



## **New Football Policy 2017/18 – Note to Parents**

Dear Parents

Our Club has witnessed incredible growth and with that growth comes a wide demographic of individuals with varying abilities. We do not discriminate against anyone and have an open-door policy in age groups where numbers have not been limited, due to the FA Coach to Player Ratio's.

We have created this Football Policy with the interests of every child in mind. Our coaches must make training enjoyable for all and this has been difficult at times; with concentration levels, behaviour and various other circumstances, naturally differing within each child.

We are committed to forming new teams within age groups when numbers dictate, until such time we have two teams at each age group. That year group will then be deemed full and closed, when numbers reach their optimum.

We understand at times when splits occur, that often a social circle can be disrupted and children are occasionally put with children from other schools outside of their normal friendship group. We see this as a positive step in terms of extending friendship groups and in those instances, you should be reminded that we are a football club first and foremost. We have no obligation to social circles and with new children arriving all the time, your child will occasionally be pushed out of their comfort zone either socially or physically, as part of their development with us.

Further to that admission, we are not social workers or behavioural experts. We are football coaches operating as volunteers and more importantly, our coaches are parents too. Please remember that when offering critique. The Club has avenues in which your voice can be heard, so please respect the work your coach does and criticise constructively to club management, if the need arises.

We operate a zero tolerance to bullying and Your help in ensuring your child behaves under our supervision is much appreciated. Persistent bad behaviour only serves to dilute the coaching available and repeat offenders may be asked to leave the sessions if the coach deems this to be necessary.

This policy will continue to evolve as many of our policies do when we reach different milestones in the Clubs development. We welcome feedback of any nature and accept that we cannot get things right for everyone first time. Your input is critical to our evolution, so please come forward with any suggestions for improvement as and when you notice anything.

Thanks for being a part of another season with Us; Good luck to everyone involved!

**On behalf of the Committee & Coaches of AFC St Blazey Youth**



## AFC St Blazey Youth Football Policy, Effective August 2017.

### **1. New Players – One Team Age Groups**

- 1.1 Where a team split has not yet taken place, no child is to be refused entry to the club and/or its activities based on ability. We operate a “Football for all” inclusive mentality that is to be adhered to at all times when operating within the rules of squad caps.
- 1.2 School or Social Friend introductions are to be discussed with the coach in the first instance. It is advised that each coach has a conversation with a new parent before their first training session to explain the basic ground rules and expectancy levels. This need not be exhaustive, as a list of club rules in more detail can be provided when registration is completed.
- 1.3 New players will be afforded 2 Training sessions free of charge to assess their wish to commit. Registration for matches can only take place once Half or Full payment of annual membership is received by the Membership Secretary. In instances where electronic transfer has taken place, this must be ratified by the Club Treasurer before registration is formally accepted.

### **2. New Players – Double Team Age Groups**

- 2.1 Where a split has taken place and Performance & Development squads are established; The performance coach will undertake an assessment of the new player to establish which of the two squads said player will be involved with. This decision needs to be concise as any player picked for the performance squad must remain as part of that group. In the event of an incorrect decision being made, the performance coach must take responsibility for that decision in its entirety and continue to coach that individual, without prejudice.

### **3. New Players – Incoming Transfers**

- 3.1 Players wishing to transfer from another club must, in line with ECYFL Rules; ensure that all monies are settled at their parent club and that any club assets are returned. (Kit) It is then the responsibility of the AFC St Blazey Coach to advise the Membership Secretary of all relevant details. At this point, the Membership Secretary will contact the exporting club, to enquire that all is in order and will also collect payment from the incoming parents. Transferred players must comply with payment rules listed in Rule 1.3 and should not train with Us before a transfer is completed.

#### **4. New Players – Outgoing Transfers**

- 4.1 Players wishing to leave the club cannot do so if monies are outstanding, or if they are in possession of any club assets such as kit.
- 4.2 Outgoing players forego their right to any refund for fees paid beyond their actual time at the club.
- 4.3 All outgoing transfers to be discussed between Parents and Membership Secretary before requests are processed.
- 4.4 In the event of a transfer being linked to a recent disciplinary or welfare action, we are obliged to supply a copy of any documented infringements to the Cornwall FA who will act as an intermediary between both clubs. We cannot supply information direct to the importing club ourselves, as we may breach data protection guidelines in doing so.

#### **5. Striving for Improvement – Performance Squad Players**

- 5.1 All players within the Performance squads can be considered for older age group football if they are deemed ready for the challenge. The Performance coach must deem them ready in terms of Physical and Mental maturity and these players must be excelling at their core age group to be considered. This is 100% a coaches' choice and not something that will be led or pressured by parents.
- 5.2 If the Performance Coach does not consider their players entirely ready for the jump in physicality that older age group football brings; They must instead look Countywide for "Stretch Friendlies" against stronger teams they do not play on a regular basis. The Performance Coach is trusted in his assessment of his team in undertaking such an exercise and must operate within the safety guidelines of the FA.

#### **6. Striving for Improvement – Development Squad Players**

- 6.1 Development squad players are not eligible for older age group football.
- 6.2 Performance Squad players cannot be moved into the Development Squad mid-season
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- 6.4 Development squad players who are progressing faster than usual can be further tested by taking part in Performance Squad "Stretch Friendlies" as detailed in Rule 5.2, upon agreement from both Coaches.

#### **7. Older Age Group Football**

- 7.1 Older age group coaches **DO NOT CHOOSE PLAYERS** to play up. It is the responsibility of the Performance coach of said players core age group, that **RECOMMENDS** a player for availability.
- 7.2 If the Older age group coach agrees with the recommendation; it can then be agreed between the two coaches involved, who approaches the parents of the player in question, about the prospect of a game with the older team.

7.3 Performance Squad Players can be registered for league games in older age group football, but only with the agreement of the core age group coach.

7.4 Core age football takes priority over that of older age football, unless pre-agreed by the coaches involved.

## **8. Squad Sizes**

U7. Maximum 8.      U8. Maximum 10      U9. Maximum 11      U10. Maximum 12  
U11. Maximum 15      U12. Maximum 16      U13+ Maximum 18.

8.1 When maximum squad numbers are reached, new players can be entered onto a waiting list, until such time a vacancy becomes available.

8.2 Irrespective of the ability of any potential newcomer after the maximum number has been reached, the squad remains closed without exception.

8.3 In the case of a split age group, as soon as a Development Squad reaches its squad cap; the entire age group is publicly declared closed and a waiting list can be started if necessary. Squad size of Performance Squad at this point is irrelevant.

8.4 Performance Squad recruitment becomes invite only as soon as Rule 8.3 comes into play, to prevent a dilution of quality. Where invites are offered, Performance Coaches are reminded of the responsibilities mentioned under Rule 2.1

8.5 Coaches cannot simply drop players when they reach capacity in the event of a more talented newcomer becoming available. All discussions of moving a player, need to involve the Coach, Membership Secretary and Parent(s) to ensure that all voices are heard fairly.

8.6 Where persistent bad behaviour or regular absence from sessions and or matches become a problem, the club reserves the right to review a players position with the squad.

## **9. Mini Kickers – Early Birds**

9.1 Ages 3 & 4 only.

## **10. Mini Kickers – Young Guns**

10.1 Age 5 Only.