

2025/26

Ystradgynlais AFC Parent Handbook



Callum Secker

YSTRADGYNLAIS AFC CLUB SECRETARY

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1: Mission Statement

Our aim at Ystradgynlais AFC is to create an environment where football can be played and enjoyed by all. Regardless of age, gender, or ability.

We aim to be recognised as the leading football club in West Wales, and we will strive for excellence not only on the pitch but through our coaching, volunteering and reaching out to the local community.

We want to provide facilities and coaching to the highest standard to ensure that all those playing and watching are proud to be a part of Ystradgynlais Association Football Club.

We want to nurture our players and ensure excellent retention levels by developing a club that has good facilities, outstanding coaching, and a fun social environment.

We remain to be focused on being a grassroots football club for our past, present and future players, spectators, committee members and volunteers.

2: Committee's Welcome

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to a new season at Ystradgynlais AFC and thank you for being part of our growing football family.

As the newly appointed Chairperson, I'm incredibly proud to represent a club that is built on community, inclusion, and passion for the game. This year marks the start of an exciting new chapter for us, and at the heart of everything we do is our guiding ethos: Clwb i Bawb – A Club for Everyone.

Whether your child is just beginning their football journey or continuing to develop their skills, we are committed to providing a safe, positive, and supportive environment where every player feels welcomed, encouraged, and inspired to be their best, both on and off the pitch.

We understand how important your support is. From standing on the sidelines to helping with lifts, kits and encouragement, your involvement is truly valued. Together, we can create the kind of experience that helps children thrive, learning the values of teamwork, respect, and resilience through sport.

This season, you will see new developments across the club as we look to grow opportunities, improve facilities, and strengthen our sense of togetherness. We are more than just a football club, we're a community, and we are proud to be a place where everyone belongs.

Thank you for trusting us with your child's football journey. We look forward to sharing a fantastic season with you all.

Warm regards,

Callum Secker

Club Secretary, Ystradgynlais AFC

3: The Player Journey

When a player joins Ystradgynlais AFC Juniors, they are joining more than a football team, they are joining a family. Our junior section is now in its 30th year, stemming from the old Penrhos United, a history we are extremely proud of, our junior section has helped educate and develop a number of players over the years.

Our club ethos is to engage all children in the FUNdamental's of football and allow development to all, whatever your ability. We cater for all.

We are always developing as a club, and as such, we will cater to your child's needs and skills. We respect that some children want to kick a football about and enjoy the simple fun element of the game, as well as those children who have a keener interest and are desire to develop their skills more intensely. No two children are the same, which we love!

Our aim as a club is always about development. Whether that be development to be able to socialise in a group, development to be able to kick a football better, or development to be able to be the next Gareth Bale...each level of development is equally as important and forms the building blocks of a footballer.

Whatever level of development your child is at, we do have a standard set of expectations as a bare minimum:

Behaviour – We expect all our children to behave. Always listening to the coach, in training and at matches. This is a basic skill we expect from all our players and whilst we fully appreciate children are children and will mess around occasionally, we will instil a strong behavioural element to our teams. We believe this is a strong life skill; to be able to best conduct challenges we give them and to allow them to give the best for their team and teammates.

Application – We expect all our players to always do their best. If they always do their best, they can do no more and we can ask no more. This means joining in with all activities at training and simply trying. It links in with the behaviour element, as listening to the coach, means you can understand and try your best. When playing games, whilst we always play with the goal of trying to win games, it is not the be all of football at this stage. Again, if you try your best, you can do no more. We aim to challenge our players to be able to answer themselves honestly, "Did I do my absolute best?," whilst keeping the motto of 'It's better to try and fail, than to not try at all.' Again, this is an important life skill we wish to instil in all our players, not only in football.

