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Player Streaming Policy

Player Streaming - What is it and why do we do it?

Player streaming is the process that allows the free movement of players between teams, in order to find the best mix of players with similar development needs.

Local leagues provide a system of development groups at age groups U7 - U12 into which clubs enter teams of like abilities which are then organised to play structured matches as a compliment to the clubs own training program.

The primary aim for the football club is to ensure that everyone is playing in a team and development group which is consistent with their own development needs.

From the 2020/21 season moving forward all current squads will be streamed when moving from 5 to 7-a-side, then again from 7 to 9-a-side and finally from 9 to 11-a-side.

All new teams starting at U7's from the 2020/21 season onwards will be streamed on an annual basis.

Exceptional circumstances for individual players will be looked at on a case by case basis and dealt with directly by an independent panel of three coaches.

Assessment Considerations

- Players with special needs.
- Availability of qualified coaches in age group.
- Professional Academies can scout players from U9.
- Team size changes e.g. U11: 7v7 to 9v9.
- League selection/standard (Surrey Primary, East Berks, North East Hants)
- League development streaming.
- Players playing in an older age group.
- Streaming of goalkeepers
- Training location, day and time.
- New manager/coach appointments.

Responsibilities

- Streaming decisions are made at “Age Group Level” by **all team managers** up to U16.
- The Club’s Head Coach will ensure that the Streaming Process is carried out fairly and communicated carefully to minimise conflict.
- Individual managers and parents/carers can have conflicting priorities.
- The welfare and development of every child remains the top priority at all times.
- A well defined club streaming process should follow best-practices.

Best Practices

- Follow a clear process that has been pre-agreed.
- Ensure the transition is handled professionally for players moving to a lower team. (NB: Players are usually happier a few weeks after streaming when they are with players of similar ability and have made new friends.)
- Team coaches should ideally not be agreed & appointed until after players streaming. This avoids coaches believing they “own” any specific team and it reminds coaches/parents that players welfare and development is the sole consideration.
- Coaches should not stream their own children to avoid conflict of interest.

Signs of Poor Practice

- Complaints from parents/carers
- Negative feedback from parents/carers
- Players leaving to join other teams
- Volunteers resigning from coaching or joining other clubs
- Coaches discontent, arguments, non-team-working

If these situations occur the club will follow its standard complaints process with powers to:

1. Warn about future conduct
2. Suspend, pending further education/training
3. Appoint a new coach/manager.

Streaming can be a contentious issue and it is inevitable that there will be some level of debate and difference of opinion.

If issues around streaming a player occur in any age group, the club will insure the managers have followed the agreed club best practice.

Streaming Process Criteria

Each player will be assessed using the following criteria.

Technique

- Kicking: Striking the ball, use of both feet, and instep and outstep techniques.
- Ball Control Skills: Dribbling, running with the ball at speed, trapping the ball.
- Awareness: The ability to understand different positions on the pitch.
- Dribbling: The movement and control of a ball.
- Throw-in: The ability to return the ball back into play.
- Tackling: The ability to time tackles properly, and not go to ground, being able to use different tackling methods, pressuring the ball.
- Passing: Precision & timing.
- Finishing: Ability to judge accuracy and power, chipping, passing shot, etc.
- Marking: Having awareness of opposition players on the pitch.
- Feet: Ability to use both feet.

Social and Behavioural

- Interactions with team mates.
- Communication skills
- Ability to listen to coaches, and understand instructions.
- Concentration and discipline during training and matches.
- Ability to “keep one's head up” when trying out new techniques that might not be easy to learn
- Not back chatting coaches or goading opposition during matches
- Fun & enjoyment levels
- Ability to build relationships with team mates and coaching staff
- Inclusion & Participation levels
- Parental interaction/s

On the last page is an example communication that parents / guardians should expect to receive from the club following an age group being streamed.

Example:

Communication Post-Streaming

Subject: Hawley Football Club - Ux Season 202x/2x –Player Streaming

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Hawley player streaming process is designed to allow the free movement of players between the teams, inline with their development needs.

The streaming process for next season has been carried out by Joe Bloggs and Billy Nomates. After careful and considered assessment by the age group managers and coaches and using the FA's Learning and Development Plan, the coaches have carefully re-selected the teams. Your child's current manager will contact you soon if your child is directly affected by the current streaming process.

It is inevitable that there will be some level of debate and difference of opinion. However, we would kindly ask you to understand that the primary aim is for all the players to have fun, whilst developing at their own rate and playing in a team which is consistent with their development needs.

We appreciate that this can be a contentious issue and so really appreciate your continued understanding and support. If you do have any questions or queries, please contact your age group coordinator.

Finally, it is possible that additional managers may be required to support these teams if current managers/coaches move with their children, so we would appreciate it if anybody who is interested in helping to manage or coach a team would inform us asap.

Best regards and thank-you for your continued support,

Joe and Bill