

Sports Professional

What is it?

A Sports Professional involves having the elite ability to compete in a specific sport such as football, athletics, boxing etc at a professional level. You will have exceptional skills and be very dedicated to your chosen or specialised sport.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

There are no formal academic qualifications required normally as ability, dedication, and determination to succeed within your chosen sport are the key requirements to becoming a professional sportsperson.

Apprenticeship will require formal qualifications, usually 5 or more GCSEs grade 5 or above including English and Maths.

What the Work Involves:

Sports players are paid professionals who compete across the globe in their chosen sport, often in front of an audience. You could compete individually or as part of a team depending on the sport.

You will need to spend a great deal of time training to maintain high standards. You may also be required to attend social events.

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

Most professional sportspeople are spotted at an early age. Unfortunately, most professionals cannot earn a living playing their chosen sport.

Sports players	
Weekly Pay £1,290	Annual Pay £67,080
Hours/Week 39h	Hourly Pay £33
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 0.7%	Replacement 57.8%

The workforce is projected to grow by 0.7% over the period to 2027, creating 200 jobs. In the same period, 57.8% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 11,800 job openings.

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

You will need to have outstanding natural ability in your chosen sport. You must be very committed and have self-discipline to maintain continuous training. You must be mentally robust and be able to cope with pressure.

Money/Wage Guide:

Apprentice salary will be from £10,000 per year.

As a professional playing competitively, you will earn above £20,000 per year. Successful sports professionals can earn millions of pounds each year.

Related Opportunities:

- Fitness Instructor/Personal Trainer
- Outdoor Activities Instructor
- Sport Coach

Further Information:

Skills Active – www.skillsactive.com

Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme – www.tass.gov.uk