

Coaching Regulations and Requirements 2025-2026

Table of Contents

- 1. Introduction
 - 1.1 General
 - 1.2 Coach Registration & Licensing
 - 1.3 Accelerated Programme
 - 1.4 Course Content and Delivery
 - 1.5 Coach Progression Requirements
- 2. Safeguarding Requirements
- 3. Anti-Doping Education
- 4. IIHF Integrity
- 5. First Aid Requirements
- 6. Recertification
 - 6.1 Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- 7. DBS Requirements
- 8. Non-UK Qualifications (Equivalency)
- 9. Team Requirements
 - 9.1 Skills Demonstrators
 - 9.2 Minimum Bench Requirements – Match Days
 - 9.3 Kit & Equipment
- 10. Duty of Care
- 11. Appendices (A-D)

1. Introduction

The coach is responsible for leading the team in games and practices, preparing strategy, and selecting players. England Ice Hockey (EIH) is committed to ensuring coaching across England and Wales is delivered to a consistently high standard.

To achieve this, all coaches must meet minimum qualification requirements through EIH's coaching pathway in order to obtain their EIHA licence.

Beyond minimum standards, EIH supports coach development by offering recommended professional development opportunities and ensuring coaches remain up to date with changing regulations, practices, and best-in-class approaches.

As UK Coaching notes:

"Coaching qualifications offer formal recognition of a 'fit-for-purpose' coach—someone able to coach a specific sport or discipline, in a particular environment, to a recognised standard as defined by the governing body."

1.1 General

Mandatory Requirements for All Coaches

1. Registration & Compliance

- Be registered with England Ice Hockey (EIH) and an EIH-affiliated club.
- Have paid all required EIH fees and dues.
- Hold a valid EIH Enhanced DBS check (with Children's Barred List) through Vibrant Nation.

2. Knowledge & Conduct

- Understand the rules and regulations of the sport, including those specific to the age group and competition they coach.
- Follow the EIH Code of Conduct and comply with all EIH rules, regulations, and policies.
- Comply with UKAD's Anti-Doping Policy and the WADA Code.

3. Skills & Qualifications

- Be a competent skater.
- Hold a recognised EIH coaching qualification.
- Communicate effectively in English.

Data & evidence.

All compliance items (DBS, Safeguarding, First Aid, UKAD, IIHF, CPD) must be recorded.

1.2 Coach Registration & Licensing

Registration

- All coaches must register directly with England Ice Hockey (EIH) using the online portal.
- Registrations must be approved by EIH before a coach's licence and insurance are confirmed.
- For more information on registration requirements and terms, see Section 1 of the EIH Rule Book.

Coaching Qualifications

EIH currently recognises the following coaching qualifications:

- Foundation Coach

- Level 1 – Assistant Coach
- Level 2 – Team Coach
- Level 3 – Advanced Coach (delivered by IHUK)

Membership & Activity Requirements

- A coach is not required to maintain EIH membership for the full duration of their qualification's validity.
- However, they must hold an active EIH membership in order to coach at any EIH-sanctioned competition.
- Coaches who have been inactive for more than three seasons will be required to undertake a refresher or revalidation process (details set out in the Rule Book).

1.3 Accelerated Programme

The Accelerated Coaching Programme provides a pathway for experienced players to transition into coaching and obtain an EIH coaching licence more quickly.

For the 2025/26 season, the programme is under review. Further details, including eligibility criteria and updated requirements, will be published once the review is complete.

1.4 Course Content and Delivery

EIH coaching courses are designed to ensure coaches are fully trained in both coaching methodology and the technical elements of ice hockey. Courses are delivered through a combination of e-learning and in-person sessions, with a brief syllabus outlined in the table below.

EIH reserves the right to update course content as required.

This pathway applies to all new coaches and to any coach seeking to progress their certification from July 2025 onwards.

