



SPIRIT OF YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Handbook 2024/2025

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www.spiritofyouthjfc.co.uk



**ACCREDITED
CLUB**
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

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Coach me, I will learn.

Challenge me, I will improve.

Believe in me, I will grow.



Introduction

The Club Handbook is for players, parents, and club volunteers.

It is intended to give an overview of Spirit of Youth JFC to prospective participants and to provide anyone involved with the club with some useful information.

Club Committee

Position	Name	Email	Mobile
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Head of Football Foundation Phase	Shannon Pack	s.lucy.pack@gmail.com	07547347181
Head of Football Development Phase	Paul Dignan	treasurer@spiritofyouthjfc.co.uk	07500983001
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Sponsorship Officer	Anthony Claxton	sponsorship@spiritofyouthjfc.co.uk	07525158882
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Social Media Officer	Donna Bowkett	lizzyfripmop@yahoo.co.uk	07958046764

About the Club

Spirit of Youth JFC was founded in 1977 by Alf Hearsum, with a group of boys from the local area. Since those early days the club has established itself as one of the largest youth football organisations in Blackpool, with more th3-year-olds and girls playing in 21 teams and development squads.

Today, Spirit of Youth JFC is run by a management committee, which appoints managers and coaches to offer football for players from 3 year old right though to adulthood. We offer football for all those in the area that want to play, regardless of ability, as far as space and facilities allow. Our challenge is to help all those that want to play to have fun, make friends, learn to play the game and learn to love playing the game, in a safe and progressive environment.

We fully support the FA Respect program and require all parents and players to sign up to our codes of conduct when joining the club. Our coaching staff are focused on a clear footballing philosophy of playing through the three-thirds of the pitch, quality of passing, quality of receiving, intelligent movement and support off the ball, penetrative/ incisive attacking play, and counter attacking. Our aim is to bring out the best in all our players, creating opportunities to play football for each player from 3 year old right through to adult football, whatever their standard and is why the club was awarded the coveted FA Accreditation Mark.

Those with potential to play at a higher standard often get the opportunity to spend time at academies who we have regular contact with. As a club we want to see our players making the transition to adult football and many have moved through the various local teams in Lancashire. We are also very proud to have our partnership with local kit supplier Verve Sport and look forward to be able to work closely with them to further improve the standards of football in the community through their support. We encourage participation in the game in ways other than just playing, with a thriving

youth coaching program helping those that want to go on and do the FA Level 1 coaching qualification sponsored by the club. We also run a series of events during the year to help secure further fundraising in order to keep membership fees low, so everyone has the chance to join and play the game.

But the club is about more than just football. With both youth and open age young adult football and a long tradition of football participation we are at the heart of community life, serving as a social conduit for both players and parents alike, often the start of friendships for life. None of this would be possible without the help and support of so many volunteers who give their time for free to help run the club, and as we continue to expand, we need more and more support. What we do is hugely worthwhile and benefits many. If you think you might be able to give a little time to help us to continue to maintain and develop our club, or require further information about the club, please e-mail our general secretary at soyfcsecretary@sky.com.

England Football Accredited

We are proud to be an England Football Accredited club. This is an award given by the Football Association to clubs and leagues who demonstrate they offer well run and sustainable football.

Those who achieve accredited status are proud to prioritise qualified coaching and safeguarding as well as the values of The FA's Respect Programme as part of their game.

We take accredited status very seriously, and all players, managers, coaches, and spectators are expected to adhere to our codes of conduct and to the FA Respect guidelines.

Our ethos

Spirit of Youth Football Club (SOYFC) aims to provide all the boys and girls at the club the maximum opportunity to develop their football, personal, social, educational and sporting skills to their full potential. We place the children's welfare and enjoyment central to all decisions we make.

SOYFC is non-political and non-discriminatory. The club welcomes children regardless of ability, experience or life circumstances because we believe that football should be available for all that want to play the game.

Good sportsmanship is considered an essential part of SOYFC membership and for all teams regardless of the competition being played.

We want all our players at all levels to improve, be competitive and enjoy winning, but not at all costs. Instead, we want football to be played in the correct spirit, fairly, where ideas, creativity and therefore often mistakes on the pitch are encouraged, and everybody is welcome to play.

It is important players of all ages develop whilst having fun, which creates the correct tone in order to progress. Progression occurs over years, not months and weeks. Our players play football in a positive, inclusive, safe and enjoyable environment, where ability is not the only focus. We believe our football will be competitive if played in this way and individuals/teams will over time develop towards their potential if treated in this way. This is our goal.

0.0017% of grass roots footballers will play in the Premiership 100% will be members of society.

Working Principals

Approach

- 1) We keep a passive approach during match days and training, with recognition that players cannot play football by remote control. Players need to have as much guidance in training as they can, and when they run over the white line, it is their game. They make the decisions.
- 2) We praise every one of those decisions, vocally and individually.
- 3) There are a number of teams who bark instructions, sometime very frequently, sometimes bordering on aggressively, from the touchline, both on match days and in training. This is not what we do and will not be tolerated by any of our coaches, volunteers or spectators. A calm, measured, supportive presence is how we work.
- 4) We know matches are important, we all have tight games/cup games we want to win. etc. This can easily turn into a shouting match from the touchlines. What are the implications of this?
 - Players can feel embarrassed or ridiculed.

- Players are not permitted to decide for themselves over time, they rely on instruction.
 - Players can become confused.
 - It can set the tone for parents to join in.
- 5) Over time, self-reliant footballing decisions, positioning, anticipation, vision, confidence, experience etc. will accumulate. Football development happens over years, not over a single season. Our progress over the longer term will be stronger as individuals and teams with a more passive and inclusive approach.
- Communication
- 6) Match day communication from coaches come from positive vocal support used sparingly, or quarter/half time breaks, or by calling players over quietly during a dead ball moment, or by communicating messages through the players. Positive praise should also be given for both teams.
- 7) Vocal support should be entirely praising, encouraging and reinforcing the positive. Errors should be softened. E.g. unlucky, nearly, 'could see what you were trying, 'not quite.
- 8) Specific instruction should be loosened e.g. 'Markup', 'positions', instead of, e.g. 'Mark no 10'. We let players think for themselves with coaches guiding not instructing.
- 9) Players are taught to communicate with each other and taught to make their own decisions and help teammates make their decisions without the coaches doing this at volume. Inclusive is good. Self-reliance is good.

Compliance with Coach's Directions

- 10) Players are expected to comply with the reasonable requirements of the coaches, including positions and tactically. It is fine for players to be creative, experiment and make mistakes, within the boundary of coach's directions and set up for a match. There will be matches where players will not be into their 'normal' positions or be required to play with 'less' creativity e.g. in a tight game. This is at the Team manager's discretion at any time. However, in the main, there will be ample opportunity to experiment on the pitch over the course of a season. However, we do have an expectation of our players to ensure they show respect for all coaches, club officials and their fellow team mates.

Compliance with the Official's Decisions

- 11) Players having a go at the referee/linesman is not the way we play. Any players doing this should be taken off the field of play and reminded of the clubs expectations you can Call it a sin bin. Further measures should be considered if the issue persists including being dropped from the team activities for a period of time. Any officials can and will make mistakes, we must however recognise that mistakes are just that. Mistakes. Many of our referees are children and are learning themselves They have a hard job, and we need them so please show them respect.

Player development

We encourage all children to reach their true potential in football by applying the FA's four corner model. This model was developed by the FA to aid coaches with their planning and delivery of grassroots coaching sessions. The aim is to encourage coaches to prepare their sessions more intricately and consider the impacts their coaching has on the players they work with.

