

Introduction

The following should be read in conjunction with the Nunnery Wood Colts (NWC) Club Constitution. These two documents together form a framework for what is expected of Club Officers, Managers, Coaches, Players and Spectators that is to be adhered to at all times.

Mandatory requirements are preceded with the word "shall" and guidance with "should".

Club Mission Statement

To nurture, develop and release talent in the youth of Worcestershire through football by providing an environment where players feel free to make mistakes and learn to play the beautiful game.

Club Ethos

The mission statement will be achieved through use of the FA four corner model with equal emphasis on all the following abilities:

- Technical The ability to utilise footballing skills
- Physical The ABCs; Agility, Balance & Control
- Psychological Decision making & skill selection
- Social Working as a team

This will develop fully rounded players that fulfil their potential in their later teens rather than concentrating on winning at all costs where players can be driven to achieve at age 11 but lose interest by the age of 14 due to a lack of ownership of what should be their game.

Max/min squad size (No of players)

Age Group	Format	Min	Ideal	Max
U7	5 v 5	5	8	10
U8	5 v 5	5	8 - 10	10
U9	7 v 7	7	10	14
U10	7 v 7	7	10 - 12	14
U11	9 v 9	9	12	18
U12	9 v 9	9	12 - 14	18
U13	11 v 11	11	14	22
U14	11 v 11	11	15	22
U15	11 v 11	11	16	22
U16	11 v 11	11	17	22
U17	11 v 11	11	20	22
U18	11 v 11	11	20	22
U21	11 v 11	11	20	22

You will note that in the second season of the smaller formats we suggest you take on more players. These are to ensure you have enough for the following season in which you will move up a format thus needing more players.

You are free to take on "Training only" players, in preparation for the following season, that train but do not take part in games.



The maximum squad size applies to local leagues only as there is no limit on MJPL squad size.

Matchday squad

Teams should take enough players to ensure they all get a decent run-out on the pitch whilst adhering to the minimum playing times below.

Minimum playing times

- 5 v 5: All matchday players shall get a similar amount of game time in every game.
- 7 v 7: All squad players shall get a broadly similar amount of playing time over the season.
- 9 v 9 & 11 v 11: All matchday players shall play at least one half of football per game unless injured or sent off during the game.

Note for all formats: If a rota is used due to a large squad it is important that all players get a similar amount of games where available.

Team Captain

Teams in the 5 v 5 & 7 v 7 formats shall vary the captain on a week to week basis using performance in the previous week's game or training to make the decision, which should be fully explained to the team on matchday.

9 v 9 teams should also vary the captain using the same rationale unless there is a stand-out candidate for captain that demonstrates a clear understanding of what is expected of them on a week by week basis.

11 v 11 teams should choose a consistent captain based on the above rationale.

Starting line up

Starting line-up should be varied on a week by week basis so no players get to feel like they're just making up the numbers.

Player of the match

- 5 v 5 & 7 v 7: This shall be varied and spread out around all the team players with a detailed explanation given at the end of each match.
- 9 v 9: This should be varied and spread out around all the team players with a detailed explanation given at the end of each match where possible.
- 11 v 11: Should be awarded to the best player on the day with a detailed explanation given at the end of each match where possible.

Payment of subs

All subs to teams shall be paid by cash or bank transfer for the whole season in advance or standing order over 9 or 12 months.

This means for an average payment of say £200 per player could be split up as £20 signing on fee plus either $12 \times £15$ or $9 \times £20$ payments by standing order.



All new Teams are to set up a Community bank account in the name of "Nunnery Wood Colts, [team name]", which is to be used for all team transactions where possible.

Team coaches/managers

Teams are free to involve as many coaches as they like for training session with a maximum of three officials pitch-side on match days on the opposite side of the pitch to the spectators:

Each team shall have the following officials as a minimum at all games and training sessions

Local league teams

Manager: Qualified as a Level 1 FA coach or booked on the course having achieved an FA Playmaker qualification with in date safeguarding, emergency aid and DBS certificates.

Coach: Preferably level 1 qualified but definitely needs in date safeguarding, emergency aid and DBS certificates

Regional Level Teams (MJPL/County League)

As above, one of the coaches must be at least Level 2 qualified (or working towards it) and the other shall have at least a Level 1. Please note Level 2 will become UEFA C in 2022.

Coaching qualifications

All coaches/managers including assistants must have at least in date Safeguarding, Emergency Aid and DBS to coach children at NWC.

All qualifications shall be kept up to date as dictated by the FA.

Currently this means that CRB/DBS checks, Safeguarding Children and Emergency Aid certificates need to be renewed every three years.

Managers/coaches should ensure continuity in their qualifications so make sure these are renewed in advance of them expiring.

