



Guildford Saints FC Streaming Policy

Introduction

Guildford Saints Football Club made the decision to introduce streaming into the Club several years ago to ensure that all players within the Club are playing at the appropriate level to allow them to develop. GSFC are aware that streaming can be a contentious issue in any form of education or recreational sports activity. However, it is necessary for streaming to be introduced because GSFC feel it is important that all players develop at a rate comfortable to them. Players grow at different rates and so develop at different rates also. We feel that to support their long term involvement and enjoyment of football they need to play at a level that is appropriate to their playing ability at that moment in time and that they play with and against similar ability players.

It is the age group Managers role, along with the professional Coaches, to ensure this policy is carried out fairly and openly. The interest of each player's footballing development is paramount and will certainly be the basis of all our decisions. The decision needs to be discussed and agreed by the age group Manager and the Professional Coaches.

The process needs to be transparent so that parents and children are provided with 2 or 3 areas for improvement that they can focus on in training and in their own time, that will enable them to fulfil their potential in the future.

Streaming Stages

At the end of each season the squads will be evaluated and any decision to move player's up or down for the following season will be made. At the same time if a child is doing exceptionally well or is struggling with confidence they can be moved up or down a squad during the season to ensure that they are playing at the appropriate ability to develop their self-confidence, be appropriately challenged and improve their technical and tactical skills.

During all stages of the streaming process, players should be comfortable playing in most positions on the pitch to support their all-round development.



Benefits of streaming for the child:

- Mixed teams mean the most advanced children dominate the ball and less experienced children rarely see the ball.
- Playing within your own ability group results in increased touches, improves self-confidence and forces children to take ownership/ charge within a game setting as opposed to simply 'passing' to a seemingly more able player.
- Advanced players will become frustrated and stop passing to teammates who they feel will lose the ball, potentially resulting in them leaving to join a team that they feel is stronger.
- Less experienced children will feel that they are not good enough, get frustrated at not seeing the ball and eventually drop out altogether.
- Mixed ability teams will play stronger opposition who are streamed offering less experienced children less time on the ball. Having a development team should mean they play teams of equal ability, resulting in increased time to deal with the ball.
- This does not mean your son/daughter cannot move up or down during the season. If we feel they need to be more challenged or need to boost their self-belief we can move them up or down a squad. Teams that struggle in their first season do learn resilience, determination and togetherness often leading to a far better 2nd season.

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