Course	Foundation Coach	Level 1 Assistant Coach	Level 2 Team Coach
EIH Enhanced DBS check via Vibrant Nation	•	•	•
Level 8 skating signed off by coach (except Para)	•	•	•
Safeguarding Essentials	•	•	•
Basic First Aid		•	•
UK Coaching E-Learning Modules			
How to: Plan, Coach, Reflect (Formerly How to Coach: Plan, Do, Review)	•	•	•
Duty to Care	•	•	•
Sudden Cardiac Arrest		•	•
Creating a Successful Coaching Environment (Formerly Inspiring Positive Behaviour in Sport)		•	•
Mental Health Awareness for Sport and Physical Activity		•	•
Concussion Awareness for Coaches		•	•
In-person courses			
Level 1 Ice Hockey specific course		•	
Level 2 Ice Hockey specific course			•

Additional courses			
UKAD Coach Clean			•
IIHF Integrity: Focus on coaches			•

1. 5 Coach Progression Requirements

- Coaches must complete each qualification level in order before moving to the next, and all required courses must be finished to receive a full licence.
- Exceptions:
 - The Safeguarding in Sport, UKAD Coach Clean and IIHF Integrity Course must be completed by **30 November 2025**.
 - Anyone who has already attended a Level 1 or Level 2 Ice Hockey-specific course does not need to retake it.
- Experience requirement: Level 1 coaches must complete at least one season of coaching before progressing to Level 2.
- DBS checks: If not on the Update Service, the Disclosure must be dated 1 August 2023 or later (not required for U18s or Recreational Section).
- Recertification: See Section 6.

2. Safeguarding requirements

All coaches must complete the **Safeguarding Essentials** online training by **30 November 2025**, and annually thereafter by **30 November** each season. (Previously used labels such as “Safeguarding in Sport” refer to this module.)

The **Safeguarding Essentials** course is **free and open to everyone**:

OLCreate: [Safeguarding in Sport](#)

This online course begins with **Safeguarding Essentials**, a short module designed to increase awareness of safeguarding, why it’s important, and how to apply it in a sporting context. Completion of this module is **mandatory** for all participants.

In addition, we **recommend** that learners take the **Safeguarding Practice** and **Effective Safeguarding** modules at their own pace. These are optional, but provide further insight and practical tools to strengthen safeguarding in sport.

The course was developed with the support of global sport partners including the Commonwealth Games Federation, World Rugby, World Athletics, and others.

Completion of the Safeguarding Essentials training is part of EIH’s **minimum standards** and supports our collective commitment to safe, inclusive participation across all levels of ice hockey.

Recommended free e-learning:

- [Keep Your Child Safe](#)
- [Safeguarding for all](#)

- [Safeguarding for Committee Members](#)

Workplace safeguarding

Accredited workplace safeguarding, for example from a school, hospital or emergency services may be accepted as equivalent to the requirements outlined above. Please submit your certificate to England Ice Hockey for consideration of equivalency.

3. Anti-Doping Education

As part of England Ice Hockey's commitment to clean sport, and in line with UKAD and IHUK policies, mandatory anti-doping education is being introduced for coaches.

- Requirement: Complete UKAD Coach Clean annually by **30 November** each season (first due date: **30 Nov 2025**). Evidence: upload certificate to the EIH Coach Portal. Foundation and Level 1 coaches are strongly encouraged to complete this module (counts toward CPD) (<https://www.ukad.org.uk/coach-clean>).
 - Evidence: Certificates must be submitted to EIH to confirm completion.
 - Recommendation: Foundation and Level 1 coaches are strongly encouraged to complete this course, which can also count towards CPD requirements.
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4. IIHF Integrity

To support integrity in coaching, England Ice Hockey is also introducing mandatory training in partnership with the IIHF.

- Requirement: Complete IIHF "Integrity: Focus on Coaches" annually by **30 November** each season (first due date: **30 Nov 2025**). Evidence: upload certificate. Foundation and Level 1 coaches are strongly encouraged (counts toward CPD). (<https://cloud.primals.com/ns/iihf>).
 - Evidence: Certificates must be submitted to EIH to confirm completion.
 - Recommendation: Foundation and Level 1 coaches are strongly encouraged to complete this course, which can also count towards CPD requirements.
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5. First Aid Requirements

Creating a safe environment starts with preparation. Ice hockey is a contact sport, and all coaches must have the skills to respond if a player is injured.