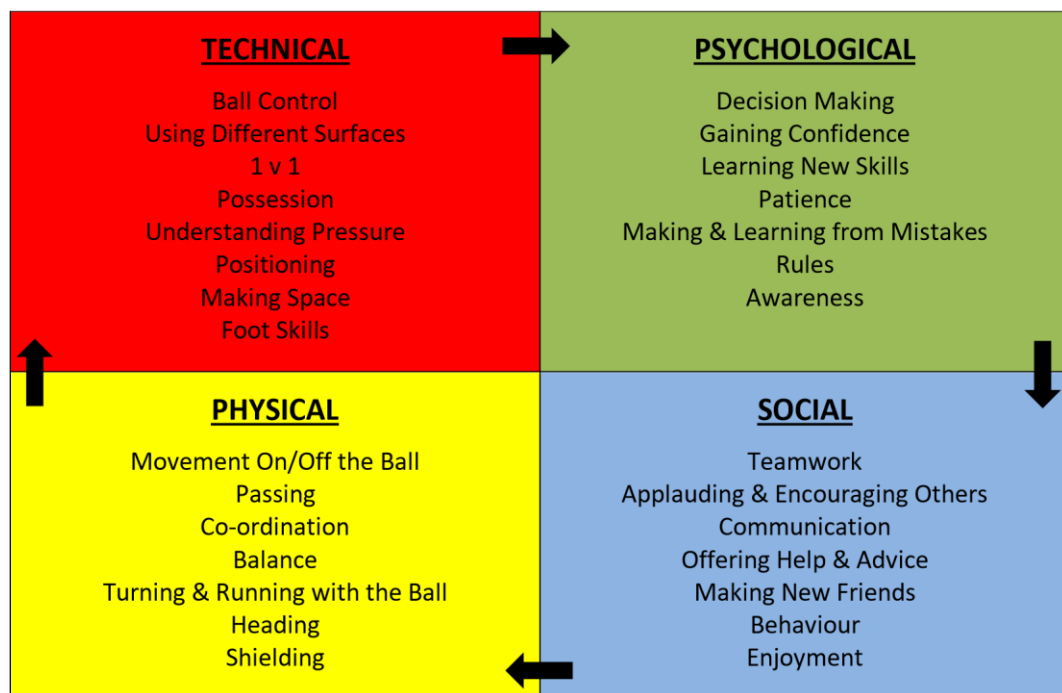
The four corners are defined as:

Technical – football skills 'on the ball'

Psychological – mental attributes

Physical – movement within the game

Social – Interactions with other participants



This development approach also means that the score is not the most important thing. The “final result of the match” is an adult orientated view of football not always shared by children. This is why SOYFC Coaches, particularly in the mini soccer section where results are not recorded or published, will focus children away from the result of the game and more onto the way they are playing or developing or their effort to do what they have learned.

Squad sizes

SOYFC recommend the following squad sizes:

Age groups	Match format	Squad size
U6 development		
U7 & U8	5 vs 5	7-8 players
U9 & U10	7 vs 7	9-11 players
U11 & U12	9 vs 9	11 - 14 players
U13 up	11 vs 11	14 - 18 players

We recognise that there needs to be some flexibility according to the needs of the players. Some teams may wish to have additional squad members if the numbers of committed regular players is not at a stable level or if there are long term injuries for example.

There may be scope for players to join the club for training only, possibly moving into match squads in time when numbers permit – as long as player registration processes are completed.

Playing time

We cannot always guarantee that all players get exactly the same playing time in matches because it is difficult for coaches to monitor and depending on squad numbers it may not always be possible.

For younger age groups (U10 and below) it is good practice for coaches to try to ensure that each player plays at least half of any match for which they are selected.

For older age groups with larger squads some managers/coaches may choose to use a rota basis in order to ensure that all players present get some playing time on a match day. Coaches need to have some flexibility in order to respond to a variety of factors including players' availability, injuries, commitments, etc.

Coaches will communicate their approach at the start of the season so that expectations of players/parents are clear.

Managing playing time and expectations is one of the most challenging aspects of coaching youth football, so we ask that parents/guardians are understanding of this and raise any concerns they have in a constructive approach.

Streaming

The issues of 'streaming' can be one of the most divisive issues in youth football, so we want to make clear our club approach.

At SOYFC our guiding principle is that we want to provide opportunity for all players, irrespective of their technical development. However, we recognise that, in order to provide development opportunities for *all* players, some streaming in certain age groups may be beneficial.

Teams playing 5-a-side and 7-a-side football (U7 to U10 leagues) should not be streamed via any format unless organised by the league due to cup finals etc. Instead, it is the role of the coaches during these initial years to develop the players within the teams, and to work together as a collective age group squad. Our experience is that young players flourish and develop faster and better in a non-streamed environment. This is in line with latest FA guidelines that place inclusion and player development foremost.

In exceptional circumstances (such as the need to balance team numbers within a year group), the club may support the movement of players between teams at these age groups, but only where there is a positive benefit to everyone concerned.

In all situations prior permission must be sought from all participants of any event/game or training to establish that everyone gives consent for images to be shared. If permission is not granted by everyone no streaming should take place.

Written and signed consent must be provided to the club secretary prior to any event streaming.

Health, Safety & Welfare

We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. Spirit of Youth Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

All club volunteers have a valid DBS and have completed the FA Safeguarding Children course.

The club Welfare Officers, alongside the club committee and all volunteers, are responsible for the welfare and safeguarding of all members under the age of 18.

The club website contains details of several policies and documents relating to welfare issues:

[SOYFC Safeguarding Children Policy And Procedures](#)

Please see the policy section of this document

[FA-SOYFC anti-bullying policy](#)

Please see the policy section of this document

[FA guidance on heading](#)

Please see more information regarding this in the Managers information section of this document.

It is important that Parents and Managers are familiar with these documents and understand the action to take in the event of a concern relating to young players or any conduct/disciplinary issues, raised by members, parents or by players/parents of opposing teams.

Please take the time to read these documents and understand them.

Safeguarding

Every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. Spirit of Youth Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

- The club has an annually reviewed [safeguarding policy](#)
- All volunteers must have an FA enhanced DBS check.
- Each team must have at least one designated first aider with an in-date FA Introduction to First Aid in Football (IFAIF)
- Each team must have at least one FA Level 1 qualified coach
- Each team should have a coach/player ratio of
 - 4 years to 8 years - **1:6**
 - 9 years to 12 years - 1:8**
 - 13 years to 18 years – 1:10**

First Aid

At every training session or match all teams must have at least one qualified FA Level 1 coach and at least one first aider who has completed The FA Introduction to First Aid in Football.

All teams must have a fully stocked first aid kit; it is the coach/manager's responsibility to keep this kit appropriately stocked.

Each coach/manager is issued with an Emergency Action Plan relevant to their home venue. This is used when communicating with emergency services and to provide relevant local information to visiting teams.

Almost all of the venues we use for training or matches have a defibrillator managers, coaches and volunteers must ensure they are aware of the location of this equipment.

All injuries or incidents (i.e., those requiring hospital/pitch side medical treatment) should be registered with the Welfare Officer using the appropriate Accident/ incident form available in the important document section of this handbook.

Concussion – Head Injury

Concussion is a relatively common injury in football.

That's why everyone who takes part in football needs to know four things:

- What concussion is
- How you recognise it
- What to do if a player is concussed
- How to manage a player's return to training/playing

You can read more about all these aspects in England Football's comprehensive guidelines. In addition, we strongly recommend you spend 20 minutes taking the online free concussion guidelines course provided by England Football Learning, the education arm of England Football.

What is concussion?

Concussion is an injury to the brain resulting in a disturbance of brain function. It affects the way a person thinks, feels and remembers things. There are many symptoms of concussion, with common ones including headache, dizziness, memory disturbance and balance problems. Concussion can be caused by a direct blow to the head, but can also occur when a blow to another part of the body results in rapid movement of the head (e.g. whiplash type injuries).

How to recognise concussion?

If any of the following signs or symptoms are present following an injury the player should be suspected of having concussion and immediately removed from play or training and must not return to play that day.

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Mental clouding, confusion, or feeling slowed down
- Visual problems
- Nausea or vomiting
- Fatigue
- Drowsiness / feeling like "in a fog" / difficulty concentrating
- "Pressure in head"
- Sensitivity to light or noise

The symptoms of concussion typically appear immediately, but their onset may be delayed and can appear at any time after the initial injury. Loss of consciousness does not always occur in concussion (in fact it occurs in less than 10% of concussions). A concussed player may still be standing up and may not have fallen to the ground after the injury.

[Find out more](#)

What to do next?

