**Springfield Football Club**

**[](http://www.meandmyfootball.co.uk/?id=teamop&action=view_pictures&mid=010507033012) [](http://www.meandmyfootball.co.uk/?id=teamop&action=view_pictures&mid=010507033012) Respect code of conduct and**

**Policy for Youth Players**

**1. Objective**

The objective of the Springfield Football Club Youth Policy is to detail the guidelines that should be used for the conduct, training, management and guidance of junior football players within the Club.

**2. Club Junior Football Policy**

a) The policy of Springfield Football Club shall be to promote football at junior levels for all, irrespective of background, race, colour, creed or status, within the guidelines of administrative bodies in an organised and structured manner to the best of its ability.

b) Springfield Football Club shall operate junior football for boys and girls between the ages of five and 18 years of age and to further the cause of Amateur Football and promote Athletic and Social Recreation amongst its members.

c) It shall be the Club policy to encourage junior players to progress to the senior playing sides and to higher levels where possible with the support of the Club.

d) All players shall have equal opportunity.

e) The guidelines contained in this policy shall be applied in conjunction with the Constitution of Springfield Football Club where rules apply to membership, registrations, and playing matters, and match fees.

**3. General**

a) All players, managers and parents will be expected to follow the guidelines for spectators and officials as laid down by the responsible bodies.

b) No parent should be encouraged at reception or mini soccer groups to purchase expensive equipment on the basis that their child may change their mind about playing football or not be skilful enough to succeed.

c) The number of teams entered in any competition will be decided by the Club Management Committee annually depending on the number of players available and the parental support. In general the decision will be based on the number of players progressing each season from the reception group to the mini soccer group and from the mini soccer group to competitive football. The management committee will agree the number of teams playing play at any group annually.

d) Participation in mini soccer and reception groups shall not be based on skill but on football for all.

e) The structure of the Club and its management is based on a single Club basis with junior players progressing to senior teams from the older junior teams.

f) In competitive competitions managers shall be actively encouraged to include all squad members in matches throughout the season as full playing members with the proviso that current guidelines require that all teams/clubs are required to field their strongest team when playing competitive competitions.

g) Junior players shall not be barred from Junior football activities at the Club where special financial considerations need to be considered. Decisions relating to these issues shall be kept confidential and a matter between the team manager, assistant secretary and membership secretary only in so far as it affects the rules of the Club on membership.

**3. Support**

Four areas will support the Youth Policy,

- The management committee

- Youth development officer

- Parents

- Team managers & assistants

**4. Responsibilities**

**4.1. Management Committee**

a) The management committee shall have responsibility for the appointment of managers and managers assistants and shall ensure as far as they are able that the person is suitable personally and skilled in football skills to a sufficient standard.

b) The management committee shall endeavour to ensure that a person suitably trained in first aid by an appropriate organisation shall be in attendance at all training and matches to provide first aid or life saving should the need arise. The management committee will actively support managers, assistants and parents who wish to attend courses by recognised bodies.

c) The management committee shall be responsible for all aspects of Club management including junior football.

d) Managers of Junior teams shall be normally appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting or the subsequent meeting thereafter.

f) The Club management Committee shall be responsible for all administrative and financial matters relating to junior teams.

g) The management committee shall be responsible for providing all playing strip and equipment for junior teams and making available suitable training locations and training aids (subject to financial constraints). Equipment etc. over and above that normally supplied by the Club shall be the subject of discussion by the full management committee.

**4.2. Parents Responsibilities**

The parents shall have the following responsibilities

To ensure that players are

- Guided through their games with sympathy and encouragement

- Allowed to play without constant hindrance from the sidelines

- To be supported and applauded for good play and good behaviour

- Not to be criticised for mistakes

- To be set a good example from adults

Parents are expected to collect their children from training, matches, etc. promptly at the appropriate time. (Managers shall be responsible for ensuring that no child is left alone at the end of training, matches, etc. A suitable adult must be left with the child until they are collected or taken home by an adult.)

**4.3. Youth Development Officer**

The duties and responsibilities of the Youth Development Officer are:

- To promote youth football within the club

- Advise on training methods for youth players

- Assist managers in the organisation of special training

- Liaise with professional clubs if required to further the development of players within the club

- Ensure that the club is kept appraised of changes in philosophy affecting youth football by the organisational; bodies

- Make managers aware of new training techniques or recommendations affecting fitness by sports medical bodies

The Youth Development Officer shall liaise with the Hon. Assistant Secretary and Senior Team Managers on a regular basis in carrying out their duties.

