 

**CLARBESTON ROAD AFC**

**Policy for managing Mini Player waiting Lists**

**Background**

Many clubs have reported an increase in interest in playing football since the end of the pandemic. Clarbeston Road AFC is no exception. The club’s Platinum accreditation, inclusive position on recruitment and non-selection on ability have also made it more attractive. The club caters for boys, girls, men and women of all age groups, along with pan-disability players, also making it attractive to those looking for a single place for all family members to be given the opportunity to play football.

Combined with this, some other clubs are either not running some age groups or are limiting squad sizes. Contrary to FAW guidance, it is reported that some others are selecting on ability at mini age groups. The combined impact of all these factors has led to demand exceeding the club’s capacity for some age groups and the requirement to hold applicants on waiting lists with no certainty of when we will be able to offer places. Some of this extra demand is from families from well outside of the club’s main catchment area and from communities that have their own football clubs. There is a risk that recruiting players from those areas could undermine the ability of their more local clubs to establish and sustain teams. That is not in our or their interests.

The FAW rules for the 2023-24 season that limit Junior team squads to 20 registered players make managing the size of mini squads also an important consideration. Whereas we are now able to have two teams per junior age group, the number of players required to sustain two teams and our restricted pitch capacity mean that is unlikely we would have more than one team per junior age group.

The club is adopting a policy for holding waiting lists of applicants when mini squads are full and for allocating places when a vacancy arises, according to the order of priority listed below.

The waiting lists will be held centrally by a “named trustee” [initially Steve Stretch] and in consultation with the relevant team coaches, this trustee will manage the allocation of places to vacancies according to the priority listing.

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**This policy takes account of the following considerations:**

As many children as possible should have the opportunity to play football within their own community. The “named trustee” will tell the applicant of the likely timescale before they may be able to join and, if appropriate, encourage them to join a more local team.

When a vacancy in a squad arises, players on a waiting list will be given a place according to the agreed criteria, not on perceived ability, taking account of the FAW values for small sided football, which state ‘Small Sided Football is for boys and girls aged 5 to 13 of all abilities who are interested in football. The FAW believes that children should learn how to compete to win fairly, skillfully and within the rules of the game. At this age striving to win is more important than the outcome, winning is not everything, making the effort is’.

Priority will be given to children of club volunteers and players, those with siblings who are members, those from a family associated with the club and those living in local communities.

*Although the criteria refer to the catchment areas of schools, this is used only to describe where a child lives. The child does not have to attend their catchment area school.*

*The policy does not apply to current squad members. No current player will lose a place in a squad.*

*The policy does not apply to the Clarby Warriors as the team provides pan-disability football county-wide.*

**Priority order for admitting new members off waiting lists.**

1. Children of current club volunteers
2. Children who are siblings of current club players
3. Children with family histories of membership and volunteering with the club
4. Children living in the catchments of schools in Group A1
5. Children living in the catchments of schools in Group B2 or in Crundale
6. Children from outside the areas above with a parent/guardian who commits to volunteering within the club.
7. Children attending primary schools in Haverfordwest
8. Children living elsewhere in order of distance
9. In the case of the Under 12 and Under 13 age groups, secondary school-aged children who do **not** live in the catchment areas of the schools in Groups A and B will be allocated places in order of proximity to Clarbeston Road.

Notes:

1. Special consideration will be given to requests for membership by Looked After Children.
2. Where more than one applicant is in the same priority group, they will be allocated a place based on the length of time they have been on the waiting list

1 Group A - St Aidans VA School, Spittal VC School and Ysgol Gymunedol Maenclochog. The club has link agreements and offers after school coaching in these 3 schools

2 Group B - Wolfs Castle CP School, Puncheston CP School, Brynconin Primary School Clynderwen; other local schools with a similar rural nature to those above and to Clarbeston Road.

**Consultation and Implementation**

Club volunteers have been consulted on the policy and prioritisation process and no suggestions for changes have been made. Coaches of team groups with current waiting lists should request additional information for applicants on their waiting lists and pass the information to the “named trustee” [Steve Stretch] who will rank their lists according to the above priorities. Any future new applications should be dealt with through the same process. The information required will need to include the following:

1. Place of residence (nearest village/town) and postcode
2. School attended
3. Names of any other family members who are current or former players or volunteers at the club
4. Is the applicant currently registered with another club; if so which one?
5. Is a parent/guardian interested in volunteering with the club?

The “named trustee” [Steve Stretch] will then advise the relevant coaches of the outcome, following which applicants will be notified how likely it is that they will be offered a place, based on their priority ranking and the number of other applicants on their lists. This will give the applicants the opportunity to consider alternatives, if the prospects of being offered a place within a reasonable period are low.

**Revised 21st September 2023**