Anyone with a suspected concussion **MUST** be IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM PLAY.

Once safely removed from play they must not return to activity that day. Team-mates, coaches, match officials, team managers, administrators or parents who suspect someone may have concussion must do their best to ensure that they are removed from play in a safe manner.

If a neck injury is suspected, suitable guidelines regarding the management of this type of injury at pitch side should also be followed (see useful links for pitch side injury management training).

If ANY of the following are reported then the player should be transported for urgent medical assessment at the nearest hospital emergency

department:

Severe Neck Pain, Deteriorating consciousness (more drowsy), Increasing confusion or irritability, Severe or increasing headache, Repeated vomiting, Unusual behaviour change, Seizure (fit), Double vision, Weakness or tingling / burning in arms or legs.

In all cases of suspected concussion it is recommended that the player is referred to a medical or healthcare professional for diagnosis and advice, even if the symptoms resolve.

Returning to play

Concussion should be managed with a short period of relative rest followed by a gradual return to normal activities as symptoms allow. Relative rest involves resting both the body (physical rest) and resting the brain (cognitive rest). After the initial 24-48 hour period of relative rest, a staged and graduated return to full daily activities (education/work) and football training is allowed but at a rate that does not worsen existing symptoms, more than mildly, or produce new symptoms. More information on the graduated return to play programme can be found in The FA's concussion guidelines.

In all cases of injury, the player must be handed over to a parent or carer and the injury and any additional advice relayed to the appropriate adult.

Bullying

Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club.

We fully support the FA's Anti-Bullying Policy for Football Clubs which is available on our website or can be viewed at the end of this document in the policy section.

If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to report it and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents must be reported to the Club Welfare Officer. We want to make it clear that we will take a no tolerance approach to bullying if found to be proven.

Discrimination

Discrimination has no place in football.

If you are the victim or witness discrimination, every instance should be reported. <https://www.thefa.com/get-involved/respect/anti-discrimination>

We ask that you also immediately report this to our welfare officer and secretary so the matter can be dealt with swiftly. We at Spirit of Youth will have a no tolerance approach with regards to this if proven.

Respect

SOYFC are fully supportive of the FA's *Respect* agenda.

Creating the right environment, both on and off the pitch is the responsibility of everyone involved in football. Whether we are a player, parent or coach it is important that we all play our part in creating a fun, safe and inclusive environment.



Play your part and support the FA's Code of Respect:

- Have fun, that's what we're all here for
- Celebrate effort and good play from both sides
- Always respect the Referee and assistants, encourage players to do the same
- Stay behind the respect barrier and touchline
- When players make mistakes, offer them encouragement to try again next time
- Never engage in, or tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour

On match days a respect barrier should be set up along the side of the pitch. Each team must also have a match delegate we suggest this is a parent representative who should be introduced to the referee before the match. A full list of duties can be found in the appendix.

Codes of Conduct

The club has Codes of Conduct for players, coaches and parents. These are important documents that are available on our website and are part of our registration process for players and their parents/guardians.

Most of the issues we have around behaviour are with parents/supporters rather than players. We all know that football can evoke strong emotions in the moment,

but it is important parents/supporters recognise they are all role models to their own children and other players, and representatives of SOYFC.

Respect is The FA's response to a clear message from throughout the game, that the health of football depends upon high standards of behaviour on and off the pitch.

- Respect is a behavioural code for Football
- Respect is about recognising that the integrity of the game is more important than the result of the match
- Respect is For ALL and plays a key part in uniting the game
- Respect is about creating an understanding of what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in Football
- Respect is about those involved taking responsibility for the consequences of their own actions
- Respect is about supporting match officials to do their job
- Respect is not a slogan. It is a collective responsibility of those involved in football to create a safe, fun and inclusive environment in which the game can take place

The following Respect Codes of Conduct outline the types of behaviour that will support a safe, fun and inclusive game in this country. They also identify a range of sanctions which may be taken if these codes are not abided by.

YOUNG PLAYERS – RESPECT CODE OF CONDUCT

When playing football, I will:

- Always play to the best of my ability and for the benefit of my team
- Play fairly – I won't cheat, dive, complain or waste time
- Respect my team-mates, the other team, the referee or my coach/team manager
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee
- Be gracious in victory and defeat – I will shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
- Listen and respond to what my coach/team manager tells me
- Understand that a coach/team manager has to do what is best for the team and not one individual player
- Talk to someone I trust or the club welfare officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA: I may:

- Be required to apologise to my team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Receive a formal warning from the coach/team manager or the club committee
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training in addition:
- My club, County FA or The FA may make my parent or carer aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct
- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and suspension against my club.

SPECTATORS – RESPECT CODE OF CONDUCT

We all bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help provide a positive environment in which children can learn and enjoy the game.

Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for spectators at all times I will:

- Remember that children play for FUN
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success
- Respect the Referee's decisions even when you don't agree with them
- Appreciate good play from whatever team it comes from
- Remain behind the touchline and within the Designated Spectators' Area (where provided)
- Let the coach do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials
- Support positively. When players make a mistake offer them encouragement not criticism
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

I may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning from a club or league official
- Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Obligated to undertake an FA education course
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club
- Requested by the club not to attend future games
- Suspended or have my club membership removed

In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club
- The FA believes that Referees and Assistant Referees should be able to officiate free from the threat of violence or intimidation Any physical assault on a Match Official will result in a lengthy or permanent exclusion from football and possibly a criminal prosecution

COACHES, TEAM MANAGERS AND CLUB OFFICIALS – RESPECT CODE OF CONDUCT

We all bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help provide a positive environment in which children can learn and enjoy the game. Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct at all times.

On and off the field, I will:

- Use my position to set a positive example for the young people I am responsible for
- Receive a Ground ban
- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators
- Adhere to the laws and spirit of the game
- Promote Fair Play and high standards of behaviour
- Respect the match official's decision
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Be gracious in victory and defeat

When working with players, I will:

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- Ensure all activities I organise are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity
- Co-operate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists, welfare officers) for each player's best interests

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

I may be:

- Required to meet with the club, league or County Welfare Officer
- Suspended by the club from attending matches
- Suspended or fined by the County FA
- Required to leave or be sacked by the club

Kit and Club shop

Each player registered with the club to play league football will receive their own match day kit as part of their team sponsorship. The club are very appreciative of sponsorship to pay for new kits for teams when required. Local businesses can, within FA guidelines, have branding on kits/jackets etc. If you are interested in sponsoring a team, please contact your team manager or the clubs sponsorship officer.

Additional items such as jackets, sweatshirts, training tops or bags can be obtained through sponsorship or by agreement with parents/guardians.

The Official 2024/25 season new style Spirit of Youth Home match kit is.

yellow tops, royal shorts and royal socks.



The Official 2024/25 season new style Spirit of youth away / Training kit is.

royal tops, royal shorts and royal socks.



The Official 2024/25 season new style Spirit of Youth goalkeeper kits feature either.

White/black top, black shorts and black socks or Aqua and black shirt, black shorts and black socks.



Spirit of Youth's official team store

More information on this will be available from the club soon.

Boot room

In order to reduce costs and be more sustainable the club will be starting a scheme to encourage the donation and re-use of boots. Our young members feet grow fast so there are often boots (astro, firm ground, soft ground) that no longer fit but have lots of life in them. Each team's coach can accept boot donations from parents/guardians of their players; these are then handed to the club secretary and will be added to a stock list and shared with parents intermittently with opportunity for parents to buy these at a nominal fee. A small monetary donation is requested for each pair of boots recycled - 100% of this money goes to Spirit of Youth to help keep subscription fees as low as we can and for additional equipment.

Please ensure that any donated items are clean and in reasonable to good condition and come as a pair.

Managers, please ensure you contact the club secretary to arrange to drop off any donated items.

Important note for parents

Please note that kits that have been supplied by the club as part of a sponsorship deal to the teams will always remain the property of the club. If your child leaves the club, you will be required to return all items to the team manager immediately on leaving. Failure to do this may restrict your child from joining or transferring to another club.