The Youth Development Officer shall assist the management committee where necessary in matters of junior football issues.

**4.4. Team Managers Responsibilities & Guidelines**

a) It shall be the responsibility of junior team managers to develop the footballing skills of the junior players and promote sportsmanship and social recreation amongst its members.

b) All managers should be aware that the way in which young players are trained throughout their footballing career can influence the way they approach life as whole.

c) Junior managers are responsible for the progression of junior players into the senior playing sides and will be assisted by the Youth Development Officer in this task at the older age groups.

d) Senior Team Managers will be required to assist the junior policy by encouraging senior players to provide assistance with junior training and to include older age group players in senior squads as a way of introduction to senior football.

e) It is the responsibilities of all managers to ensure that junior players are NOT overplayed in accordance with footballing authority guidelines.

f) Junior team managers’ responsibilities shall include the following

* Provision of suitable training schemes, activities and exercises for the team to allow their footballing skills to develop.
* ensure that parents are kept fully informed of arrangements for meeting on match days and training sessions
* co-ordination of transport for the players too and from matches
* ensuring that suitable first aid equipment is available at training and matches to deal with minor incidents
* administrative matters relating to the junior team on match days
* advising opposition and officials of home match kick off time and location in accordance with the relevant footballing organisations rules
* the safety and welfare of players while at training sessions and matches
* provision of clean strips at each match
* complying with the rules of all competitions in which they are entered and the rules of the Club that may be based on the administration of the competitions in which they are entered
* provision of refreshments on match days
* safety of the junior players within their squads at training sessions and matches

g) It is not the Club policy that managers should reward their teams for winning matches.

**6. Training Sessions**

a) The emphasis for training sessions organised for junior teams shall be to

* encourage the players to enjoy their football
* aid their physical and mental development

b) Training exercises shall be organised to include all squad members irrespective of skill level.

c) Training sessions shall be varied to keep players interest. This is especially important at the younger age groups.

d) Use shall be made wherever possible of training exercises suggested by the various Footballing authorities.

e) Team managers shall ensure that sufficient equipment e.g. footballs are available to include all team members in training drills. The exception to this is where the team are split into groups each group performing different drills.

f) Managers should make use of assistants/helpers where teams are divided into groups for training sessions. Managers should monitor the progress of each group making sure that drills are carried out correctly.

g) During training sessions team managers are advised to stop play in matches to explain to players why something has been done incorrectly or to provide positional advice.

h) Team managers should make use where possible at all age groups of small-sided games during training sessions to develop skills.

j) Where bad weather precludes the use of outdoor training facilities it is suggested that team managers make use of indoor facilities for training by using videos, subbuteo, team quiz's, etc. to allow the training sessions to continue on a regular basis.

**7. Playing Structure**

a) The Junior football within the Club shall be divided into two areas, competitive football and non-competitive football

b) Non-competitive football shall be between the ages of 5 and 10 and includes the reception group and mini-soccer groups

c) Mini soccer groups shall consist of teams at the ages of under 8 and under 9. Junior players below this age but above the age of five may join in the football activities of the club by joining the reception group. The reception group shall be responsible for introducing these players to the sport of football and teaching them basic footballing skills, sportsmanship and friendship.

d) Above the age of 10 junior players will play in competitive matches and organised competitions managed by local organisations.

**8. Respect**

* 1. We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.
  2. As a youth player, you have a big part to play. That’s why the Essex County Football Association are asking every player to follow a Respect Code of Conduct. When playing football, you must:
* Always play to the best of your ability
* Play fairly – don’t cheat, complain or waste time.
* Respect your team-mates, the other team, the referee and your coach/manager.
* Play by the rules, as directed by the referee
* Shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
* Listen and respond to what your coach/team manager tells you
* Talk to someone you trust or the club welfare officer if you are unhappy about anything at the club.

**8.3** You must understand that if you do not follow the Code, any or all of the following actions may be taken by Springfield FC, Essex County Football Association or The FA. You may:

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

This Policy was reviewed and approved by Springfield FC Committee in November 2017

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**End of Policy**