Basic First Aid

- Mandatory: All coaches must hold a recognised Basic First Aid certificate (valid for three years). If a coach does not currently hold First Aid, it must be completed by **30 November 2025**, then renewed every three years. (EIH accepts the listed online courses for basic compliance; note they do not confer "qualified first aider" status.)
- Course types accepted: Certificates must come from an awarding body or NGB. Accepted examples include:
 - FA Introduction to First Aid in Football (online)

- Emergency First Aid in Rugby Union (online or in person)
- Training Express Sports First Aid (online)
- Pro Trainings UK Sports First Aid Level 3 (online)
- Note: Fully online courses do not make the learner a qualified first aider, but EIH accepts them for basic first aid compliance.
- Skills covered: Courses must include core elements such as:
 - Assessing an incident
 - Managing an unresponsive casualty
 - Treating minor injuries
 - Basic life saving skills

Allied health professionals are asked to provide a copy of their license and registration number for approval, alongside an up-to-date CPD record. A first aid qualification or equivalent is required.

The following are considered Allied Health Professionals for the purposes of this document.

- Paramedics with IHCD paramedic course; Paramedic foundation degree or MSc in Paramedical Science, registered with the HCPC who have proof of regular annual training and are currently practising on the road or in a training centre.
 - Nurses registered with NMC currently working in an emergency environment (Emergency department)
 - Therapists with a Graduate qualification in sports therapy or rehabilitation who also hold registration with SST, STA or BASRAT.
 - Physiotherapists registered with the HCPC
 - Doctors registered with the GMC
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6. Recertification (3 year-cycle)

Coach education is ongoing. To keep a licence active, coaches must stay current with both technical development and core compliance.

Core requirements

- Safeguarding Essentials: Annual refresher.
 - First Aid: Valid for three years (refresher or new course when expired).
 - CPD (Continuing Professional Development):
 - Level 1: at least 2 CPD activities every 3 years
 - Level 2 and above: at least 4 CPD activities every 3 years
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6.1 Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Keep CPD practical and flexible. Minimums over a 3-year cycle: Level 1 – 2 activities; Level 2+ – 4 activities. We recommend spreading learning evenly across the cycle.

What counts (examples)

- EIH/IHUK/IIHF workshops or seminars
- Online modules (e.g., UK Coaching, UKAD Coach Clean, IIHF Integrity)
- Coaching at EIH events or development camps
- Other recognised sport-related courses

Evidence

- Submit certificates or attendance confirmations to EIH (brief reflection only if no certificate is issued).
- EIH may approve or decline activities for CPD credit.

Summary

- Safeguarding: annual (by 30 Nov).
- First Aid: every 3 years.
- CPD (3-year cycle): Level 1 – 2 activities over 3 years; Level 2+ – 4 activities over 3 years. Activities may include EIH/IHUK/IIHF workshops, UK Coaching modules, UKAD/IIHF courses, or approved equivalents. Log CPD in the EIH Coach Portal within 14 days of completion.

7. DBS requirements

To help ensure a safe environment for all participants, **EIH requires Enhanced DBS checks (with Children's Barred List)** for individuals working regularly with children (U18s) in designated roles.

An **Enhanced DBS check is required** for all coaches.

How to Apply

All DBS checks must be completed **via EIH's provider: [Vibrant Nation](#)**.

- Applications must be initiated by the club's **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** through the Vibrant Nation portal.
- Only **Enhanced DBS checks with Children's Barred List** are accepted.
- EIH will cover the cost of the **first DBS check**.
- Individuals must present their DBS certificate to their club DSL for verification and recording.

Validity & Update Service

- DBS certificates are **valid for three (3) years** from the issue date.
- **If not subscribed to the Update Service**, individuals will need to **renew** their DBS via Vibrant Nation every 3 years **at their own cost**.
- **If subscribed to the DBS Update Service (free for volunteers)**, EIH can verify annually without requiring a new check.

For the **2025–26** season, DBS certificates **not** on the Update Service must be dated **1 August 2023 or later** to be considered valid.

Additional Requirements for First-Year Registrants with International Residence

All first-time registrants are required to complete the standard UK screening requirements applicable to their role (e.g. DBS checks, safeguarding training, first aid, etc.) at the point of registration.