Facilities

We do not currently have our own clubhouse, but our 'home' is at Common Edge Community Sports Village. Most teams from U7 to U16 train and play matches here. We have a good relationship with the site and ask you to be polite and respectful when using the facility.

We continue our year-round use of the £G pitch for training and some 11v11 games.

It may be necessary for some teams to either train or play at alternate grounds from time to time. Such is the growth of the club and the scarcity of local playing facilities; we are always looking for additional pitches and training venues.

We encourage our players and supporters to leave venues better than we found them – by picking up litter and ensuring we take home all drinks bottles, food waste, etc.

Smoking and Vaping

As a club we have agreed to sign up to the FA smoke free sidelines, we very much hope that you will help us achieve this across our club.

We must also advise that all facility use including grass pitches is a nonsmoking area this includes the use of e-cigarettes. It is asked that all volunteers and spectators refrain from smoking or vaping at games and training.

For more information on smoke free sidelines initiative and frequently asked questions please see the information in the policy section of this document.

Get involved

SOYFC is a community club and is dependent on **volunteers** giving their time to support grass roots football. We expect all parents/guardians of club players to volunteer wherever possible to assist in the running of their child's team.

As well as ensuring that your child arrives on time and is well prepared with water, kit, etc. there are plenty of ways that parents/guardians can assist on match days such including:

- Be the match delegate.
- Put up/put away goalposts.
- Be the referee/assistant referee.
- Put up/put away corner flags.

- Put up the respect barrier.
- Clear litter after the game.
- Make sure the pitch is safe/clear.

Every team at SOYFC is managed by **coaches/managers** who are parents and first got involved with coaching to support their child's enjoyment of football. It is a very rewarding activity and is a hugely important role in the positive development of your child and other young people. The club supports coaching coaches and development – if you are interested, please talk to any of our team coaches or a member of the committee.

Throughout the year the club run various **fundraising events**; as well as building the social aspects of the club these events are an essential part of maintaining the financial health of the club and help to keep subscription fees low. We are very appreciative of the friends and families who support these events.

Teams are also able to raise additional funds through team fundraising activities, these funds remain the teams and can be used toward additional social activities, equipment and trips. We ask that if your team manager approaches you regarding a fundraising event or activity that you, please try and support it as much as possible.

Membership and fees

The club strives to keep membership subscriptions as low as possible and our subscriptions are generally amongst the lowest in the local area. All fees go towards the costs of pitch hire, training venue hire, kits and equipment, league entry, referee fees, end of season awards, and coach/volunteer training.

A Membership fee will be due on the day that you register your child to the club, this will need to be paid by a valid debit or credit card via our online registration system Team Fee Pay. Our current membership fee is £40.00.

You will also be expected to set up a direct debit on the day of registration which will be for monthly subscription fees, these are paid over 9 monthly instalment payments of £27.50 from 1st September to 1st May.

There is a sibling discount available to families with two or more players registered with the club this is a £1.00 discount for each additional sibling registered.

Due to the valuable work our coaches and managers undertake each season, a discount is applied to the monthly subscription they pay.

Coaches discount is £9.00PM and the fee payable is £18.50PM.

Managers discount is £20.25PM and the payable fee is £7.25PM.

Any Player that is in arrears will be contacted by the membership Secretary, if for any reason a player is in two months arrears the club retains the right to withdraw membership and playing opportunities.

For any queries relating to membership please contact the membership secretary at membership@spiritofyouthjfc.co.uk

Managers should maintain a contact list and provide this to the membership secretary to keep the membership database up to date. The club maintains a set of accounts that can be made available to club members on request.

The club are keen that finance should not be a barrier to participation and enjoyment in youth football.

In instances where payment of the membership fees would cause financial hardship, please contact the team manager or Membership Secretary.

All registered players automatically become members of the club.

Sponsorship

The club has a long history of working with local companies who may wish to sponsor an individual team to contribute to the costs of kits, rain jackets, training tops, etc. Sponsoring organisations can have their logo on team clothing as well as use team photos – NB. As long as all parents are in agreement.

If you have a connection to a company that might wish to sponsor your team, please discuss with your team manager or the club committee.

The FA recommend that for youth football it is inappropriate for team clothing to promote any age-restricted products, services or related activities such as alcohol or gambling. Generally, reference to a pub or restaurant may be permissible.

For more information, please contact your team manager or our sponsorship officer at sponsorship@spiritofyouthjfc.co.uk

Communications and social media

The FA recommends that texting is not used as the primary method of communication between adults and child/young people in football.

The club recommend the use of a team management app such as [Team App](#) or [Full-Time or WhatsApp](#).

If a team sets up a social networking group, e.g. on WhatsApp, it is strongly advised that it should be explicitly for use by named members, parents and carers solely about football matters e.g. fixtures, cancellations and team selection. At no time should there be any personal communications, 'banter' or comments about individual players, opponents, match officials, etc.

SOYFC obtain permission that photographs of playing members can be used in SOYFC media during the registration process. Any individual members posting photographs of players on social media should have the express permission of the member's parents/guardians.

It is against Club and FA rules to post comments that are or maybe conceived as offensive, insulting, abusive, threatening, racist, and discriminatory or any other reference that may cause offence or harm to others.

For under 11 and below age teams no reference to results must be made on social media.

Complaints Procedure

In the event that any SOYFC member feels that they have suffered discrimination in any way, or that the Club Policies, Rules or Code of Conduct have been broken they should follow the procedures below.

They should report the matter to the Club Secretary or another member of the Committee.

The report should include:

- i. Details of what happened, including when and where the occurrence took place.
- ii. Any witness statement and names.
- iii. Names of any others who have been treated in a similar way.

- iv. Details of any former complaints made about the incident, date, when and to whom made.
- v. A preference for a solution to the incident.

The Club's Management Committee will aim to respond to complaints within 10 days.

If the complaint is complex or needs investigation, you can expect a holding letter within 10 days and a detailed response within 20 days.

The Club's Management Committee will have the power to:

- warn as to future conduct;
- suspend from membership;
- remove from membership any person found to have broken the Club's Policies or Codes of Conduct

Individuals have the right to seek guidance from Lancashire FA where they feel they have been unfairly treated by the club committee.

Information for Managers

Match arrangements

Before the game:

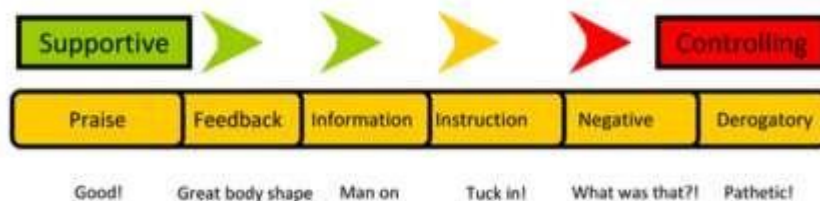
- Details of fixtures will be provided to you by your club secretary or on the FA's Full-Time website (<https://fulltime-league.thefa.com>) or app.
- Await pitch allocations from the club secretary as Kick off time and assigned pitches may be changed due to pitch availability.
- If you are the home side you must contact the opposition and referee (where provided) to confirm location and kick off time by the Wednesday before Saturday or Sunday game, The Sunday prior to a midweek game.
- Check that your first aid kit is replenished and that you have details of the location's Emergency Action Plan
- Ensure you have clearly communicated the match information for all games to parents and carers
- Ensure you have adequate players for your game.
- If in doubt for any reason, please contact the club secretary.

Match day:

- Exchange player registration print outs if required
- Ensure your Match Day Delegate is present, wearing the Hi-Viz and reports to the referee 15 minutes before kick-off. (see Appendix I for details of MDD role)
- Appoint an assistant referee who should also report to the referee 15 minutes before kick-off if required.
- Ensure you arrive on time to venue.
- Please inspect your pitch for any dangers or safety issues including waterlogging (report this to club secretary). Please correct condition if you are able.
- Check the weather and be prepared.
- Ensure you have all match day equipment with you, and it is in good condition.
- Prepare pitch if home team with goals, barrier tape and corner flags, please ensure an assigned technical area has been prepared for both teams.
- Ensure children are warmed up appropriately.