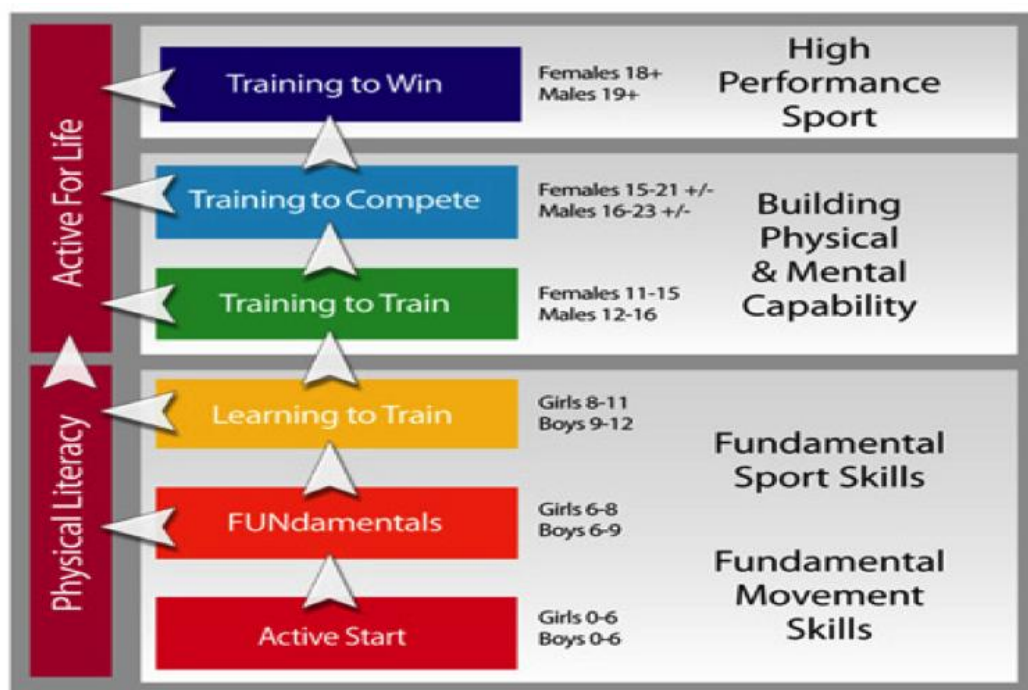
Respect – We always expect complete respect from our players. To the coaches, teammates, opposition, opposition coaches, referees, and themselves. We will not tolerate and name calling, bullying or any other form of lack of respect to another person. If our players always show respect, they can hold their heads high. This we feel is also a fundamental life skill that we wish to instil in our players as they develop as footballers and as people.

You may have already experienced that your when child joins one of our teams, the coach decides what team to best position that player to develop. At some age groups, we have multiple teams and therefore will place players into different teams. This is based on a variety of factors such as skill level, dedication to the team, behaviour, and responsibilities to attend training and match days.

Whilst we do factor in who they are friends with; this is not always a key factor for us. We aim to encourage all our players to make friends with all their teammates. We will look at all factors before making a decision. There is never a desire to picking one strong team at the detriment of another. We are always evaluating development and are constantly discussing as a club. We may choose to make season long decisions, or shorter-term decisions, but you can rest assured, we are always looking at the development of the child as our first reason for any decision.

At our football club we split the players, so they get as much game time as possible. The more touches they get on the football, the better they become as players. After all, practice makes perfect. In the mini section we cater for players, by trying to select games that will give them the most learning.

With your help we can make sure your child gets the most from their footballing experience. We encourage communication between parents and coaches. All we will ask is that you listen to what the coach is saying before making judgement. If a coach is trying something, it will always be because he feels it is the best interest for the development and/or whole team. Please remember, coaches are responsible for the happiness of all the children, not your child alone. We can guarantee that we will listen and factor in all lines of communication.



Pay Per Session

If your child is not yet quite sure if football is for them, then no worries, we cater for all! This season we will have designated 'Turn Up And Play' sessions for children of mixed ages (5-11). This group will be for all to turn up and pay per session to allow them to develop their interest in the game. These sessions will have no team regarding Saturday/ Sunday games and will be to have fun and enjoy the game without the responsibility of match day action.

If the interest grows and they wish to make that step into an age group team, it can then be discussed with the coaches at these sessions and your child can be allocated into a team to play on

match days. They will then be expected to follow the principles outlined above, as they will then be in a team, where team ethos will be expected.

Absence

If a player does not attend weekly training and games, they must tell the coach as soon as possible, along with their reason for absence. If a player misses regular sessions or does not tell the coach why, then the player and parent can expect to not be included in the following game. We fully appreciate everyone has lives and will miss training and games from time to time. We think it is reasonable to let the coach know when this occurs. A simple message or phone call will suffice. It's important to keep in mind that one child's absence can have a far bigger outcome, as it may result in our team not having enough players, meaning our teams other players (as little as 4 players or as many as 10) do not get to play, which also results in the other team not playing. It may seem like your child not playing will not matter, but as many as 9 to 19 other children may potentially not get to play. Illness and other such instances we fully accept will occur.