Any teams using unqualified coaches on a regular basis will have their matches suspended until they can comply with the minimum standards.

Playing style

There is no imposed club playing style other than to facilitate variety in play as and when the opportunities present themselves.

We do not want to see teams hoofing the ball forward all the time but, equally, we do not want to see teams religiously playing out from the back all the time when there are better options.

The style of play should suit the conditions, opportunities and opposition to generate the best chance of getting a positive outcome from the game.

Managers should remember that positive outcomes are not solely measured on a games won basis as there are myriad other ways of judging success.



Our pitches are all max size for the age group to encourage open play so teams are advised to get the ball wide whenever they can to spread out the game and facilitate a good game of football.

All teams should have a tactics board of some sort so they can explain to players what is expected of them.

Coaching style

Club coaches are to make sure players are given the best opportunities to improve their skills during training by making use of the five coaching styles as follows:

Q&A Show & Tell Command Demonstration Guided Discovery

There will be inevitable differences where some coaches use more of one style than the others but the aim should be to use all styles to improve coach/player communications and aid player development.

Coaches should be as quiet as possible on matchdays limiting input to tactical advice only where possible (Less is more). The training ground is the place to correct problems with technique.

The FA have a campaign entitled "We only do positive" that focuses on positive encouragement from all coaches and parents; it is recommended that everyone has a look at the video here:

http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/coach/respect/we-only-do-positive

No linesman, manager or coach should enter the field of play without permission of the referee. We all know the ball can be a bit of a magnet but please do not be attracted to it when coaching.

Remember your substitutes; keep them occupied mentally and physically during a game so they're ready to come on when you need them.

Training sessions

Training sessions are to follow the 70% ball rolling guidance given by the FA. This means that warm-ups need to involve a ball so no squat thrusts, press-ups or whatever other 70s stuff bad coaches do.

Team communications

Team managers should contact their team via email or similar modes such as WhatsApp at least once per week before Friday setting out the venue and time for the weekend's game. It is advised that you include the following information:

- Playing kit
- Arrival time
- List of selected players
- Any upcoming fixtures you're aware of
- Date of NWC tournament
- Dates of Christmas do, end of season do etc.

All Team communication groups such as WhatsApp are to be limited to Team related activities only so shall not be used for "Banter" images etc.



Goal kicks

Goal kicks shall be taken by the goalkeeper at all times unless they are injured. Please make best use of the law change where the keeper can simply pass to a defender next to them from whence the ball becomes "live".

If the goalkeeper is not very good at taking goal kicks they need to be coached to a level where they can strike a stationary ball and make good decisions where they aim the kick.

Goalkeepers who cannot kick a ball will be severely limited in their development.

Kit

All teams shall wear a club playing strip as advised at the start of the season. All playing and training wear is to be purchased via the club's Kit Officer.

Currently, this means that players can wear short sleeved home shirts so please make sure you provide them with a royal blue skin to cover their arms in cold weather so keeping the same kit theme.

Managers and coaches should wear club badged tops so either polo top, track suit top or rain/bench coat depending on the weather.

Training kits are open to what's available but must be badged with the club name and crest.

Other club colours/kits are not acceptable on match days or at training sessions. If teams have not official training kit players should either use their playing kit or plain tops with no badging.

Setting up new teams

The Club will pay for and provide the following to new teams setting up:

- A full home kit for 10 players (to be returned to the Club after two years)
- Payment for a Level 1 course for the Manager of the team (or assistant if manager is already qualified)
- Payment of CRB checks for manager and coach.
- Payment for assistant's Safeguarding Children and Emergency Aid courses
- A set of 10 footballs in a bag
- First aid kit
- Set of cones
- Set of bibs
- Two adult club raincoats

References to "Team" and "Club"

Any reference to Club means Nunnery Wood Colts FC only.

Any reference to Team means an individual team playing under the Club banner



Player approaches outside club

If you want a player that is already signed to another team to play or even train with your team you should contact their manager directly and ask for his permission to talk to the player out of common courtesy to a fellow youth manager.

Officially, you should immediately inform the NWC Secretary that you wish to talk to a player signed to another team and they will serve what's called a "Seven day notice" to the other club by sending an email to their Secretary. You are then free to talk to the player after the seven day notice has expired.

Player approaches within club

Countless problems have occurred in the past with managers "poaching" players from other Club teams. This is clearly unacceptable and the following procedure shall be followed in this situation.

The manager that wants to talk to the other team's player shall contact the player's existing manager as soon as possible once initial contact has been made by the player's parents or if they want to make an unsolicited approach.

