



11/09/2020

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Firstly, the club would like to wish all players, parents, coaches and supporters the best of luck for the coming season and that you and family are well in these trying times.

Most of you will know that the club has over the last 7 months seen a large element of change including a whole new core of volunteers to create a committee having seen the previous committee stand down prior to the COVID 19 pandemic. Please understand that all committee members, coaches and parent helpers are volunteers that give their own personal free time to allow 240+ children that attend the club the chance to play the game they love in a safe environment and this wouldn't be possible without the army of people behind the scenes. Whilst this process may not be perfect 100% of the time, we can assure you that club's sole purpose is to support and work with our football family in line with FA guidance.

As the season kicks off, we would like to confirm the ethos of the club and the requirements of the club in line with FA requirements, the FA club code of conduct and the Hailsham United Junior Football Club Code of Conduct.

As a club we would like to set out the ethos of both Mini Soccer (Under 6 – Under 10) in line with the guidelines that all club officials, coaches, players and supporters must adhere to:

- To develop all players understanding that all children and young adults develop at different rates and some players require more assistance than others.
- Understanding that development of the players in a safe, fun and engaging environment comes over all other aspects including winning (as page 4 of the FA Code of Conduct)
- To ensure that all Coaches are checked and approved in accordance with the FA requirements including First Aid, DBS and FA Coaching badges.

The above ethos is achieved by following the simple steps set out below:

- Providing ongoing training and support to our coaches and volunteers.
- Providing safe, fun and engaging training and matches by FA approved coaches for all children.
- Mini soccer ages are squad based and children are to rotate in order to ensure that the number of playing squads required are fulfilled on each match day (As a local community club we understand that certain players have bonds with multiple players that they understand and feel safe with and the club recognises this as "core groups" and whilst it is the club's intention to ensure that core groups get to play together as much as possible it is important for all players to play and also for children to challenge themselves by playing with other players, this ethos in turn will allow all match day squads to be fulfilled and game time for all players)



- Competitive football ages (U11 – U18) are based on set teams and these are selected over a multitude of aspects including squad numbers, ability level and the children's level of match / game awareness.

Training will be provided in the following formats:

Mini Soccer – Under 6s: The season will be solely training based with 1 session per week subject to weather and availability ready to move into the under 7s season.

Mini Soccer – Under 7s – Under 10s: The season will be split between training and games throughout the season with one of either elements per week subject to weather, availability and elements out of the control of the club.

Under 11s – U18s: The season is based on weekly matches subject to schedule games provided by the league and weekly training sessions subject to weather, availability, and elements out of the control of the club.

The club would like to acknowledge the additional time put in by the coaches and at times they may chose to hold additional sessions to work with aspects of the squad to assist with the children development and self-confidence, we must stress that these session are provided as additional help and don't form part of the clubs requirements set out above.

Dual registration of players:

As a club we take this opportunity to confirm that we support any child that wishes to push themselves by opening up their experience to other clubs and coaching methods. This has been the case in past and will continue.

We must however state that as a club we would never push or advise players that they are best off dual signing, but we would support any child or parent that wishes to open up their experience.

Given the current situation world wide and the laws and guidance surrounding COVID 19 any player that moves from bubble to bubble must make this known not only to Hailsham United Junior Football Club but to their dual registered clubs and any sport / group activities where there is a chance of transmission. Without this information it would be impossible to maintain the Government guidelines around track and trace.

Please feel free to communicate these activities in confidence via either your Coach or the Club Committee.



Safeguarding and COVID 19:

As with any long-term project there are bound to be some bumps in the road but as a club and football community, there is large element of risk connected to safeguarding and COVID 19. Therefore, in line with the Hailsham United Junior Football Club Code of Conduct we all signed up to we would like to take this opportunity to confirm the following:

- Mini soccer is non-competitive and under no circumstances can the scores, match results, goal scorers or children's full name be mentioned in any social media posts.
- Any photos you may wish to post of your child must not include children outside the club, should the photo include such a person (under 18) then their face must be removed or covered.
- Individual Facebook pages or social media groups are fine but the clubs acting welfare officer or committee member must have access to the page / group to cover everyone include yourselves.
- The Club has an open-door policy and promotes the FA whistle blowing policy as when it comes to child safety it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that even the smallest issue is looked at and understood.

We trust the above provides you with a good understanding of the club's policy and ethos in line with the constraints imposed by the FA guidance moving forward but we take this opportunity to re-assure you that these processes and procedures are in line with the "Grass Roots Football Set Up" but should you wish to see the FA code of conduct it is available from either the committee or on line at the FA Website.

The club is run to provide the children with access to fun, safe and engaging football from an early age up to young adults, please help us achieve this by adhering the FA RULES at all times including match days, training and outside the club as we must remember that the children are representing the club on the pitch but we as adults are representing the club off the pitch.

If you would like to discuss anything detailed within this letter please feel free to contact us either via a member of our committee, welfare officer or coaches.

Kind Regards

On behalf of Hailsham United Junior Football Club

"WE ONLY DO POSITIVE"