4: Ystradgynlais AFC Juniors Club Rules

There are a number of rules for both parents and players at the club, and they are listed below:

1. **Signing on and Payment:** Parents must register their child with the secretary. Payment for this season is £180 per child. This can be paid as a one-off payment or in instalments via the club's Direct Debit Scheme. If this is a problem we can cater for you on a case-by-case basis. Please see your coach or contact the safeguarding officer *Alison Griffiths* on 07968866353
2. **Absence:** If for any reason your child is unable to attend a session then you must contact the coach by phone, or text prior to the session is due to start. Please do not get another parent to pass on a message. You must let us know the reason for this absence. If your child misses three consecutive sessions then the club will contact you to enquire as to reasons of absence, if you do not reply then your child may be removed from the team. Please keep in communication with the coaches...communication is key!
3. **Kit and equipment:** Your child must always attend training in satisfactory training wear. Shin pads must be worn at every session. If no shin pads are worn, then your child could miss that training session or game. This is a FIFA ruling and must be adhered to. Player safety is paramount.

Always ensure that your child has plenty to drink. It is recommended that 2 bottles of water are brought to a training session or game.

4. **Club Football and other activities:** Please remember that you have signed up to play a TEAM sport. Non-attendance can result in many missing out. Training and game will fall on the same allocated period weekly. If you are not a weekend morning person, then team sports may not be for you or your child. We expect our players to aim to be at every session and game. As outlined above, we fully expect there to be absences with things, so let us know in plenty of time for the coaches to plan ahead. We expect a certain level of commitment in return for our coach's commitment to being there every training session and every games. Again, COMMUNICATION IS KEY.
5. **Player and Parent Conduct:** You will find code of conducts forms within this book and any breaches of these can result in your child being released from the club. Please refrain from attempting to tell your child how to train or play during a game or session as this may contradict the instruction from the coach. Respect the coach's decision. You may not agree with it, but our coaches give up their time and effort to plan how they best see fit. If you have an issue, speak to the coach after the game has finished and away from the children. Please do not shout negative comments at your children during the game. The games are not at the World Cup; we are all there to enjoy the experience. Support the team as best as you can.

5: Code of Conduct for Young Players

Ystradgynlais Association Football Club fully supports the Football Association of Wales Safeguarding policy, practices and procedures and is committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its' members.

We all have a responsibility to ensure that everyone involved in football finds it to be a fun, safe and positive experience.

Please show your support for FAW Safeguarding by signing the below declaration.

By signing this Code of Conduct you demonstrate that you understand the following conditions, and breach of this could lead to disciplinary action.

Players are expected to:

- Show exemplary behaviour by respecting and listening to match officials and your coaches.
- Show respect to your opponents and shake their hands after each game.
- Accept responsibility for your own performance and behaviour.
- Treat all fellow players equally.
- Be friendly and welcoming to new players.
- Not bully or make anyone feel unhappy or sad.
- Encourage, support and co-operate with your team-mates.
- Keep yourself safe. - Tell someone you trust about inappropriate or risky behaviour or if something makes you unhappy or uncomfortable.
- Take care of equipment owned by the club.
- Not discriminate on the grounds of religious beliefs, race, gender, social classes or lack of ability. Respect other people.
- Not take part in rough or dangerous play, bullying, or the use of bad language or inappropriate behaviour.
- Appreciate the efforts of all players.
- Not get involved in peer pressure and push others to do something they do not want to do.
- Accept that striving to win is more important than winning itself.
- Always pursue fair play – stick to the laws and the spirit of the game.
- Be positive, approachable and offer praise to always promote the objectives of the club.
- Display high standards, behave responsibly and never use foul, abusive, insulting or inappropriate words, behaviour, or gestures.
- Respect and listen to the opinions of fellow players.
- Not to post anything nasty on social media which may bring the game into disrepute.

6: Code of Conduct for Parents, Guardians & Spectators

Ystradgynlais Association Football Club fully supports the Football Association of Wales Safeguarding policy, practices and procedures and acknowledges that football parents, guardians and spectators have a fantastic opportunity to be a positive role model for the young people involved.