In addition, any individual registering for the first time with EIH who has lived outside the UK within the last 5 years must also provide a certificate of good conduct or equivalent police check from each country of residence during that period (translated into English if necessary).

Following completion of the first year of registration and continued involvement in the sport, these individuals will remain subject to the same ongoing renewal requirements as all other registrants (e.g. DBS update service, safeguarding refreshers, etc.).

For any questions or further guidance, please contact:

safeguarding@englandicehockey.com

8. Non-UK Qualifications (Equivalency)

Who this applies to: Coaches trained outside the IHUK/EIH jurisdiction.

What can be recognised: The ice-hockey-specific in-person coaching certificate issued by an IIHF-recognised national association.

Minimum evidence required:

- A copy of the coaching certificate (held within the last 3 years), and
- A brief written reference from the club(s) where the coach has worked.

What still must be completed: All EIH requirements (e.g., Safeguarding Essentials, First Aid, CPD) in addition to any recognised non-UK certificate. The EIH in-person ice hockey course is not required where equivalency is granted.

Decision & conditions: EIH will assign an equivalent EIH level once evidence is verified and may require additional training where gaps are identified.

Right to work: Non-UK residents must hold the correct UK work permission before registering with EIH.

9. Team Requirements

Lead coach & age

- A Level 2 (or above) coach must be in charge and present on the ice and on the bench for all junior and senior teams, including practices, games, camps, and hockey schools.
- The minimum age to be in charge is 18.

Recreational hockey

- No mandatory level, but it is recommended that at least a Level 1 coach is present.*

On-ice coaching ratios (minimum)

Players Minimum staffing

1–20	1 × Level 2 coach + 1 × Level 1 coach
21–30	1 × Level 2 coach + 2 × Level 1 coaches
31–40	2 × Level 2 coaches + 2 × Level 1 coaches
41–60	3 × Level 2 coaches + 3 × Level 1 coaches

Safeguarding supervision ratios (off-ice/headcount guidance)

Age group Adult : Children

U10	1 : 10
U18	1 : 12

Substitutions & notes

- Any Level 1 or Level 2 coach may be replaced by a more highly qualified coach.
- Player-coaches do not count toward the ratios while actively playing.
- Anyone assisting on the ice must be EIH-qualified and registered to at least Foundation Coach level.

*Clubs remain responsible for risk assessment and ensuring appropriate cover for recreational activity.

9.1 Skills Demonstrators

- Supervision: May be used only under the direct supervision of a registered Level 2 coach (or higher).
- Ratios: Demonstrators do not count toward coach–player ratios.
- Safeguarding: Must follow all EIH safeguarding policies. A DBS is not required for this role due to close supervision.

What demonstrators may do

- Set out equipment
- Demonstrate skills/drills
- Shoot for goalkeeper practice

What demonstrators may not do

- Coach or give instruction / run drills
- Take part in games or scrimmages

Who can act as a demonstrator

- Registered adult players may demonstrate but must not coach.
- Players aged 16–17 may demonstrate only in full playing kit (helmet with cage).

Safety

- All demonstrators must wear an approved ice hockey helmet on the ice.

Insurance

- Using unqualified or unregistered on-ice assistants will void insurance.

Note: These requirements also apply to recreational teams where any U18 players are on the ice.

9.2 Minimum Bench Requirements – Match Days

Admin

- All bench staff — including player-coaches — must be named on the team list with their licence number.
- Registered coaches and managers must have their EIHF Registration number for the duration of the game.
- No one under 18 may take charge of the bench.

At puck drop (each team must have):

- Person in charge: 18+ and an EIHF Level 2 (or above) coach not playing in the fixture.
- Additional coach: At least one Level 1 (or above) coach on the bench.
- Strongly recommended: A Team Manager on the bench.

If the Level 2 in charge is ejected or leaves:

- Another Level 2 (or above) must immediately take charge.
- If none is available, a listed Level 2 player-coach may assume control only if they cease playing for the rest of the game and were denoted as player-coach on the team list before the game.
- Level 1 coaches and Team Managers cannot take charge under any circumstances.

