

# **BLANDFORD UNITED YOUTH FC**

## **CLUB ETHOS:**

**As many as possible for as long as possible in  
the best environment possible**

1: To provide football for children of all abilities in the local community in a safe and friendly environment.

2: To promote player development through age-appropriate coaching according to the FA's England DNA and long term development plans.

3: To offer a challenging but supportive environment where children can learn from their mistakes without undue pressure and worry.

4: To promote team values through the Club Codes of Conduct setting out what is expected in general terms of players, parents and coaches. We follow and embrace the FA RESPECT Campaign.

5: To encourage all players to try their best and make the most of their abilities.

6: To make each child's and parents experience of football at Blandford United as fun and fulfilling as we can.

## **FOOTBALLING PHILOSOPHY**

Our coaching is inclusive. We want all our players to have a good understanding of football in all phases of the game. In Possession (Attacking), Out of Possession (Defending) and Transition. For them to gain experience playing with the ball at their feet in training and real match situations.

We will try and play a passing game. Playing out from the goalkeeper and through the thirds, working hard to maintain possession and quickly regain it when lost.

We will encourage our players to express themselves and to try new things, to be CREATIVE.

We want to promote discipline, both in their attitude to the game and to their role on the pitch. Players should be accountable for their actions and take responsibility whilst supporting their teammates. Friends in every way, on and off the pitch.

# **COACHING PHILOSOPHY**

## **FOUNDATION PHASE**

### **AGE 4 -11**

#### **Let Them Play!**

- All children will be given equal playing time on match-day.
- All children will experience playing in different positions, both in training and during games. This will develop their whole game understanding.
- We concentrate on player development above winning. This is non-negotiable!
- We offer a creative, safe, environment where mistakes can be made in training and matches.
  - Depending on the number of players in each age group the club will operate the following minimum squad sizes.

Under 7 ten players

Under 8 ten players

Under 9 twelve players

Under 10 twelve players

Under 11 fourteen players

- Coaches and parents should always remember that 'It is Their Game' and it must not become a small version of the adult game.

# **COACHING PHILOSOPHY**

## **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PHASE**

### **AGE 12 - 16**

Youth Development introduces competitive football. From under 12's league tables will be published.

- Development will continue within a competitive league and cup structure.
- Style of play is varied between managers, however, all teams will aim to achieve, where possible, the club footballing philosophy.
- Players will learn a more tactical side of the game and the required skills for 11v11 competitive football.
- Players will be chosen to represent the club at competitive matches by criteria set out by each team manager.

Including, but not restricted to:

- Good behaviour / Respect for Coaches and other players
  - A good level of effort at matches and training
  - Willingness to fulfil various roles required by the manager to help the team.
  - Equal game time is no longer guaranteed for all players.
- The manager reserves the right to select players at his / her discretion on a match-to-match basis. The manager's decision is final and to be respected by all participants / Parents / Guardians.

- Encourage creativity and ongoing development, with the understanding that mistakes will be made
- It is expected that all players give maximum effort at all times and respect, listen and want to learn. This is non-negotiable.
- Depending on the number of players in each age group the club will operate the following minimum squad sizes.

Under 12 Fourteen players (9v9 game format)

Under 13 - 16 Sixteen players (11v11 game format)

- Whilst Youth Development football is competitive, it is important we still remember young players will make more mistakes than adults. It is imperative we encourage players to make their own decisions on the pitch and to learn by their mistakes.

A player who fears making a mistake will never learn anything new!