



Match Selection Policy

It is a requirement of all Coaches to follow our match selection policy and operate on an inclusive basis in line with the ethos of the Club.

- All children playing in 5, 7 and 9-a-side matches (up to U12s) must be given an opportunity to play in matches on a regular basis.
- From the U11 age group, whilst the policy of inclusion remains fully operational, player ability can be increasingly used as a way of selecting the team and determining how much match time a player is given.
- From the under 13 age group and above (11-a-side), the policy of inclusion remains but coaches are permitted to rotate the squad if more than 14 players are available on match day (as operating more than 3 substitutes is too many). In addition, player ability becomes an increasingly important and valid factor in selecting a player for certain matches and the amount of time a player spends on the pitch.
- All children who attend a match are expected to be given some match time i.e. we do not encourage unused subs as we believe a child should not be asked to travel to attend a match if there is no intention for them to get some match time.
- Given the above general principles, Team Coaches will select the players for matches based on the following criteria, in no particular order:
 - Behaviour at, and attitude towards training
 - Attendance at training
 - Performance during training and previous matches
 - Individual players availability on match day
 - Total number of players available on match days
 - Player's willingness to be flexible on playing position
 - Any current disciplinary action
 - Squad rotation i.e. coaches are permitted to adopt a fair squad rotation policy if too many players are available on a particular day rather than have unused subs.

Football is a sport where the objective is to win the match and therefore Team Coaches have discretion to implement the above policy in a way that seeks to win games whilst also ensuring we are inclusive and fair to all the children over the course of a season.