

WEST BRIDGFORD COLTS FC PLAYER PATHWAY DOCUMENT



Respect

HELLO.

Welcome to the UK's largest amateur football club, run almost entirely by volunteers.

Our founding principle was to give as many local children as possible the opportunity to play football, and our club philosophy is centred on player development, aiming to give every player the chance to maximise their potential whilst having a great time.

This is why the club has grown so big, but we use our size as a benefit as we look to achieve those goals, and it enables us to have a fluid but structured player-centred pathway.

Year on year you will be part of a specific squad or pool throughout your time with WBC, but it is highly likely that during your time with the club teams will mix/merge / disband as playing formats change.

There are 3 main sections to the career of a WBC player (and volunteer coach):

MINI COLTS

U5 & U6 (Soccer School)/U7 & U8 (5v5)

MAIN (YEL LEAGUE)

U9 & U10 (7v7), U11 & U12 (9v9), U13 & U14 (11v11)

YOUTH/MEN

U15, U16, U18, U19 & Men's

TEAM AND SQUAD CAPACITY

As a guide, we can accommodate approx. 90-100 boys per year group (max mid-60s on Sat, mid 30s on Sun). In terms of how that breaks down into teams per year, with recommended squad size:

U7s & U8s (5v5) Teams: 9 Saturday. 4 Sunday.
Players in a flexible pool system.

U9s & U10s (7v7) Teams: 6 Saturday. 3/4 Sunday.
Squad of 10-11. Players in set teams.

U11s & U12s (9v9) Teams: 5 Saturday. 2/3 Sunday.
Squad of 12-13

U13-U18 (11v11) Teams: 4 Saturday. 2 Sunday.
Squad of 15-16

U19s 1 Midweek League Team.
Mens 2 Saturday Teams

N.B: We are aware the current U11 & U12 year groups have more teams than the above plan.

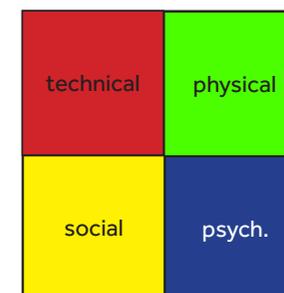
So special transitory dispensation will be given for the move to 11 aside for these year groups - although there will still need to be a reduction in teams.

After two years in the Mini Colts soccer school (u5/6), from U7-U12 your child will play matches in two-year cycles, as detailed above.

THROUGH THE FORMATS

With the playing format changing at the end of each cycle, as the number of teams by necessity diminishes, the club reviews the year group, and re-assesses squads.

This assessment is to ensure we are doing all we can to meet all players' aspirations, in line with the FA's Long Term Player Development (LTPD) model, which factors in The 4 Corners: technical, physical, psychological & social development.



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11-A-SIDE - OBJECTIVES

With the start of 11-a-side football at u13, we aspire on a Saturday to have one team competing in the top division of the league and a second within the top 3 divisions.

On a Sunday the minimum target would be to have a team in the top 2 divisions. In order to achieve this, we will look to develop 'Performance Teams' within each year group.

The pathway towards these 11-a-side performance teams begins with the above mentioned year group reviews at each year group format transition.

CONSTANT DISCUSSION

At these stages, there will be discussions between the coaches and year group reps, with support from the Vice Chair of WBC, around the make-up of the teams.

This is to ensure both children, parents and our volunteer coaches are happy with how everything is developing and we are doing all we can to meet both the club's and players' aspirations.

THE ULTIMATE GOAL?

The ultimate goal is developing children that joined at Mini Colts, to be able to join WBC Men's teams at an appropriate age if they wish.

In tandem with this goal, we remain equally committed to instilling a lifelong love of the game and the opportunity to play for WBC until at least the age of 18 for all our players.

We aim to create a relaxed yet progressive environment in which players will own their developmental goals.

Throughout a player's time with the club, we will prioritise inclusivity, positivity, fair game time for all, and confidence building.

This will not, however, be at the expense of developing individual technique, game awareness and game management - we believe that results will be derived from a team that respects one another and works together toward a common goal, wherever each player stands in their football development at any given time.

The Club wants all its teams to be as successful as they possibly can be and will support them all equally, with everyone still paying the same registration fees & subs throughout.

There are many ways to measure success, the club will celebrate all equally.

Ultimately we are one club - we are all West Bridgford Colts!



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