

# WEST BRIDGFORD COLTS FC PLAYER PATHWAY DOCUMENT



## WELCOME

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.

When putting teams together we can accommodate 90 players in our U7 mixed teams that, are mostly boys (60 on Saturday and 30 on Sunday) & at U8 30 girls in our girls only league teams.

Each season players will be part of a specific squad/pool, but it is highly likely that this may change as teams/pools will mix/merge/disband as playing formats change but each player will always have a team.

## TEAM AND SQUAD CAPACITY

There are various sections to the career of a WBC player (& volunteer coach):

U5 & U6 (& U7 Girls)		Mini Colts train in our Soccer School
U7 & U8	5v5	Play in YEL league or NGLFL girls only teams
U9 & U10	7v7	Play in YEL league or NGLFL girls only teams
U11 & U12	9v9	Play in YEL league or NGLFL girls only teams
U13 & U14	11v11	Play in YEL league or NGLFL girls only teams
U15-U18	11v11	Play in NYL or NGLFL girls only teams
U19 & Adult	11v11	1-2 x U19, Men's x 4, Ladies x 1 teams

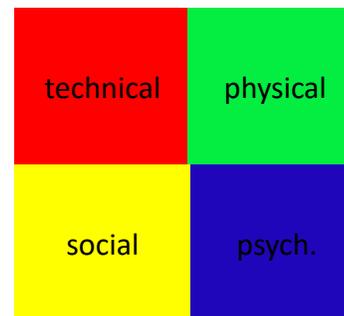
\*Girls only teams transition to 9v9 at U12 and 11v11 at U14

In terms of how that breaks down into teams per year group, recommended squad size are as follows:

	Boys teams	Girls teams	
5v5	9 Sat/4 Sun	3 Sun	Players in a flexible pool system
7v7	6 Sat/3 Sun	3 Sun	Squad of 10-11. Players in set teams.
9v9	5 Sat/3 Sun	2 Sun	Squad of 12-13
11v11	4-5 Sat/3 Sun	2 Sun	Squad of 15-16

## THROUGH THE FORMATS

When the playing format changes we will review and redistribute players to accommodate the new squad sizes required. This is done 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.



## LONG TERM OBJECTIVES

With the start of 11-a-side football 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 afore mentioned year group reviews at each format transition. The ultimate goal is developing children that joined at Mini Colts, to be able to join WBC adult 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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