If minimum standards cannot be met:

- The game must be abandoned; this is a failure to fulfil the fixture.
- Officials may, if safe, allow the match to proceed as a challenge game (result not counting toward competition).

Temporary bench dispensation – 2025/26 (to 30 Nov 2025)

To support transition and data consolidation, coaches with requirements in progress (e.g., DBS verification, Safeguarding, First Aid, UKAD/IIHF) may be on the bench until 30 Nov 2025, subject to:

- The coach is registered and shown as pending in the EIH Coach Portal; outstanding items and target dates are logged.
- Safeguarding controls: no 1-to-1 unsupervised activity; two-adult rule; a fully compliant Level 2 coach is named as person in charge.
- From 1 Dec 2025, bench access requires full compliance. No exceptions.
(*This dispensation does not override the requirement for a Level 2 coach in charge.*)

9.3 Kit & Equipment

Standards: EIH follows IIHF equipment standards.

- **Coach PPE (on-ice):**
 - **Mandatory:** A certified ice hockey helmet with the chin strap fastened.
 - **Recommended:** An ice hockey neck guard, properly secured.
- **Foundation Coaches aged 16–17:**
 - May wear a half visor (instead of the full cage/visor required for U18 players).
 - Not permitted to participate in gameplay drills or scrimmages.
- **Player equipment compliance:**
 - Coaches must ensure players wear approved helmets and face protection, sticks, and gloves, in line with Section 4.
 - Wherever possible, players should also wear ice hockey skates, elbow pads, and shin guards (full kit recommended).
- **Pucks (mini hockey): Use lightweight (blue) pucks for U9/U10.**

10. Duty of Care

Coaches and clubs have a duty of care to meet all standards set out in this section. Non-compliance may result in disciplinary action under EIH's DOPS Policy (including conduct bringing the game into disrepute).

- **Safeguarding:** Any breach involving children or vulnerable adults will be escalated and investigated as a safeguarding concern (in addition to any DOPS action).
- **Unqualified coaching:** Where it is proven that a person has coached while unqualified, that individual will be ineligible to attend an EIH coaching course or register as a coach for 12 months. The club may also face sanctions from the relevant DOPS Committee.

Sanctions are applied following investigation and in line with DOPS procedures.

11. Appendices

- A – Foundation Coach (Entry Level)
- B – Level 1 – Assistant Coach
- C – Level 2 – Team Coach
- D – Contacts

Appendix A: Foundation Coach (Entry Level)

Purpose

Entry point to the coaching pathway. Supports a Level 2+ coach on-ice and on the bench.
Not permitted to run sessions/games or manage the bench.

Mandatory modules

- Safeguarding Essential (yearly)
- UK Coaching: How to Plan, Coach, Reflect (refresh every 3 years)
- UK Coaching: Duty to Care (refresh every 3 years)

Who it's for: New volunteers looking to begin coaching and support club delivery.

Prerequisites

- Age 16+
- Registered as a coach with EIH and with an EIH-affiliated club
- Enhanced DBS (Children's Barred List) via Vibrant Nation (through EIH)
- Level 8 skating proficiency signed off by Club Head Coach

Delivery & assessment

- Fully e-learning, self-paced.
- Complete by 30 November 2025

Bench status

May support the bench; cannot manage the bench.

Progression to Level 1

- Foundation modules completed
- 25+ logged coaching hours (signed by Club Head Coach)
- Age 17+

Competency outcomes (summary)

- Role & conduct: knows assistant coach boundaries; codes of conduct; works as part of a team.
- Inclusive practice: adapts communication; supports diverse participants.
- Coaching basics: helps set up, demonstrates skills safely, supports warm-ups/cool-downs, gives simple feedback.
- Safety & safeguarding: understands duty of care, incident response, and reporting lines.
- Reflective practice: seeks feedback and identifies next steps in development.

Appendix B: Level 1 – Assistant Coach

Purpose

Assists delivery of coaching under the direct supervision of a more-qualified coach. May lead activities planned by a Level 2+ coach and contribute to session reviews. Not permitted to manage the bench.

