



Verwood Town FC – Youth Section – Club Ethos Explained – Players



Football should be **safe and fun** for all age groups

The primary focus of managers/coaches should be on the **development of the whole player**, especially in the Foundation stage (Under 10s and below) noting that there are some competitive summer tournaments, where **winning is more important** but should still **not overshadow the need to develop all players**

At Foundation Stage, **all players should play in all positions** across each season, including rotating though the Goal and **development is more important than performance, which is more important than the result.**

At later stages of the players life (beyond Foundation Stage), the order of **importance evolves** so teams can become **more competitive, whilst still developing every player.**

- As a player (Under 10s and below) you should have **access to some form of match day experience** in any season. This may not be league matches, but could be friendlies, 5-a-side, Futsal, or other.
- As a player **you may not play every weekend**, we have to rotate our teams so players can share experience (under 10s and below) and when in a team in the older age groups (U11 and up) the manager has discretion to select a more competitive side for important games (less evenly shared) as long as this isn't impacting a player's overall development in the team.
- VTFC wants all our players to learn to **play to the best of their ability**, and to **make some great friends** in the process. VTFC players will **grow as players and individuals**, and will learn how to **operate in a successful team.**
- Players should **feel safe and supported** at all times
- If Players are ever **worried** about how often they play, how they are trained, or managed, then please **raise this with a parent** as soon as possible, and ask them to contact the coach / manager or the club committee for advice. If players are willing and confident to do so, they are encouraged to ask their team Manager for advice.
- **Players should take ownership of their own development**, with coaches supporting and signposting them to ideas and challenges that target areas a player identifies. If a player wants to develop in a certain way or position, they can ask their coach to support them in this.
- **A player should not expect to always play in a specific position.**
- Players shall show respect for their teammates, their manager and coaches, and for the opposition and match officials
- Players are expected to try their best in training and matches – Managers and Coaches may give players advice or encouragement via the subs bench if necessary, on match day.