

Last Sunday, 13 people attended the Level One goalkeeping coaching course in Hobart, the first such course of its kind in Tasmania.

Dean May, head coach of the male football programme at the Tasmanian Institute of Sport, and a goalkeeping coach on the staff of Football Federation Australia, conducted the course. It covered the basics of goalkeeping and for coaches it will be a considerable tool in their arsenal as we seek to produce more keepers in Tasmania.

Be in no doubt, the goalkeeper is the most important player in the team and he or she requires specialist coaching.

Hopefully there will be more such goalkeeping courses to follow, plus others at a more advanced level.

A Junior Licence Course is scheduled for Saturday February 27 and Sunday February 28 at the KGV field in Hobart. The same weekend a similar course is in place for Launceston.

A maximum of 32 participants can attend each location. The sessions will be 10 am – 4 pm each day and the cost will be \$75 per person total.

There is no assessment for candidates, but full attendance will be required to obtain the licence.

The Junior Licence is aimed at coaches working with the under 8's and 9's, who play 7 v 7 and under 10's and under 11's, who play 9 v 9. With 8's and 9's the emphasis is on learning to act with the ball purposefully. With 10's and 11's, the emphasis is on learning to play together purposefully.

All coaches, who need no prior learning or experience, will work on both topics.

Hopefully these courses will be filled, as a Junior Licence course and a Grassroots course in northern Tasmania were shelved due to lack of registrants.

As coaches, volunteer or paid, we should look to improve knowledge at whatever level we are working. Coaches benefit as do players, especially younger age groups.

The Grassroots course is only a few hours and the junior and youth courses involve a weekend. There is no assessment involved at the Grassroots or junior level.

In further coaching news, I have just this week been given the go-ahead by the Asian Football Federation and Football Federation Australia to run C Licence courses in Tasmania.

While the senior licence is the last stage of the Community Coaching pathway, the C Licence is the first step in the Advanced Coaching pathway.

The curriculum for the C licence has not yet been finalized, so the earliest such a course could take place in Tasmania is towards the end of the year.

Footnote: On Monday, FFT welcomes Anthony Alexander, the new full-time Southern Development Officer. With Kurt Reynolds already in place as the Northern Development Officer, we now have the island covered.

Anthony comes to us from Capital Football, where he was a high performance coach.

Next week I will provide details on the areas in which Kurt and Anthony will be focussing, plus other exciting plans for the future.