



## Tri-County Academy - 'How We Operate'

The Tri-County Academy is an **Elite Academy** based set up. Although 'Private & Independent', we are always striving to emulate and replicate a 'Professional' Academy set up; for our players to experience that higher level of coaching and opportunities. As such, our Tri-County Academy set up therefore operates differently to local 'grassroots' clubs, for example.

The selection process for our Tri-County Academy squads will primarily be based off of '4 Main Factors' - **Ability, Commitment, Attitude & Personnel Requirements** (*the specific position needed for the team*).

The Tri-County Academy Coaches will be looking to assess each player, based off of these 4 Main Factors, to determine their place in match-day squads; for the appropriate level for each individual's current ability – which will allow each player to develop in the correct environment and level for them.

Each Tri-County Academy Coach will be making these decisions after seeing all of the players in action at the Tri-County Academy Training Sessions throughout the season.

Further information regarding how the Tri-County Academy will be operating this season, are as follows:

- 'Squad selections' will be based on the '4 main factors' – **Ability, Commitment, Attitude & Personnel Requirements** (*the specific type of player/position the Coach needs for the team*)
- The Tri-County Academy is not a fee-paying organisation. Any player of the sufficient level who displays these four main factors at our sessions is eligible for selection.
- Squad selections will be constantly reviewed, based on what the Coaches are seeing from the players during their training sessions (*and matches*); with Team Selections for any fixtures being based solely on this (*on a week-to-week, training session-to-training session basis*)
- This will instil a real sense of **competition for places** amongst our players; which is a key element of an Academy set up with players continuously working to their optimum level during our Tri-County Academy Training Sessions; in order to fight for and establish a place in the team selection for each match, on each separate occasion.
- We will look to organise regular fixtures against Elite Academy opposition. Only the highest quality of players will be selected for these prestigious, headline fixtures.
- We will also arrange further fixtures for all of our teams in the JK Academy set up; against other Independent Academies, and potentially some Professional Set Ups. Again, selection for these matches will be determined solely from what the Coaches see in training in the sessions leading up to each specific fixture; and will be communicated to the relevant personnel accordingly.

Newly introduced for the 23/24 season, the Tri-County Academy is the elite extension of the JK Academy, allowing the best players to play at the highest level achievable.

The Tri-County Academy is at no extra cost, and selection for the Tri-County Academy is entirely dependent on ability. Being a member of the JK Academy does not guarantee selection for the Tri-County Academy (*as it will be open to any players of the required ability*), however, being a member of the JK Academy will give the players a head-start in developing their abilities and showcasing them to our Tri-County coaches. A guaranteed minimum of half of the Tri-County Academy match-day squad will be selected from within the JK Academy setup.

The Tri-County Academy will look to play the headline, showcase matches against professional and semi-professional set-ups across the South of England and enter into the major tournaments including the professional and semi-professional competitions.

As mentioned in the '*JK Academy Ethos & Philosophy*' document, all of our Tri-County Academy stages have FA Qualified, professional coaches, who will plan and deliver structured training sessions to challenge their players. They will be setting targets & goals to achieve; in order for every player to have an opportunity to progress up the tiers if appropriate - and to maintain their place when they reach the highest level.

As such, the selection of personnel for each of these teams can be viewed as fluid (*as mentioned earlier in this document*), with regards to the fact that the coaches will constantly review their teams and select the best available players for their squads; based on who is striving/maintaining a high level of ability and behaviour. This is to ensure that players are always working hard in training & matches, to allow them to continuously progress – and effectively to keep them on their toes, to guard against complacency when they get to the highest tier within the Tri-County Academy; in order to maintain a high level.

As mentioned, selections will be based not only on a player's ability, but also on their commitment, attitude and behaviour in training – taking everything into account. As a result, if a player's behaviour, commitment or ability falls below the required standard, then we will review the player's status within their team. If these sorts of factors persist, players will then be eligible for selection.

