



Southgate Colts FC

Southgate Colts Youth Football Team Policy

Policy relating to Team Selection and Player Inclusion

Purpose:

To ensure fair and inclusive practices in team selection and player participation, aligned with FA best practices for Youth Football, and to safeguard the welfare of all players.

Scope:

This policy applies to all managers and coaches of Southgate Colts youth football teams, from mini kickers, on to U7 up to U16.

Policy Statement:

Southgate Colts is committed to promoting a positive and inclusive environment for all players. Decisions regarding team selection and player participation must prioritise the welfare and development of the child, in accordance with FA Youth guidelines.

This policy **does not preclude ordinary squad rotation**, i.e. when managers quite appropriately 'rest' players for specific games when a full squad, or nearly full squad, is available in order to ensure appropriate game time for those who do attend. By way of example, where an 11-a-side squad may comprise 18 players, managers are not required to take 7 substitutes to games and have the discretion to rest players on a rotation basis in discussion with players and parents.

Procedures:

1. Team Selection:

- Managers and coaches must ensure that team selection is based on fair and transparent criteria, focusing on the development and enjoyment of all players.
- All players should be given equal opportunities to participate in matches based on their commitment and attitude, regardless of their skill level.
- Players and parents are expected to display appropriate commitment to the FA respect agenda and to the values of Southgate if representing the club.
- It is the Club's position that players are best served by playing in their own age group and not by 'playing up' unless in specific circumstances agreed by the club. Coaches are encouraged to select members of the appropriate age group for match squads, and this consideration should feature in their match squad selection criteria.

2. Dropping Players from Match Day Teams For Extended Periods:

- If a manager or coach considers dropping a player from the match day team to a training-only role for any extended period, they must first refer the decision to the Club Welfare Officer or the Club Committee.
- The referral must include a detailed explanation of the reasons for the proposed change, focusing on the child's welfare and development.

3. Review Process:

- The Club Welfare Officer or Club Committee will review the referral, considering the child's best interests, welfare, and inclusion.
- The review process will involve discussions with the player, their parents or guardians, and relevant coaching staff to ensure a holistic understanding of the situation.

4. Decision Making:

- The final decision will be made by the Club Welfare Officer or Club Committee, ensuring it aligns with FA guidelines and the club's commitment to child welfare and inclusion.



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- The decision will be communicated to all relevant parties, with a clear explanation and any necessary support measures.

5. Appeals:

- Parents or guardians have the right to appeal decisions. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Club Committee within 7 days of the decision.
- The Club Committee will review the appeal and provide a final decision within 14 days.

Removal of Players from Both Match Day and Training:

Circumstances:

- A player may be considered for removal from both match day and training activities under the following circumstances:
 - o Persistent disruptive behaviour that affects the team's cohesion and the player's own development.
 - o Serious breaches of the club's code of conduct, including bullying, aggression, or disrespect towards teammates, coaches, or officials.
 - o Safety concerns that cannot be mitigated through reasonable adjustments or support.

Process:

- The manager or coach must document the specific incidents or concerns leading to the consideration of dropping the player.
- This documentation, along with a proposed plan for addressing the issues, must be submitted to the Club Welfare Officer or Club Committee.
- The Club Welfare Officer or Club Committee will conduct a thorough review, including discussions with the player, their parents or guardians, and relevant coaching staff.
- The review will focus on finding supportive measures to help the player improve their behavior and reintegrate into the team.
- If dropping the player is deemed necessary, the decision will be communicated with a clear explanation and any recommended steps for the player's future involvement with the club.

References:

- **FA Youth Football Guidelines:** Ensuring the welfare and development of young players is paramount. The FA guidelines emphasize creating a positive environment where children can enjoy and develop through football
- **Child Welfare and Inclusion:** All decisions must prioritise the child's welfare, ensuring they feel valued and included in the team, regardless of their playing ability

By adhering to this policy, Southgate Colts aims to foster a supportive and inclusive environment for all young players, ensuring their enjoyment and development in football.

: [FA Guide to Grassroots Youth Football](#)

: [FA Best Practice Guidance](#)