utilize elite European training methodologies refined through internships at FC Barcelona and S.L. Benfica
- Lead integration of GPS performance metrics and advanced video analysis for objective feedback
- Serve as key link within Multidisciplinary Team (MDT), providing regular technical reports on player progression



Reference: Garry Miller (Head of Academy)

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Academy Coach (U11-U18)

Hamilton Academical FC

2023 - 2025

Scotland - Scottish Championship | Elite Academy Environment

- Lead coaching delivery across multiple Youth Development Phase age groups within the club's Player Development Model
- Designed and implemented match-based Individual Learning Plans using live match moments and video analysis
- Coached from the game on match days, informing post-match reflection, weekly objectives, and training design
- Designed weekly training cycles influenced by elite European academy methodologies, prioritising representative practice
- Developed and embedded collective behaviours in possession, pressing, and transitions across age phases
- Acted as key MDT contributor, supporting holistic player development and progression planning

⌚ Key Achievements

- ✓ More than 10 players developed or recruited have progressed to first-team debuts
- ✓ Multiple players earned transfers to English academies at age 16

⌚ [View match footage, ILPs, and coaching clips on YouTube](#)



Reference: David Garrett (Head of Youth)

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Head Coach (U10-U14)

Carolina Velocity FC

2024

United States - Competitive Youth Development

- Led coaching programmes across U10–U14, overseeing planning, delivery, and match-day operations
- Designed age-appropriate learning environments focused on decision-making, creativity, and confidence in possession
- Managed match days including selection, in-game coaching, and post-match reflection
- Created a positive, inclusive environment encouraging ownership and accountability



U23 Assistant Coach

Caledonian Braves FC

2022 - 2023

Scotland - Senior High-Performance Environment

- Supported the Head Coach in match preparation, in-game management, and post-match review within a promotion-focused senior environment
- Led opposition and self-analysis processes, delivering clear, video-supported feedback
- Applied game-based learning principles influenced by elite academy environments
- Contributed to Individual Learning Plans linked to match performance and positional demands
- Worked collaboratively within a multidisciplinary staff team to support progression into senior football



Reference: Ricky Waddell (Head Coach)



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2007 Head Coach

BSC Glasgow

2019 - 2022

Scotland - Foundation Phase Programme

- Led the long-term development of a foundation-age squad within a structured weekly programme
- Delivered age-appropriate sessions focused on technical quality, confidence in possession, and early game understanding
- Used match observation to identify learning priorities and drive individual development conversations
- Built strong relationships with players, parents, and staff to support a positive learning culture

Key Achievements

- ✓ Two players signed for St Johnstone FC, one for Hamilton Academical FC and one for Stirling Albion FC
- ✓ Four of five players put forward were selected for West of Scotland Regional Squad



U17 Head Coach

St Cadocs

2018 - 2019

Scotland - Youth Development Phase

- Planned and delivered a clear playing style across training and match days
- Led match-day operations including team selection, in-game coaching, and post-match reflection
- Supported individual player development through targeted feedback linked to match performance



U10 & U11 Head Coach

Botev Plovdiv Professional Academy

2016 - 2018

Bulgaria - Top-Tier Professional Academy (Category One Equivalent)

- Coached within one of Bulgaria's leading professional academies in a performance-driven environment
- Delivered sessions aligned with the club's technical and tactical framework
- Applied early ILP principles through match observation to accelerate decision-making and game understanding
- Emphasised technical quality, game intelligence, and creativity from an early age

Key Achievements

- ✓ Two players signed professional contracts with the Botev first team, one joined Italian club Ternana