



Welcome to Eastside AFC Youth Football



We, the Committee, would like to welcome our new players and their parents and carers and a warm welcome back to all our squads as they return for the forthcoming season. September is fast approaching, so in preparation for this please find enclosed the new season registration forms which you will need to complete and return to your age group manager as soon as is possible. This letter is for you to keep for your reference.

Forms:

- Parental Consent Form
- Respect Code of Conduct (parent and player to read and sign)
- League Registration Form

About Us: Eastside AFC is a Barnstaple based Youth Football club and was formed in 2007 by a local police officer with the aim of providing affordable football to children under 9 years of age. The club was set up due to demand and was part of a community project. Eastside AFC has steadily grown and is run by a group of committed volunteer parents. All parent managers are qualified FA Level 1 coaches, CRC checked and hold FA Safeguarding and First Aid accreditation. Eastside is a grass roots level football club that now has over 100 members, with youth teams starting from under 8 going through to under 16 and a men's team. We are affiliated to the North Devon Youth League and The Devon FA and the overarching principle of the Club was and remains to encourage diversity and inclusiveness in a fun, effective and safe environment.

The following guidance is intended to be helpful and supportive to our members. Eastside managers, coaches and committee are all here to help. We encourage feedback from players and parents to aid the smooth running of our club.

Subs: This season's annual subscription is £90 for all age groups. This fee is due by the end of September with our preferred payment being by bank transfer - **Please add your child's name and age group as the reference when making your bank transfer.** Our Bank Account details are as follows:

Bank	NatWest Barnstaple	Account Name	Eastside AFC
Account Number	58663630	Account Sort Code	600203

Alternatively, you may pay by cheque, payable to Eastside AFC. Please ensure you write your child's name and age group on the back of the cheque. If you would like to pay your subscription in stages, we would ask for three instalments of £30, with the 1st being payable by the end of September, 2nd by the end of December and 3rd by the end of March, please ensure you speak with your child's manager to arrange this option.

PLEASE NOTE: Subs cover the cost of pitch hire, kit and equipment for training; they do not guarantee your child will play in all matches throughout the season.



Welcome to Eastside AFC Youth Football



Club Website: www.eastsideafc.co.uk aims to be an informative site for parents and players. You will be able to keep up to date with results and fixtures on your team page. The home page contains information on Social networking to help keep our players safe online simply click on the CEOP & Think You Know buttons.

Please note: we have updated our club constitution and note to parents section on our website. Please take the time to familiarise yourselves with these policies.

Face Book: Keep up to date; follow us on Facebook, search for Eastside AFC. To avoid offence or action from the Devon FA, we respectfully request all parents and players do not post comments or images about any individual player, club or club official.

Club Training Gear: Eastside do have a range of official club garments available to purchase; these can be viewed through our website or directly from MJM Sports; <http://www.mjm-sports.co.uk/eastside-afc-2>. If you would like to place an order, save on the postage charge, click to collect in store. The store is only in Bideford near Atlantic Village!

Parental Responsibility: It is the responsibility of parents / carers to ensure that players can get safely to and from matches, training, and events. We have a duty of care to the children whilst at training, at matches and club events but are not responsible for children making their own way to and from any of our sessions.

Come Prepared: Players should come prepared for training and matches and be properly clothed for the prevailing weather conditions, always bring a drink, shin pads and it is wise to bring both boots and astro turf trainers to football, as we can never predict the pitch conditions.

Under Garments: By FA ruling the colour of a player's under skin has to be the same colour as the main sleeve on the football shirt and the bottom to be the main colour of the shorts. You may have to remove these garments at the referee's request if your under skin is not the correct colour.

Shin Pads: must be worn for training and matches and our coaches will monitor this - No shin pads, no play!

Players who wear glasses: The FA rule regarding wearing glasses whilst playing football is clear, any player of our club who wears glasses must come prepared with their sports goggles i.e. fully framed, strap around the head, toughened glass and no sharp areas. It will be highly unlikely, but at the referee's discretion as to whether they allow a child wearing 'normal' glasses to play in any matches. For more information on Sports Goggles, search Google for eyekit.co



Welcome to Eastside AFC Youth Football



Communication is key: If you have any questions or points you wish to discuss please don't hesitate - your age group manager will always be willing to offer assistance. If you feel the need to communicate with another club, this must be done through our Secretary, please do not make inter-club communications through any other means.

Eastside kit: All members will be issued with a kit, which may include squad jackets; this is your child's kit for as long as they are at our club. All items remain the property of Eastside AFC and need to be returned. Eastside kits are solely for match days and any related Eastside activity - not for club training unless requested to do so. It is not permitted for you to wear the Eastside kit for any other sporting or social activities.

Selection for matches: Squad numbers are kept to a size where all players will have the opportunity to play in some games throughout the season. Your age group manager will make contact prior to match days to check who's available - to ensure the smooth running of your team parents must reply either way to this message. If you do not reply and just turn up on the day you may not be able to play. Your subscription does not guarantee squad selection in every game.

Fines and Cautions: The responsibility for the payment of any fines / cautions issued by the referee rests solely with the offending player and his/her parents/guardians. Any fines not paid within 14 days of the offence, will result in the player being suspended from playing matches until the fine is paid.

Respect: Players play for enjoyment, they should be respected and should NEVER be criticised for making a mistake, especially in public. Coaches will generally ask questions rather than make criticisms at an appropriate time after the game or they will design learning opportunities to address issues. The principles are simple:

- Please let referees, referee
- Let supporters, support through encouragement
- Let coaches, coach
- Let players, play

It's tempting to shout out instructions, as a parent by telling them who to mark, where or when to pass and when to shoot. It feels like you're helping them, but it really doesn't help, in fact the opposite is true, it hinders development and creativity. Please don't shout from the sidelines, just let the players play. This does not mean that you cannot applaud and encourage!



Welcome to Eastside AFC Youth Football



Young players learn best in a calm environment; players need to learn to be calm on the ball and not to panic. A 'wall of noise' from the touchline can be distracting, confusing, off-putting and sometimes intimidating. The FA says, "Pressure from the touchline has to stop". Our request is simple; the noise from the touchline should ideally be below that of the players on the pitch. Together we can really make a difference to help players enjoy the game and develop as players.

If any player or parent has an issue on match day please do not attempt to sort things out yourself, you must inform your team manager ASAP and he/she will address the situation, spectators are never to enter the field of play - neither player or parent are permitted to approach the opposition on or off the pitch. Unsporting behaviour could lead to suspension from Eastside. In extreme cases the North Devon Youth League and Devon FA will issue a hefty fine to Eastside and could suspend our whole club from playing football.

Smoking and Drinking: It is great to see so many supporters at our children's football matches; please help us to continue to provide a fun, effective and safe environment for the children by observing our NO smoking on the sidelines and NO alcohol policies. Thank you for your co-operation.

Want to help out? Eastside is run by a small group of committed volunteers who give up a great deal of their time to make the club successful, nobody at the club is paid for their role, and we are really grateful for the support of parents. We would like our parents to feel, very much, a part of the Club. The Club always needs volunteers; if you are able to help, even in a small way, please let us know.

Football belongs to, and should be enjoyed by, everyone.

So let's play! We hope you enjoy the new season.

All at Eastside AFC