

U16 Squad Assistant Job Description

The EBU's under-16 squad is an inclusive group of children who want to learn to play bridge at a high level. England International U16 teams are selected from it, but we also welcome improving young players who are not yet ready for international competition. There is no lower age limit, but typically children joining the squad are 10-15 years old. They leave the squad during the calendar year of their 15th birthday, and may then join our U21 squad. The training group has a very wide experience range, from near beginner through to national standard players. The U16 squad provides a development pathway for young players over their time within the group to improve at their own rate. Managing a wide range of age and experience provides a challenging but rewarding environment and opportunity for the coach to make a great difference.

Major Task List:

- Helping squad members to develop their bridge skills, offering teaching/coaching appropriate to the skill and experience of each player.
- Assisting in the running of online and face-to-face training sessions using platforms such as RealBridge and Zoom

Other possible tasks:

- Assisting in the development of training material/programs for the training group
- Providing input to selections for international events
- Captaining the U16 team at international events. There may be the option for assistants who are experienced enough players themselves to act as a NPC for the junior side.
- Team coaching when preparing for international events - targeted coaching for selected players.
- Assisting in the recruitment of new junior players.

Ideally the candidate should be a self-organised, motivated individual with good communication skills who is comfortable managing a large group of young people. Their bridge skills should be sufficiently advanced for them to be able to teach a wide range of bridge concepts and provide sound judgement on the progression of the young players.

The EBU is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all squad leaders/assistants and junior coaches to share this commitment. The Squad Assistant will be acting *in loco parentis* at training weekends and when accompanying junior teams to national and international events, and is subject to enhanced DBS disclosure. The candidate should be willing also to undertake relevant safeguarding training.

You would be working with an experienced Squad Assistant to help deliver the training (mostly online, some face-to-face) to this group.

Candidates for this position agree to abide by the [EBU Volunteer Code](#), [EBU Conflict of Interest Policy](#) and [EBU Code of Conduct](#).

July 2024