During the game

- Check that substitutes are keeping dry and warm wherever possible
- Ensure you do not pressure players.
- Ensure you and your players have a good positive experience and enjoy the game.
- If inclement weather hits please take note of the Inclement weather protocol attached at the end of this document.
- Ensure you individually are giving only positive messages to your players - <https://www.thefa.com/get-involved/respect/we-only-do-positive>



Credit: Dr's Matt Pain, Chris Harwood, Andy Cole

After the game

- Report the result to your fixture secretary by completing the match report on Full-Time including details of score, players, substitutes, referee, pitch conditions, Respect, etc. This must be completed by 9 pm the follow day of the game.

- Please respond to your FA full time text message within 2 hours of your game.
- There are separate reporting arrangements for County Cup fixtures
- Report all yellow and red cards to the club secretary within 24 hours with details including name of player, match date, venue, opposition, type of card and offence, name of referee, etc.
- Any fines accrued by players or teams must be paid within 7 days of notification by the league/Lancashire FA.
- You must not allow a child to leave unattended or leave them on site unaccompanied. Always ensure you hand your players over to a responsible and known adult. Players 12 and above may be allowed to leave on their own only with written permission from a parent.

Pitch venues and arrangements

The Council contact us if the pitches are unplayable. You will be notified if pitches are called off, however if not done by the council your referee will make the decision on if playable or not.

We supply our own respect barriers, goals, nets and corner flags for all pitches, these are stored in the club container for 5v5, 7v7 and 9v9. Keys are held by managers of teams playing at Common Edge Community Sports Village

11v11 format will be either £G all goals provide on site or grass, managers hold their own nets.

FA Respect barriers should be erected before every game on both sides of the pitch.

Appendix I: Match Delegate Role

:

The role of match day delegate is **recommended for all teams** in youth football and was introduced by the Football Association to help protect young referees by having a responsible individual from each team whom the referee could approach if there was a problem with coaches or spectators.

- We would also expect the delegate to be proactive in ensuring good behaviour from those from their team on the touchline.
- THE MATCH DAY DELEGATE **SHOULD NOT BE** THE MANAGER, COACH OR ASSISTANT REFEREE
- Every team should have where possible a high visibility jacket for match delegates and these should be worn so the referee can identify the delegate quickly, if needed.
- The home match delegate should meet the referee when they arrive.
- The two match delegates should introduce themselves to each other, and *report to the referee at least 15 minutes before kick-off*.
- The delegate should identify themselves as the match delegate to the referee and supply the referee with their full name.
- If the delegate is approached by the referee they must act on their instructions.
- Both delegates should speak to the referee at half time, if necessary.
- Match day delegates are not expected to deal with the opposition spectators or coaches but sometimes they may need to liaise with the opponent's match delegate and ask them to take any necessary action.
- It is much better to try to stop problems at an early stage. For example, if the delegate is aware of a parent who is shouting at the ref, they should not wait for the referee to intervene but have a quiet word themselves.
- Ensure that SOYFC supporters treat the assistant referee with respect and under no circumstances comment on their performance except in a positive manner.
- The referee should be safely seen out of the ground by the home match delegate at the end of the game, if necessary, in order to avoid confrontation in car parks, etc.
- Never comment to the referee on their performance or decisions other than in a positive manner.

Appendix II: Team Managers 2021/22

Team	Name	Email	Mobile
Youth Development	Bailey Pack	thfc.bailey123@gmail.com	07522280040
	Shannon Pack	s.lucy.pack@gmail.com	07547347181
U7 Nemo	Kayleigh Molyneaux	Kayleigh.molyneaux@aol.co.uk	07455236788
U8 Eagles	Kieran glover	Kieranglover00@gmail.com	07934965128
U8 Leopards	Brendan Bremner	bredned@hotmail.co.uk	07445208289
U9 Raptors	Shannon Pack	s.lucy.pack@gmail.com	07547347181
U9 T-Rex	Lewis Goddard	Lewisgod2019@gmail.com	07368490881
U9 Jets	Becky Dacre	Becky.dacre@hotmail.co.uk	07789760810
U10 Scorpions	Dan Davis	Trigger.digger@live.co.uk	07468575767
U11 Eagles	Kyle Mathieson	Kyle1988hump@gmail.com	07880435161
U11 Phoenix	Dale Manton	Dalesmith1989@hotmail.co.uk	07734368835
U11 Scorpions	Shantelle Harvey		
U12 Phoenix	Toby Gough	Goughtoby0@gmail.com	07588117244
U12 Panthers	Chris Lester	Christopherlester89@aol.com	07753495660
U13 Eagles	Dave Wallace	Davidwallace58@hotmail.com	07939806886
	Paul Wood		07954413918
U13 Hawks	Neil Bowkett	Nez0107@hotmail.com	07961728950
U13 Phoenix	Mike Schofield	Schofieldselectrical@hotmail.co.uk	07837839826
U13 Falcons	TBC		

U14 Scorpions	Shannon Pack Colin Knowles	s.lucy.pack@gmail.com colinknowles@live.co.uk	07547347181 07703730886
U14 Vipers	Paul Dignan	pdsoy@outlook.com	07500983001
U14 Phoenix	Chris Blacow`	Blacow03@gmail.com	07545158056
U15 Spartans	Kevin O'Neil	Kevoneil1999@icloud.com	07494251621
U16 Tigers	Toby Chick	Tobychick00@gmail.com	07796570933
Wildcats	Shannon Pack	s.lucy.pack@gmail.com	07547347181

THUNDERSTORM WARNING AND PROCEDURE.

The following are the guidelines SOYFC apply for our teams experiencing thunderstorms while training and games are in progress. This has been taken from the FA guidelines.

Please bear in mind the following and understand that as managers and coaches you have a direct duty of care of everyone in attendance of your training session and games.

If you hear thunder or see lightning in the distance your activity and those taking part are at risk.

1. Please do not hesitate and take immediate action to postpone or call off sessions and ensure everyone moves to a safe location. If at Common Edge Please use the hub building. You can shelter here or in cars (not convertible) ensure doors and windows are closed.

If in an exposed area or field and the storm is close ensure you crouch with heels together, hands on your head and tuck your head as close to your knees as possible.

Activity should not be restarted until 30 minutes after the last thunder.

DO NOT BE CONVINCED TO STAY PLAYING AS ITS NOT CLOSE ENOUGH!!

If you can hear thunder you are within a possible lightning strike.

All players must be accounted for until you clear them to leave with parent/Guardians.

IF THE WORST HAPPENS

It is safe to attend to someone struck by lightning to administer CPR and first aid. Call the emergency services immediately. Please all stay safe.

FA THUNDERSTORM GUIDANCE FOR GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL 2024

The FA have released the following guidance to outline the steps required to protect the safety of participants in grassroots football in the event of a thunderstorm.

Purpose

The purpose of this guidance is to set out the steps that should be taken in the event of a thunderstorm to protect the safety of participants in grassroots football.

This guidance does not purport to provide guidance on thunderstorm safety outside the context of grassroots football. When assessing whether weather is unsafe and/or what to do, participants should always refer to the latest Met Office guidance.

Scope

This guidance applies to all participants in grassroots football and applies at all times and in respect of any relevant outdoor activity, including training and matches.

Planning

It is the responsibility of all participants to regularly check weather forecasts prior to a match and/or training.

It is the primary responsibility of the home team to consider possible contingency plans in the event of the weather becoming unsafe, e.g. could the activity take place in a safe indoor location?

It is the primary responsibility of the home team to consider whether there is an area where people could safely shelter in the event of unsafe weather (e.g. a safe indoor location).

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the match official to determine whether a fixture should be postponed, cancelled or abandoned due to a thunderstorm. This decision should, where possible, be taken in consultation with the two teams and discussed prior to kick-off.

In the case of training or other relevant activities, it is the responsibility of the person with overall authority to organise and run the event to decide whether to postpone, cancel or abandon the session (e.g. the manager or coach).

When to postpone, cancel or abandon?

Where it is considered likely that the weather will make an event unsafe (e.g. through thunder and lightning, or extreme winds and rain), the activity should be postponed and/or cancelled.

