

BALHAM FC/BALHAM BLAZERS FC CLUB POLICY 2016-2017

AIMS & AMBITIONS

The aims of the club are:

To provide training, equipment and organisation of association football for all its players.

To develop and improve its players and enhance their enjoyment of competitive association football.

The ambition of the club is that all teams achieve the highest standard possible, as close to professional academy levels as we can get.

CLUB SELECTION & SQUAD ALLOCATION

All players gain entry to the club via trials.

Any player who is registered at BBFC is registered as an age group player rather than specifically a player for a particular squad (e.g.: Colts player, Eagles player, Youth player etc.)

Players will be placed on a squad for the season ahead. They may find that they stay on that squad throughout their time at BBFC but, at the end of each season, the coaches will review each squad and player performances within it, both in training and matches. As a result of this any player may be moved from one squad to another if BBFC feels that it is in the best interests of the player and the club to do so.

It may be that a player struggles in a particular squad or the standard at BBFC is too high for them. In such instances we will discuss this with the parents of the player. Where necessary we may need to release the player from BBFC. Similarly where a player shows particularly poor attitude which, despite guidance and warnings, does not improve, we will consider releasing the player after discussion with their parents. In all such instances the balance of the players' fees for the season will be reimbursed.

TEAM SELECTION

BBFC is a competitive club.

Selection is based on ability and form, commitment to training and having a good attitude.

For mini soccer (U7s to U10s) there will be an emphasis on equal game time and roll on and off substitution in the weekly matches.

For 9-a-side and 11-a-side squads the Coach/Manager will aim to play their strongest team as they see it. Managers will endeavour to give all players in their squad as much playing time as possible however at BBFC the best interests of the team will always come before that of any individual.

If any player isn't selected then they need to work hard in training, wait for an opportunity to get in and play and when it comes along, attempt to take it.

If any player or parent has concerns about the playing time given to their child then they should discuss it with the manager/coach of their team or with the Club Secretary/Director of Football.

In the end, however, if players and parents want a guaranteed amount of playing time then this is not the club for them.

COMMITMENT

TRAINING:

Players will be expected to attend all of their squad's weekly scheduled training subject, of course, to illness or injury. Where a player can't make training the relevant coach should be notified. If players and teams don't train together and practise as much as possible it's impossible for them to improve and to flourish. At a younger age, in terms of development, attending regular training to work on ball skills, technique and game related play is more important than playing regularly in matches.

If any player cannot commit to attending training sessions regularly then they should not register at BBFC. If they do register but miss what is perceived by the club to be too much training they may be deregistered and asked to leave.

MATCHES:

The club's reputation is on the line every time one of our teams plays a match. Every match played, primarily in terms of performance and long-term player development, is of great importance to us. To keep building a growing reputation we cannot rest on our laurels but need to strive to achieve bigger and better things.

Any player offered a place at BBFC and registered to play for a BBFC team is expected to be available, unless ill

or injured, for all weekends apart from Christmas, New Year and Easter. Missing the occasional game for a special occasion is, of course, understandable but players who are consistently away or unavailable cannot expect to play when they are around and may well be asked to leave in order to make way for a player who is able to play every week.

Where squads are large in number some managers may choose to use a rotation policy in terms of selection. The dynamic in each squad is different and so this will be entirely up to the manager's discretion.

CODES OF CONDUCT

All players, parents and supporters, in addition to all BBFC coaches, are required to abide by the BBFC and FA Codes of Conduct, which are available to read on the BBFC Website. Respect videos, which all parents should take a look at, are also available to view on the FA Website. The most important single message to get across is that all players at BBFC are playing for their own enjoyment and their club. They are not playing for their parents. We very much welcome and encourage parental support at matches although parents should only be there to provide support and positive encouragement. The manager is appointed to coach and manage and only they should attempt to do so. If we feel any parent is interfering in any way, is too "shouty" on the touchline or is behaving inappropriately they will be warned and sanctioned, if necessary be banned from attending games and even, as a last resort, be asked to leave the club – not something we want for their child!

It should be said that in general, over many years, the parents and supporters at BBFC have behaved impeccably. We are determined that it stays that way.

PUNCTUALITY

All players must be on time for games. Players who are late for the meeting time, usually 45 minutes before the game, cannot expect to play as much as those who are on time. Players who are consistently late will not be selected.

COACHING

The coaching philosophy at BBFC is centred on long-term development. It's where players are at 18 that counts not where they are at 8.

The coaching at BBFC is based on developing skill and technique. We want our players to take calculated risks when they are young, playing out from the back, playing back to the keeper, learning to be comfortable in possession in all areas of the pitch, especially when under pressure. No one minds a forty yard pin point pass but we don't want to see route one, hoof the ball, smash it anywhere, lump it forward football. On big pitches, with big goals and big fast athletic players that style can be effective in youth football in terms of results but it hinders technical development and game intelligence. We want to win every game but we want to win playing high tempo attractive football. As important, if not more important than winning, is that anyone watching the game, be it opposing supporters, team officials or match officials, admires the way our teams play and the style and quality of football they produce. We want our teams to play within a firm structure and good shape but for their development we want them to play without fear of making mistakes and with imagination and freedom of expression.

KIT

All players are issued with club kit at the start of each season. It's up to them to look after it well. At the end of each season the shirt must be handed back in to the club in a state such that it is fit to be worn for another season. Shirts need to be recycled through the club. Most squads' shirts will be kept by the manager, handed out on match days and collected back in at the end of the game.

Extra, spare or replacement shirts, shorts, socks, can be ordered through our Club Shop at any time, but must be paid for by the player.

Club match kit (shirts/shorts/socks) should not be worn to training.

WARM UP TOPS

For the 2016-17 season we will be providing a warm up top for all new players. We would ask that, if you lose this, wear it out or grow out of it, you purchase another from the club shop. We also ask all players to purchase a training top to wear to all sessions.