If the existing manager is not willing to consider a transfer the manager wanting to approach the other team's player is to contact the Chairman to whom they can make a case as to why the transfer should go ahead. The Chairman will then discuss the situation and come to a final decision on the player, which will be binding.

Any contravention of this process may lead to a written warning for the manager concerned, even if the approach is made by a different parent from the team.

Conduct when in NWC kit

Conduct of players, coaches and spectators shall be exemplary when representing NWC at all times, be that at games or anywhere else.

Anyone observed by a member of the committee doing anything that may harm the good name of NWC shall be subject to club disciplinary procedures, example of unacceptable behaviour are as follows:

- Swearing
- Smoking
- Drinking in an inappropriate location

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list and the final decision as to the nature of any behaviour shall rest with the Committee.

Photographs

It is assumed by the club that all club players can be photographed whilst playing football unless the Club has been informed that any child cannot have their photo taken; Teams shall therefore inform the Club if that is the case.

It is therefore the responsibility of individual managers/coaches to let the club know if this is not the case.

All managers therefore need to check with their players' parents at the start of the season whether any of their team players would rather not have their photographs taken by the team and/or club.



Website

Every team has its own part of the Club website on which they can post photos and other football related news on their team's players, results etc.

All posts are subject to vetting by the Committee and if in any doubt about the suitableness of your proposed post please ask.

Please be aware that any abuse of any other teams, players, referees is deemed unacceptable so limit any posts to positive views only. This is our "Window to the World" therefore very important that we only post what should be read and not stuff you may regret.

League rules

League rules are to be followed at all times and take precedence over this document or the NWC Club Constitution, although any discrepancy is to be reported immediately to the Committee.

Respect

All teams shall comply with the FA's current guidance with regards to the Respect campaign. This requires the following to be in place:

- Signed codes of conduct for all players, coaches and spectators
- Every game finishes with three cheers led by the team captain
- Inter-club games shall also start with a Respect handshake or Fist pump

FA Boot Room

All coaches are advised to make use of this to continue their learning and development as a football coach, which will in turn enable the continual development of the team.

Care of equipment (Goals, respect barrier, corner flags)

These are provided by NWC for use by all the teams and are to be stored in the correct location depending on playing venue and as directed at the various managers' meetings etc.

Metal goals are to be stored in the nominated locations and kept on their wheels (not on the ground) and locked when not in use. They should be checked before and after every game with the net fixings to be replaced as necessary from the supply of cable ties in the green shed.

Plastic goals are to be fully broken down with no connecting pieces left on the longer poles with net and pegs stored in the same bag, pegs at bottom, net on top. The goal bag is to be fully closed to ensure all parts stay within the bag and bags are to be carried (not dragged) from the storage to the pitch and back again.

Respect barriers are to be stored in the correct location, ie. on the shelf next to the respective goals and are to be carefully wound out and up before/after the game.

Corner flags should similarly be stored in the correct location.



Care of facilities (Pitches, changing, car park)

All pitches are to be checked before playing a game to ensure they are safe with no debris, holes or animal faeces over the whole surface to ensure the health and safety of our players. Any damage to pitches is to be reported immediately to a member of the Committee so that it's rectification can be arranged with the relevant provider.

Changing rooms are to be left in a clean and tidy state even if they were messy upon arrival. If the previous user has left them in a state please take photos and provide them to a member of the committee.

Cars are to be parked away from emergency access points and as close together as possible.

Please remove any rubbish from the site before you play so as to produce a welcoming atmosphere and make sure all rubbish is removed once the game has finished, even if it belonged to your opposition.

Consideration to neighbours (Parking, boots)

NWC spectators are asked to park away from the ground unless they know in advance that there are not many games on that day. This provides spaces for our visitors' cars to park on site when they may have come from far afield. There is plenty of parking available on Battenhall Road opposite the old convent school and along Evendine Close so please use it to avoid clogging up the entrance to our ground and annoying our neighbours by blocking their drives.

Muddy football boots shall on no account be cleaned on pavements by banging them against the kerbs or our neighbours' walls. They should be either knocked clean over grass or taken home and cleaned there.

Matchday Parking & KO times

Please make sure your opposition park in the correct car park for your pitch and that someone is in the relevant car park to welcome your opposition.

All games are to kick off at the time specified in the weekly email and on the correct pitch.

Please vacate the pitches/car park as soon as possible once your game is finished to free up spaces for the next wave of games.

Club Linesman/Referees

Please make sure linesmen know the laws of the game, offsides and throw ins etc.

Club Linesman/Referees are not to coach the team unless they are willing to advise both teams to make the game better for all.

Banter

There's no such thing as banter with a child, they don't get it and will take stuff to heart even if they don't appear to have done so. Leave it to your mates down the pub.