Mandatory modules

(complete before coaching; refresh as noted)

- Safeguarding Essentials – (yearly)
- Basic First Aid – valid 3 years
- UK Coaching: Duty to Care (every 3 years)
- UK Coaching: Get into Coaching (every 3 years)
- UK Coaching: Creating a Successful Coaching Environment (every 3 years)
- UK Coaching: Mental Health Awareness for Sport (every 3 years)
- UK Coaching: Sudden Cardiac Arrest (every 3 years)
- UK Coaching: Concussion Awareness for Coaches (every 3 years)
- EIH Level 1 Ice Hockey-specific workshop (in-person)

Who it's for

Foundation Coaches progressing on the pathway and aiming to help deliver quality sessions.

Prerequisites

- Age 16+
- Registered as a coach with EIH and with an EIH-affiliated club
- Enhanced DBS (Children's Barred List) via Vibrant Nation (through EIH)
- Level 8 skating proficiency (signed by Club Head Coach)
- Foundation Coach modules completed

Delivery & assessment

- Mostly e-learning (self-paced) plus in-person Level 1 workshop.
- Complete e-learning by **28 February 2026**
- Workshop dates published on the EIH website.

Maintaining licence

CPD: 2 activities over 3 years; Safeguarding: annual by 30 Nov; First Aid: every 3 years.

Bench status

Level 1 coaches cannot manage the bench.

Progression to Level 2

Eligible when all three are met:

- 10+ months as a fully registered EIH Level 1 coach
- 50+ logged coaching hours (signed by Club Team Coach)
- Level 1 status maintained (including safeguarding/first aid/CPD)

Competency outcomes (summary)

- Role & conduct: works within assistant-coach boundaries; models codes of conduct; supports safe practice.
- Inclusive delivery: adapts communication; supports diverse participants and learning styles.
- Coaching process: prepares environment, leads planned activities, supports warm-ups/cool-downs, gives basic feedback, contributes to reviews.
- Growth mindset: seeks feedback; maintains a simple personal development plan.

Appendix C: Level 2 – Team Coach

Purpose

Leads and delivers coaching sessions; plans programmes; manages the bench; mentors/supports Level 1 coaches.

Mandatory modules

(complete before being licensed as Level 2; refresh as shown)

- Safeguarding Essentials – (yearly)
- Basic First Aid – valid 3 years
- UKAD Coach Clean – (yearly)
- IIHF “Integrity: Focus on Coaches” – (yearly)
- EIH Level 2 Ice Hockey-specific workshop (in-person)

Timing: Existing Level 2 coaches must complete Coach Clean and IIHF Integrity by 30 November 2025. New Level 2 (2025/26 cohort).

Who it’s for

Level 1 coaches progressing to independently lead high-quality sessions and manage a team bench.

Prerequisites

- Age 18+
- Registered as a coach with EIH and with an EIH-affiliated club
- Enhanced DBS (Children’s Barred List) via Vibrant Nation (through EIH)
- Level 8 skating proficiency (signed by Club Head Coach)
- Level 1 completed
- Minimum 10 months as Level 1 and 50+ logged coaching hours (signed by Club Head Coach)

Delivery & assessment

- Mostly e-learning plus the in-person Level 2 workshop
- You cannot coach as Level 2 / manage the bench until all modules are completed and recorded
- Workshop dates: published on the EIH website

Maintaining licence

CPD: 4 activities over 3 years; Safeguarding: annual by 30 Nov; First Aid: every 3 years; UKAD Coach Clean & IIHF Integrity: annual by 30 Nov.

Bench status

Level 2 coaches may manage the bench.

Competency outcomes (summary)

- Leadership & conduct: runs sessions safely; sets standards; models codes of conduct; manages assistant coaches
- Inclusive delivery: plans and adapts for age/stage, ability, and protected characteristics
- Programme planning: designs progressive, goal-linked sessions and season plans; risk assesses environment
- Technical/Tactical coaching: delivers accurate demonstrations; develops skills; prepares for competition; supports RTP after injury
- Analysis & review: observes, analyses, and provides constructive feedback; uses Plan–Do–Review
- Mentoring & development: supports Level 1 coaches; maintains own CPD and reflective practice

Appendix D: Contacts

EIH Director for Coaching

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General Manager for Coaching

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Education programme administrator

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Operational support and general enquiries

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