If the weather becomes unsafe after an activity has begun, the activity should be postponed and/or abandoned, and all participants should seek shelter (e.g. in a safe indoor location) until the weather has become safe.

Weather conditions must also be considered when participants are leaving an activity.

Where possible, decisions to postpone or cancel should be taken at the earliest opportunity so as to limit the impact on participants.

Any decision to postpone, cancel or abandon should be taken with the safety of participants being the top priority.

Consequences of postponement, cancellation and/or abandonment

In the event that a fixture is cancelled or abandoned due to a thunderstorm, the consequences of this shall be dealt with in accordance with the applicable competition rules.

In the event that a fixture or other activity is postponed and resumes upon the weather becoming safe, the match official and/or person with overall responsibility to organise and run the event should assess the safety of the pitch, as debris or rain may mean it is unplayable.

Emergency

If someone is hit by lightning, call emergency services / 999.

Before approaching to help, please check that there is no further danger to yourself or the casualty.

It is safe to touch someone who has been struck by lightning and provide them with First Aid.

You may need to move them to a safer area out of the storm if lightning strike is still a risk.

Check to see if there are signs of life as soon as possible and if the person is not breathing normally, start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), apply an automated external defibrillator as soon as possible and continue until help arrives.

Disclaimer

This guidance does not purport to provide advice on health and safety issues and The FA accepts no liability in this regard.

Participants should at all times follow the applicable government guidance (see link above) to ensure their safety in the event of a thunderstorm.

Heading in U7-U11 youth grassroots football matches to be phased out over the next three seasons following IFAB trial.

In 2022, we became the first national association to successfully adopt the International Football Association Board [IFAB] trial to remove deliberate heading in grassroots football matches at U12 level and below.

We first introduced the IFAB trial in England following our steps to bring in heading guidance in youth football in 2020, and then the implementation of heading guidance in training across every level of the professional and amateur game in 2021.

After two seasons of the IFAB trial in English football, we will now introduce a new rule to phase out deliberate heading in matches in all affiliated grassroots youth football between U7-U11 level over the next three seasons. This includes all leagues, clubs and any affiliated school football matches – starting with U7-U9 level from the 2024-25 season, then increasing to include U10 level from 2025-26, and U11 level from 2026-27.

As grassroots players move from primary to secondary school, heading the ball will be introduced at this transition point in their U12 season.

ADAPTING THE HEADING TRIAL FOR THE 2024-25 SEASON

We have researched and collected feedback from leagues and clubs taking part in the IFAB trial to remove deliberate heading in grassroots football matches at U12 level and below to see how the experience of the players taking part could be further improved. Our aim is to also create more technical opportunities for players with the ball at their feet, allow for more effective playing time, and to reduce the amount of time the ball is in the air during a match.

As a result, from the start of the 2024-25 season for U7-U9 teams, we will also be rolling out the following:

Deliberate Header Restart:

- Deliberately heading the ball is an offence punishable by an indirect free kick
- The indirect free kick is taken at the point where the ball was deliberately headed, except:

Where a player deliberately heads the ball within their own penalty area, the referee will stop the game and restart with an indirect free kick to the opposition from the nearest side line of the penalty area where the offence took place.

Heading in Youth Football

We are introducing a new law to phase out deliberate heading in matches in all affiliated grassroots youth football between U7-U11 level over the next three seasons.

Touchline Restart:

Kick-ins and dribble-ins will be introduced instead of throw-ins to create more technical opportunities for players with the ball at their feet, allow for more effective playing time, and to help reduce the amount of time the ball is in the air during a match.

- When the whole of the ball passes over the whole of the touchline, on the ground or in the air, instead of a throw-in, a pass-in / dribble-in is awarded
- The kicker that takes the pass-in / dribble-in may touch the ball again before it is touched by another player
- At the moment of delivering the ball:
 - *The ball must be stationary on the touchline at the point where it left the pitch; only the kicker may be off the pitch*
 - *All opponents must stand at least 5 yards from the point on the touchline where the pass-in or /dribble-in is to be taken from*
- A goal cannot be scored directly from a pass-in
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves

Touchline Restart

We are introducing a new touchline restart law to phase in dribble-ins and pass-ins in place of throw-ins in all affiliated grassroots youth football between U7-U11 level over the next three seasons.

Sanctions in the event of a deliberate header in a match:

From the start of the 2024/25 season, there will be no disciplinary sanctions applied for a deliberate header in a match, unless the action is considered a persistent deliberate offence, which could then result in a caution.

For the full announcement, [click here](#).

HEADING IN TRAINING GUIDANCE

AGE GROUP GUIDANCE

U7, U8, U9, U10, U11

Heading should not be introduced in training sessions at this age.

The Foundation Phase DNA aims to provide an enjoyable and memorable experience for young children.

Priority at this age is fun engagement and the mastery of both the body and the ball.

In today's modern game, children will play on smaller pitches, with fewer players and with the retreat line rule to encourage players to play through the thirds.

There is an emphasis at all levels to retain and love the ball.

Coaches should use the time they have with players to maximise enjoyment and development of other skills, particularly the fundamentals of working with the ball in their hands and feet.

Focus should be on learning to master the ball and the body through fun activities.

U12

Heading remains a very low priority, but limited heading may be introduced in training at this stage.

Coaches may wish to introduce the technique of heading, due to heading being a part of matches at this age group. We strongly advise a maximum of **one session**

per week with light balls, limited repetition of a maximum of **five headers**, using self-serve or short distances. These limited sessions should introduce the technique of heading and should always be unopposed.

The Youth Development Phase DNA continues to provide an enjoyable and memorable experience for young players. The priority as players get older is still fun, engagement and mastery of both the body and the ball.

Players at this age are ready to cope with more decision making, which is reflected in the challenges provided in both training and games.

This will still be done within an environment that is both supportive and positive.

While there may be a small increase in the number of headers seen in the game at this age group, it will remain a low priority when compared to other technical aspects of the game.

Coaches should continue to use the time they have with players to maximise the development of other key skills seen more regularly in the game at this age.

U13

Heading remains a very low priority, but limited heading may be introduced in training at this stage.

Coaches may wish to introduce the technique of heading, due to heading being a part of matches at this age group. We strongly advise a maximum of **one session per week** with light balls, limited repetition of a maximum of **five headers**, using self-serve or short distances. These limited sessions should introduce the technique of heading and should always be unopposed.

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Players at this age are ready to cope with more decision making, which is reflected in the challenges provided in both training and games.

This will still be done within an environment that is both supportive and positive.

While there may be a small increase in the number of headers seen in the game at this age group, it will remain a low priority when compared to other technical aspects of the game.

Coaches should continue to use the time they have with players to maximise the development of other key skills seen more regularly in the game at this age.

U14, U15, U16

Players can be introduced to the basic concepts in training with limited repetition. Coaches should not focus on heading practice more than **one session per week** and limit the number of headers per player to **10 per session**. Coaches should use a variety of distances relative to the game at this age.

The Youth Development Phase DNA continues to provide an enjoyable and memorable experience for young players.

Priority is still fun, engagement and the mastery of both the body and the ball.

Players at this age are ready to cope with more decision making, which is reflected in the challenges provided in both training and games. This will still be done within an environment that is both supportive and positive.

As players' knowledge of the game and physical strength develops, there will be more visible tactical use of restarts, resulting in an increased number of headers.

There are key factors to consider when introducing the technique of heading as part of a balanced programme, which include:

- Judge and adjust to the flight of the ball
- Attack the ball at optimum point
- Head contact and ball contact to control direction and distance of the ball

Different types of headers will start to be used, so coaches can introduce position-specific movement patterns.

RECOMMENDATION: LIMITING HEADING IN TRAINING

These recommendations have been developed to protect players welfare. As further research is undertaken this guidance will be reviewed and updated to reflect increased understanding.

It is recommended that heading practice is limited to 10 headers per session and only one session a week where heading practice is included. Players should be responsible for monitoring their own heading activity.

U18

As the game begins to replicate the adult game coaches should use a variety of heading situations players will experience during a game. This includes the introduction of contested headers. While you may now use match balls in the session light balls can still be used in training when practising the technique of heading.