We all have a responsibility to ensure that everyone involved in football finds it to be a fun, safe and positive experience.

Please show your support for FAW Safeguarding by signing the below declaration.

By signing this Code of Conduct you demonstrate that you understand the following conditions.

Parents, guardians, and spectators are expected to:

- Show exemplary behaviour by respecting and appreciating match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, and spectators.
- Deliver and collect your child punctually before and after training, matches and club events.
- Support and motivate all players, including the opposition, and encourage your child to do the same.
- Encourage your child to obey the laws of the game and teach them that they can only do their best.
- Never publicly criticise, ridicule, or embarrass any children.
- Ensure your child has kit and clothing appropriate to the environment and weather conditions.
- Ensure that proper sportswear and protective kit are provided and worn.
- Disclose any medical concerns or changes in medical conditions to the Club Safeguarding Officer and the Team Manager.
- Not place unnecessary pressure on your child or push them into activities they do not want to do.
- Applaud effort and good play.
- Not to interfere with coach instructions and not to confuse the players by telling them what to do.
- Encourage all children not to discriminate on the grounds of religious beliefs, race, gender, social classes, or lack of ability.
- Accept that striving to win is more important than winning itself.
- Respect the decisions of the match officials.
- Ensure that your child has read and understood their Code of Conduct.
- Not to post anything inappropriate, or negative on social media which may bring the game into disrepute.
- Display high standards, behave responsibly and never engage in or tolerate the use of foul, abusive, insulting, or inappropriate words, behaviour or gestures.

- Get Behind the Line and not enter the field of play without prior permission from the referee.
- Make football fun.



7: Photographic consent form

In line with the Football Association of Wales Safeguarding Policy and Photography Guidance, Ystradgynlais Association Football Club will not allow children to be photographed or filmed without the consent of both the parent/guardian and the child concerned.

Ystradgynlais Association Football Club will take all reasonable steps to ensure that these images are used solely for the purpose intended.

Should you become aware that these images are being used inappropriately, please contact your Club Age Group Safeguarding Officer.

8: Guidelines on the Photography & Videoing of Children

The Football Association of Wales understands and empathises that parents/guardians may wish to celebrate their child's achievements on the field of play by capturing images or videos to this effect, and that footage can be a useful training tool for organisations.

However, the welfare of the children involved must always be the paramount consideration and as such, appropriate and proportionate safeguards must be in place.

There are inherent risks in publishing personal information about children in that it can lead to being able to identify the child and their location, or it is possible that images may be subject to inappropriate use.

It is important to remember that it is not an offence for anyone to take a photograph or film on public land, even if they are asked not to do so.

If training or matches take place on private land, it is up to the land or facility owner whether they will permit photography or filming to take place.

- The Football Association of Wales recommends that the following general steps are in place at training sessions and matches to ensure the safety of all children:
- Ensure consent for the child to be photographed/filmed is obtained from both the parent/guardian and the child concerned, by using the appropriate consent form. It may be useful to gather this at the start of each season.
- Where possible, do not include the name of the child in an image/video, and surnames should certainly not be used nor should additional detailed information about the child.
- Ensure that children are appropriately dressed and that they are wearing suitable safety kit such as shin pads.
- If a child within your club is subject to care proceedings, ensure that their image is not placed in the public domain.
- Only allow images to be taken on the field of play. Photographing/filming should not take place in changing rooms, showers or toilets.
- If an individual who is filming/photographing presents a serious concern or an immediate nature, please report the issue to your local police force and the FAW Safeguarding Team. Guidance for parents, guardians & other spectators
- Provide parents/guardians with contact information for the Club Safeguarding Officer and FAW Safeguarding Manager should they have any concerns over the images being used inappropriately. Guidelines on the Photography & Videoing of Children
- Spectators should request permission from the coach/club safeguarding officer prior to photographing/filming a match or training session. It may be useful to provide them with a sticker to show that permission has been given.
- Spectators should be made aware of the organisations' expectations with regards to the photographing & filming of matches and the safeguards that must be adhered to.

- Spectators should have signed up to the 'Spectator Code of Conduct' available from www.faw.org.uk/safeguarding
- Notices should be visible at matches or training sessions with the following wording:
"In line with the recommendations of the Football Association of Wales, club name request that any person wishing to engage in any video, zoom or close range photography should register their details with club personnel before carrying out any such photography."
- If parents have any particular concern about their young person being photographed or filmed, they should notify the organisers. The promoter reserves the right to decline entry to any person unable to meet or abide by the promoter's conditions.

