



EAST GRINSTEAD MEADS FOOTBALL CLUB

CLUB ETHOS

With this enforced break, it is a good time to reiterate the club ethos and explain how the club works to all coaches, parents and players, especially with new members.

The club still strive to embrace the “Football for all” ethos, which at times can be challenging, but this is part of being a community club. It is great to win. We all like to succeed but this can be measured in different ways. The club’s ethos is to provide football for all players, regardless of ability as long as in return they show enthusiasm, willingness to try and to support the club and its volunteers.

No player should be asked or forced to leave the club by any coach. The idea of having a two-tier system (AC & Inter in most cases) is to provide a standard of football most suitable for the player’s ability. If a player is of greater ability, they should be offered a place in the higher ranked team. This in the first instance is agreed between the coaches, and then this must be agreed with the parents and player as well. As movements between teams can be done only by transfer during the season, it is best to sort this out in the season’s break.

After several years, the teams should be relatively set but tweaks can and should be made for benefit the player, rather than ensuring the coach’s desire to win.

Players must not be removed from the club or squad just because there are better players available, and no new players should be brought into the squad until there is a space for them. A waiting list should operate. No one team takes precedence over another. Movement of players between teams should be encouraged and this should happen before any new players are invited to join. With the instigation of Pitchero as a membership tool, all new players will be brought to the attention of the club first who have to sanction the new member. This will be in place for the start of the new 2020/2021 season.

FAQs

What happens if parents refuse for their child to be moved from one team to another?

The parents' wishes should be respected in general, but the reason for movement between teams should be explained and that the move is being done for the benefit of the player not on the whim of a coach to succeed. It should be indicated that if the player is playing at a standard of football not suitable for their ability at that time, this may mean non-consistent playing time in matches (substitutions), or being asked to fulfil roles or positions that they do not wish to play in. This must always be seen to balance the need to strive for equal playing time, which is an ideal but not always achievable. This is where the skill and ability of the coach comes in to play. Where the decision to change a player from one team to another is against the parents' agreement, the final decision rest with the coach, as long as the player's welfare is not affected. We, as a club, are contracted to the parents to provide football coaching and matches with the squad and not in a specific team. If the player is playing at the correct standard the match experienced is greatly improved.

Equal Playing Time

Coaches should strive to ensure all players are given equal playing time. This does not mean multiple substitutions during any one match, it should be managed across the season. Players should be rested for games throughout the season to assist with this dilemma. Stronger players can be fielded against stronger opposition, and less able players be given more match time during less competitive games. This is a judgement of the coach and is the sign of a good coach if this can be achieved.