The Youth Development Phase DNA continues to provide an enjoyable and memorable experience for young players.

Priority is still fun, engagement and the mastery of both the body and the ball.

Players at this age are ready to cope with more decision making, which is reflected in the challenges provided in both training and games. This will still be done within an environment that is both supportive and positive.

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It is recommended that heading practice is limited to 10 headers per session and only one session a week where heading practice is included. Players should be responsible for monitoring their own heading activity.

For additional information and clarity, you can watch these videos by using the below links.

Heading in youth football

<https://youtu.be/zoBwWcntmmU>

Introducing touchline restarts

https://youtu.be/jP_DzpoMSXg

CLUB POLICIES



SPIRIT OF YOUTH JUNIOR
FOOTBALL CLUB

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

1. Spirit of youth Junior Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person and is committed to providing a safe environment for all. We recognise that a child is anyone under the age of 18 and subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures.

Spirit of youth Junior Football Club endorses and adopts the following key safeguarding principles:

- the child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration;
- all children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their; age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability, pregnancy and maternity;
- all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately; and
- working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers

is essential. We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice. and abuse.

Spirit of youth Junior Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

2. Spirit of Youth Football Club has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that The FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations (see The FA Handbook TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/lawsandrules/fa-handbook) apply to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, including coaches/managers, volunteers, match officials, helpers on club tours, or medical staff or other club officials/helpers.

3. We endorse and adopt The FA's Safer Recruitment guidelines and we will:

- Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves;

- Request identification documents;
- As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible interview people before appointing them;
- Ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing someone; and
- Where eligible require an FA- accepted DBS enhanced with barred list Check, in line with The FA's current Safeguarding Children Policy and Regulations.

All current Spirit of youth Junior Football Club members working in eligible roles with children and young people, such as coaches/managers and physiotherapists, are required to hold an in-date FA accepted DBS enhanced with barred list check as part of safer recruitment practice.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of

Spirit of youth Junior Football Club, guidance will be sought from the County Football Association (CFA). It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via the DBS process and that all suitability decisions will be made in accordance with legislation and in the best interests of children and young people.

It is accepted that The FA aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.

4. Spirit of youth Junior Football Club supports The FA's Whistle Blowing policy (as described in this paragraph) which requires any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust within football can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863, by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ, by emailing Safeguarding@TheFA.com or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC.

Spirit of youth Junior Football Club encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.

5. Spirit of youth Junior Football Club has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (Youth Teams) ("CWO") in line with The FA's role profile who has completed the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop by the CWO. The post holder will be involved with ongoing Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or CFA. The CWO is the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The CWO will liaise directly with the CFA Designated

Safeguarding Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. The CWO will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of respect, poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

6. We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all players and parents/carers should be able to access our anti-bullying policy and know that incidents will be dealt with appropriately. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO and in cases of serious bullying the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer may be contacted.

7. Codes of conduct for Players, Parents/ Spectators, Officials and Coaches (as required by the CPSU Safeguarding Standards) have been implemented by Spirit of youth Junior Football Club. In order to police these codes of conduct the club has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the CFA in more serious circumstances.

8. In this Club, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we know that inaction is not an option. If anyone is worried about a child, it is important that they report their concerns to the CWO, who will deal with reported concerns as follows:

- i. Our CWO will manage poor practice and where necessary seek advice from the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer (CFA DSO).
- ii. Our CWO will make referrals about more serious concerns to the CFA DSO, or in an emergency contact the Police or Children's Social Care.
- iii. We will ensure that if the child needs immediate medical treatment that we take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them it is a child protection concern.
- iv. Our CWO will keep records of the actions taken and keep the CFA DSO informed.
- v. If at any time our Club Welfare Officer is not available, or the matter is clearly serious, all our members should be aware that they can:
 - Contact the CFA DSO directly;
 - Contact The FA's Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863 or Safeguarding@TheFA.com;
 - Contact the Police or Children's Social Care; and/or
 - Call the NSPCC 24-hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email help@nspcc.org.uk.

Spirit of youth Junior Football Club Committee understands and accepts our collective responsibility to adhere to our safeguarding children policy and procedures.

We commit to ensuring our members are aware of and have access to our policies.

- The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures (including the anti-bullying policy) are available via: [TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-1-football-safeguarding-framework](https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-1-football-safeguarding-framework)
- The FA's Safer Recruitment guidance is available via: [TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-3-safer-recruitment-and-dbs-checks](https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-3-safer-recruitment-and-dbs-checks)

If you need to make contact with the club welfare team you can do so by contacting.

Name: David Wallace

Phone: 07939806886

Email: Davidwallace58@hotmail.com

Name: Daniel Pack

Phone: 07784726011

Email: soyfcsecretary@sky.com

Name: Emma Wright

Phone: 07572144576

Email:



SPIRIT OF YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

STATEMENT OF INTENT

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our members, so they can participate in football in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at Spirit of Youth Football Club. If bullying does occur, all club members and parents/carers should be able to tell their club about this and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively by the club.

We are a TELLING club. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the Club Welfare Officer or any committee member. Spirit of Youth Football Club is committed to playing its part to teach players to treat each other with respect.

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face-to-face or through cyberspace and comes in many different forms:

Verbal: Name calling, persistent teasing, mocking, taunting and threats.

Physical: Any form of physical violence, intimidating behaviour, theft or the intentional damage of possessions. This includes hitting, kicking and pushing.

Emotional: Excluding, tormenting, ridiculing, humiliation, setting people up and spreading rumours.

Cyberbullying: The misuse of digital technologies or communications to bully a person or a group, typically through messages or actions that are threatening and/or intended to cause offence, anxiety or humiliation. Examples of cyberbullying include:

- **Abusive comments**, rumours, gossip and threats made using digital communications and/ or technologies - this includes internet trolling.
- **Sharing pictures**, videos or personal information without the consent of the owner and with the intent to cause harm or humiliation.
- **Hacking** into someone's email, phone or online profiles to extract and share personal information, or to send hurtful content while posing as that person.
- **Creating dedicated websites** that intend to harm, make fun of someone or spread malicious rumours.
- **Pressurising** someone to do something they do not want to such as sending a sexually explicit image.

Spirit of Youth Football Club commits to ensure our are being used appropriately and any online bullying will be dealt with swiftly and appropriately in line with procedures detailed in this policy.

People can be targeted for any reason, but people who bully others often target 'difference' and bullying can be a form of wider discrimination. For example, bullying behaviour may be:

- **Racist:** Targeted at ethnicity, skin colour, and language, religious or cultural practices.
- **Homophobic, bi-phobic and/or transphobic:** Targeted at actual or perceived sexuality and/or gender.
- **Sexual and/or sexist:** Sexual and/or sexist behaviour that is intended to cause offence, humiliation or intimidation.
- **Disablist:** Targeted at an impairment or special educational need.
- **Targeting any 'difference':** Bullying behaviour can also be targeted at 'looks', weight and height, colour of hair, wearing glasses or braces, acne, psoriasis and eczema, scars, marks or conditions of the face or body, body odour, poverty, gifts and talents or family situation (e.g. divorce, bereavement, homelessness).

Everybody has the right to be treated with respect and no one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Individuals who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Spirit of Youth Football Club recognises its responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

PROCEDURES

1. Report bullying incidents to the Club Welfare Officer or a member of the club's committee.
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be referred to the County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer for advice and possibly to The FA Case Management Team.
3. Parents/carers should be informed and will be asked to come into a meeting to discuss the problem.
1. If necessary and appropriate, the police will be consulted.
2. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated, and the bullying stopped quickly.
3. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.
4. If mediation fails and the bullying is seen to continue the club will initiate disciplinary action under the club constitution.

RECOMMENDED CLUB ACTION

If the club decides it is appropriate for them to deal with the situation, they should follow the procedure outlined below:

1. Reconciliation by getting the parties together. It may be that a genuine apology solves the problem.
2. If this fails/is not appropriate, a small panel (composed from the Chairperson, Club Welfare Officer, Secretary, committee members) should meet with the parent/carer and child alleging bullying to get details of the allegation. Minutes should be taken for clarity, which should be agreed by all as a true account.
3. The same three persons should meet with the alleged bully and parent/carer and put the incident raised to them to answer and give their view of the allegation. Minutes should again be taken and agreed.

4. If bullying has in their view taken place, the individual should be warned and put on notice of further action i.e. temporary or permanent suspension if the bullying continues. Consideration should be given as to whether a reconciliation meeting between parties is appropriate at this time.
5. In some cases, the parent/carer of the bully or bullied player can be asked to attend training sessions, if they are able to do so, and if appropriate. The club committee should monitor the situation for a given period to ensure the bullying is not being repeated.
6. All coaches involved with both individuals should be made aware of the concerns and outcome of the process i.e. the warning.

In the case of adults reported to be bullying anyone within the club under 18

1. The County Designated Safeguarding Officer must be informed and will advise on action to be taken where appropriate. This may include action by The FA Safeguarding Team.
2. It is anticipated that in most cases where the allegation is made regarding a team manager, official or coach, The FA's Safeguarding Children Education Programme may be recommended.
3. More serious cases may be referred to the Police and/or Children's Social Care.

PREVENTION

- The club will have a written constitution, which includes what is acceptable and proper behaviour for all members, of which the Anti-Bullying Policy is one part.
- All club members and parents/carers will sign to accept the constitution upon joining the club.
- The Club Welfare Officer will raise awareness about bullying and why it matters, and if issues of bullying arise in the club, will consider meeting with members to discuss actions.

Spirit of Youth Football Club

EQUALITY POLICY



ACCREDITED
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

The aim of this policy is to ensure everyone is treated fairly and with respect and that our club is equally accessible to all.

Spirit of Youth Football Club is responsible for setting standards and values to apply throughout the club at every level. Football belongs to and should be enjoyed by anyone who wants to participate in it.

Spirit of Youth Football Club in all its activities will not discriminate or in any way, treat anyone less favourably on grounds of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability. The club will ensure it treats people fairly and with respect and that it will provide access and opportunities for all members of the community to take part in and enjoy its activities.

Spirit of Youth Football Club will not tolerate harassment, bullying, abuse or victimisation of an individual, which for the purposes of this policy and the actions and sanction applicable is regarded as discrimination.

This includes sexual or racially based harassment or other discriminatory behaviour, whether physical or verbal. The club will work to ensure that such behaviour is met with appropriate action in whatever context it occurs.

This policy is fully supported by the Club Officers who are responsible for the implementation of this policy.

Spirit of Youth Football Club is committed to taking positive action where inequalities exist and to the development of a programme of ongoing training and awareness raising events and activities in order to promote the eradication of discrimination and promote equality in football.

Spirit of Youth Football Club is committed to a policy of equal treatment of all members and requires all members to abide and adhere to these policies and the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Spirit of Youth Football Club commits itself to the immediate investigation of any claims when brought to its attention, of discrimination on the above grounds and where such is found to be the case, a requirement that the practice stops and sanctions are imposed as appropriate.

OUR COMMITMENT

is to confront and eliminate discrimination whether by reason of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability and to encourage equal opportunities.

Frequently Asked Questions

Smoke Free Sidelines

1. What does being a Smoke Free Sidelines Club mean?

It means that smoking is not allowed on the sidelines or anywhere in view of children. This includes:

- Anywhere inside (as per smoke free regulations)
- Anywhere on the playing fields, including the sidelines of the pitches.
- Near exits, entrances, windows or doorways of any buildings
- In cars parked on site (where children are inside)

2. We play in a public park so how can our club enforce this?

We are asking all those at games not to smoke on the side lines. If someone wants to smoke, we ask them to move to a position where they and the cigarette smoke cannot be seen from the pitch.

3. Are you expecting us to go up and challenge a smoker who is smoking?

No. We are asking you to publicise the expectation that smoking on the sideline is not acceptable. You can choose to do this by notifying parents of the new expectation through newsletters, letters, social media, use of the publicity materials or any other mediums you and your club considers appropriate. If there are people who do feel comfortable approaching someone, they can politely remind people of your policy.

4. Why can't I smoke at the side of the pitch when watching my kids, it's not like I am blowing smoke in their faces!

Children copy what adults do. [886](#) children start smoking each year in Lancashire and 10.1% of young people under the age of 17 smoke regularly. [Two thirds](#) of smokers started smoking as children, before realising how hard it is to quit and when they are most vulnerable to the addictive properties of nicotine. **Children growing up in smoking households are three times [more likely](#) to become smokers themselves.** In a small local survey 40% of primary school children in year 7 and 8 lived in a home where someone smoked. Nationally, [62%](#) of pupils reported being exposed to second hand smoke in the home or in a car. Research shows that children and young people who see adults using tobacco think that smoking is more common than it actually is. Smoking in sight of children and young people can lead them to believe that it is normal, acceptable or OK to smoke.

We're asking all adults to give every child in Lancashire an equal opportunity of not smoking by denormalising smoking in places where they play.

5. What should we do if people refuse to stop smoking on the side lines?

Consider whether you have explored all the options for promoting the policy. Ask other clubs what they found worked well. Highlight the consequences to the club, if people/supporters fail to comply with the policy. Report the ongoing problem to the League and outline the steps you have

taken to try and address the matter. You are not expected to personally challenge people who keep smoking on the sidelines.

6. What action can the League take if it receives complaints that people are smoking on the side lines at the games.

We encourage clubs to adopt this Smoke Free Sidelines policy. However, we must advise you that some Leagues do not have active enforcement rules against those in breach of the policy. Once a club has pledged to have Smoke Free Side-lines, any reports of breaches received by the respective League will be brought to the club's attention and they will be asked to try and correct this behaviour.

The League will work with the club and, where appropriate, involve Active Lancashire, Blackpool council and Lancashire County Council Public Health and their County FA to offer support to the club.

7. I use a vape is that permitted on the sidelines?

Vaping is 95% less harmful than smoking and does help people quit smoking, however under the scheme we ask that vaping is not permitted on the sidelines. By not vaping in the presence of young people it helps guard against youth uptake of vaping. If you feel the need to vape then the answer in question 2 applies

8. Can we smoke before, at half time or at the end of the game?

The simple answer is no, no one should smoke whilst in the vicinity of the pitch or the players (e.g. in changing rooms).

9. Does this apply to match officials as well?

Yes, we want 100% of those at games not to smoke whilst in the vicinity of the pitch or the players (i.e. in changing rooms).

10. What sort of publicity should we do as a Club?

It's up to you, but we would recommend the following.

- Use Social Media.
- Use photographs (with appropriate permissions) using the free resources.
- Send letters/e-mails to club members letting them know of the scheme • Add the Smoke Free Sidelines logo to your paperwork and any website.
- Include an article in any newsletters you might have.

11. Isn't this all about making people quit?

No, it's about giving every young person the equal chance to grow up in a smoke free environment, so when they are adults, they can make an informed choice about whether they smoke or not.

Giving up smoking is the single most important thing that people can do for their own health and the health of those around them. Besides giving children smoke free environments, it can also create a supportive environment for all our members and supporters who want to quit.

12. What is the law about smoking?

The Health Act 2005 outlawed smoking inside workplaces and public places. Anyone found breaking this law can be subject to a maximum fine of £200. Premises permitting smoking inside can be fined up to £2500. Many organisations are now becoming completely smoke free. That means as well as abiding by the law which forbids smoking inside, they are making all their outdoor areas smoke free too.

13. Where can I direct someone if they'd like get support to quit smoking?

Being a Smoke Free Sidelines Club is not about targeting smokers unfairly or making them feel bad. Research shows that around 55% of smokers want to quit, and we want to support our members and supporters who want to kick the habit for good.

If someone is thinking of quitting, they'll up their chances by three times by getting free local support.

There is a wide range of free support you can access which can help someone quit smoking. The most effective way to quit for good is to use the free local stop smoking service. You can get one to one support in person or over the phone, online or via text. Advisors will help you to choose the right nicotine replacement therapy for you and give you tips and advice on how to beat cravings and keep on track to being fully smoke free.

Otherwise visit www.nhs.uk/smokefree or call 0800 3 247 111.