Guidance if using Professional Photographers:

- ✓ Photographers should be made aware of the organisations' expectations with regards to photography and filming and the safeguards that must be adhered to.
- ✓ Photographers should not be left unsupervised with children or permitted to take part in a one-to-one session with a child.
- ✓ Parents/guardians should be informed in advance of the attendance of a professional photographer, along with guidance as to what the images will be used for.
- ✓ Parents/guardians should be provided with information relating to the storage and retention of the images.
- ✓ If there are concerns of inappropriate behaviour, these should be reported to the Club Safeguarding Officer in the first instance.
- ✓ The photographer should be provided with appropriate accreditation prior to undertaking their duties.

9: Club Shop and Playing Kit.

As previously mentioned, the right training wear is essential for safe playing activity.

The kit can be ordered from our website using the link below:

<https://clubshop.macron.com/swansea/ystradgynlais-afc>



Macron Swansea

Kit Provider of Ystradgynlais AFC

Ystradgynlais AFC Kit Agreement.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your kit has been sponsored by a business, while your child plays football at Ystradgynlais AFC.

The kit is free, but if your child leaves the club, the kit must be returned.

We do this to save on wasting money buying new kit, and to give the kit, to any new player who joins the club.

If you do not give the kit back, the club will invoice you for the price of the kit.

By signing this form you agree to these terms and conditions.

Yours sincerely,

Callum Secker

Club Secretary

Ystradgynlais AFC

10: Club Contacts.

Club Coaches:

Boys U6s – Rhodri Morris – Tel: 07970175781

Boys U7s – Ian Humphries – Tel: 07875165825

Boys U8s – Robert Daniel – Tel: 07935437369

Boys U9s - Gareth Thomas – Tel: 07825771826

Boys U10s – Gareth Gates – Tel: 07516895345

Boys U11s – Lance Davies – Tel: 07791464656

Boys U12s – Matthew Jones – Tel: 07712638417

Boys U13s – Jon Whineray – Tel: 07921811046

Boys U15s – John Walters – Tel: 07966106086

Boys U16s – Martin Jones – Tel: 07779576145

Mens 1sts – Joshua Evans – Tel: 07538360264

Mens 2nds – John Walters – Tel: 07966106086

Mens 3rds – Callum Secker - Tel: 07367835231

Huddle - Callum Secker - Tel: 07367835231

Girls U7s – Andrew Miller – Tel: 07859388083

Girls U9s – Zantanna Tew – Tel: 07877346487

Girls U11s – Callum Secker – Tel: 07367835231

Girls U13s – Ashleigh David – Tel: 07880341635

Girls U15s – Ross Dyson – Tel: 07734219651

Ladies – Matthew Strangward – Tel: 07801976583

Club Officials:

Chairperson – Mr Matthew Strangward

Senior's Chairperson – Mr Michael Leigh Riby

Vice Chairman – Mr John Walters

Club Secretary – Mr Callum J Secker

Club Safeguarding Officer – Mrs Allison Griffiths

Senior's Treasurer – Mr Kirk Munn

Junior's Treasurer – Miss Catherine Rose

Club Equality Officer – Mrs Emma Strangward-Jones

Volunteer Coordinator – Mrs Bethan Walters

COMET Champion and Registrations Secretary – Mr Callum J Secker

All details for these persons are available on request.

11: To Be Returned to the Club.

Ystradgynlais AFC Playing Kit Agreement.

Childs name:

Age group: Under boys / girls.

Coach name:

I agree to the clubs' kit policy. ☐

I disagree to the clubs' kit and would like to pay for a kit (£50) ☐

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent Guardian Signature:

Ystradgynlais AFC Codes of Conduct.

I acknowledge that I and my child have read the policies and codes of conduct contained within this document and agree to abide by all the conditions contained within.

Name:

Signed:

Age Group:

Date: ____/____/____.

I hereby grant Ystradgynlais Association Football Club and the Football Association of Wales the right to photograph/film my child.

I confirm that I have read or been made aware of the FAW Safeguarding Policy and Photography and Filming guidance. I understand how the organisation intends to use the images.

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

Print name:

Date: