



GUILDFORD SAINTS FC

FA Charter Standard Development Club
Surrey FA's: Grass Roots Club of the Year 2025

Can we have our ball back please...

December 2025



GUILDFORD SAINTS FC GRASS ROOTS CLUB OF THE YEAR 2025



Dear Members,

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through the 25/26 season and Christmas is around the corner. **Last sessions before the Christmas break will be week commencing 15th December 2025. Sessions will re-start from Saturday 3rd January 2026.**

Thank you to all for participating in the **SILENT WEEKEND**



Please remember, players need only to hear instructions from the team coach.

Linesperson Workshop: held @ Kings on 8th November. Great to see so many in attendance, hopefully the off-side rule is now very clear to all! Amazing flag waving skills demonstrated by all. A quick **re-cap on the off-side rule** appears at the end of this Newsletter.





We welcome the following new volunteer: Gary Hall U12G Wildcats



GSFC Chairman: Alex Forbes makes an appearance on the FA's podcast The Final Whistle



Find out what he had to say – follow the link...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQQvsWeXpjk>



Christmas Football course:

Give your child the **perfect preparation for the second half of the season** with our intensive two-day Christmas Football course!

Elevate technical skill and tactical understanding.
Attacking Technical Mastery
Tactical Integration
High-Intensity Exercises
Match Sharpness



Date and Time: Monday & Tuesday 22nd and 23rd of December
Drop off 9am collection 3pm

Age groups: U8-U10, U11-U12 and U13-U15

Venue: Guildford county school on the MUGA

Cost: 1 day £30 2 days £55

Registration: freestylefutsal10@yahoo.co.uk





As is customary this time of year, please find following our **mid-season reports (remit was 1 paragraph!)**

It was a challenging start to the new season for the **U9 Tigers** as we moved from 5 to 7 aside and lost our star player to Brighton. We had to recruit 3 new players and changed formation.

Despite this, the team have become a **formidable force** playing in the **top division** for the U9s in the Surrey Primary League. We won our last match 7-3 and it was an **absolute joy** to watch. They know each other like the back of their hand and play some **exciting** quick tempo football with lots of triangles and one-twos all over the pitch. All **supremely confident** with the ball at their feet, they make the game look **effortless** at times.



I am truly lucky to have such a **terrific group of young superstars**. The praise they receive from coaches and parents at the end of matches makes me so proud. I am looking forward to seeing how we continue to develop and compete in the second half of the season.



The **U17 Saints** have had a **good start** to the season. We have been lucky to have been joined by some **new players** and some players from the former Hawks team, leaving us with a squad of 22 players. This depth has been **a real bonus** on match days ensuring we always bring a complete, strong squad. The influx of players has brought with it the challenge of working together with new players, new styles, and new positions, but Anthony and Paul have done **a brilliant job** of coaching them through this, and every match the team looks more **cohesive**. We struggled a bit with a few of the opening seeding matches, but have **improved match by match**, and we look forward seeing more success in future matches. After a disappointing loss in our second round County Cup, we are still in the running for the **U17 League Cup** and are looking for success there. **Well done to all the boys** and all their **hard work**, and **huge thanks** to **Paul and Anthony** for continuing to push the boys to play their best.





It's been an [absolute pleasure](#) coaching the [U9 Panthers](#) this season!



With a few players moving up to the Tigers and some new faces joining the squad, I thought it might take a while for everyone to gel as a team—but how wrong I was!

The Panthers have been [fantastic](#), losing only one match and playing some [brilliant football](#). We've even [earned a promotion](#) to a higher league! The team is showing some great passing, starting to settle into their preferred positions (although everyone still wants to be a striker!), and scoring

some [incredible team goals](#). There have been some unforgettable moments—like coming back from 5–3 down with just one minute remaining to draw 5–5, and some amazing goal-line saves that kept us in the game. Most importantly, the Panthers have played every match in the right way and with the [right spirit](#), thank you. A [huge thank](#) you to the U9 Panthers for your hard work in all conditions, and to the parents and grandparents for being our biggest supporters.

Wishing you all a [fantastic Christmas and New Year](#)—I look forward to seeing you in January!

U13G Scorpions have had a [great start](#) to the season following some personnel changes over the summer. Natsumi is a brave keeper with lightning reactions. Lily has joined our defence and has excellent timing in the tackle. Lauren has joined our midfield and has electric pace and pinpoint crosses, and Anushka has joined us as a striker scoring a hat-trick in her second game. The rest of the team from last season are [faster, stronger and more skilful](#) than last season so [huge thanks to Kevin](#) and the professional coaches. Duncan has joined me on the sidelines having coached boys football for several years. He has already built a strong rapport with the girls. 1 loss in the league so far puts the [scorpions comfortably in the top half of the table](#), (even with games in hand). We are also through to the [semifinal of the league cup](#) so lots to look forward to in the second half of the season.

A [heartfelt thank you](#) to all the [Scorpions, the parents, Dawn](#), and the dedicated [GSFC coaches](#) for their tireless support of 'The Beautiful Game!'



Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas! Best rgds Mike and Duncan





The **U8 Cobras** have had a really **positive start** to the season, showing **great attitude**, big improvements in their play, and **growing confidence** every week.

Across the games so far, the kids have **consistently shown bravery**; standing up to bigger, physical teams at times and putting in strong tackles from the first whistle. Their effort has never dipped, and their **willingness to compete** has been a real highlight.

We've also seen big steps forward in our football:

Passing: More through balls, better movement, and smart passes into space.

Shooting: We've scored some brilliant goals and created plenty more.

Goalkeeping: Strong saves have kept us in matches on tough days.

Learning moments: Focus can drop when tired, but we're improving each week.



Silent Weekend was another bright spot when the kids took turns as captain and showed leadership, communication, and accountability.

A really **encouraging first half of the season**. The kids are improving fast, showing great team spirit, and playing some lovely football. Loads to build on and lots to be proud of already!

Huge thanks to Jon and Nic for joining pitch side on match days to keep the kids engaged, active, focus

The **U13G Pumas** earned promotion at the end of last season and now compete in League 5. The squad has **welcomed three fantastic new players**, all of whom are settling in brilliantly and already making a positive impact.

We're also delighted to have **Lee Haslett** join as an additional coach. Lee brings a wealth of experience to the team, and the benefits of his guidance are already clear in the Pumas' performances.

The start of the season in a higher league was **challenging**, but true to their reputation for **resilience** and **team spirit**, the Pumas dug deep. Their determination has paid off with **several strong wins**, helping them climb the table. Currently sitting mid-table, the team is eager to build on this momentum and push further up the league. The Pumas continue to enjoy **tremendous support** from parents and helpers, whose encouragement makes a real difference. We're really excited for the rest of the season and looking forward to more **success—and plenty of fun**—on the pitch!

Neil and Lee





U16 Cobras have had a **strong start** to the season. We increased our squad size to 18 players (2 x GK) to help manage illness, injuries and commitment clashes that hit the team hard last season. So far this has worked in our favour, and we are a **strong 2nd half team** as a result of the changes we are able to make, fresh legs n'all.



We have had some **superb training sessions with Kevin** and are a force to be reckoned with when playing on a 3G / 4G surface.

The boys won their seeding mini league, which for the very first time put us in the **SPL Premier Elite division**. As things stand, we currently **top the league** with 3 wins and a loss. The boys have also made it through to the **Qtr Finals of the SPL Senior Cup** where we have a home tie v's Hampton and Richmond Borough.

Thanks to all the parents and helpers in supporting the boys this season. Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year from U16 Cobras

Marc & Phil



It's been a **mixed but promising start** for the **U16 Pythons**, with **clear progress, strong attitudes**, and standout moments across the pitch.

Recent results, including the 2-0 cup exit, were tough, but even in defeat the boys showed **resilience and created chances**. From goal line clearances at one end to hitting posts and scoring goals at the other we've been making it **entertaining** at the very least!

Our best football came in the brilliant 5-2 win at Woking.

We **dominated** all over the pitch—pressing up top, controlling midfield, and defending smartly against strong attackers. **Game management was much improved.**

Overall Themes

Great integration of new players
Stronger teamwork and pressing
Better movement and confidence on the ball
Noticeable improvement from early-season performances
Still room to sharpen organisation and focus



A solid start with real signs of growth. The boys are competing, learning fast, and building momentum for the rest of the season. **Onwards and upwards!** Alex



The **U15 Tigers** faced a **challenging start** to the season when our **goalkeeper sustained a three-month injury** which will not see him back in action until 2026. This setback caused difficulties early on, including a heavy defeat in the second round of the county competition against a very high-ranking Surrey Youth League squad. Combined with an unlucky draw in the league cup, it meant our focus has now shifted fully to divisional league matches—where we are **determined to excel**.

Roni and Gabriel stepped up admirably to cover the goalkeeper position, adapting quickly and showing resilience. At the same time, new recruits Alex and Sammy joined the squad at the start of the year, **strengthening key areas** and ensuring the Tigers are well positioned for the future.

Our **attacking power** has been clear: three players—**Ellis, Josh, and Oribim**—have each scored a hat-trick this season, while no fewer than **13 different players** have found the **scoresheet**. The forward trio of Ellis, Josh, and Ewan have been particularly prolific, contributing 41 of the team's 59 goals so far.

Defensively, Joe has been supported by a **strong back line of Sammy, Roni, Ahmed, and Patrick**, all marshalled by **defensive captain Tom**. The high back line has been well disciplined. In midfield, Sam has grown tremendously as captain, **inspiring his teammates**—most memorably when rallying the side from a 1–2 half-time deficit against RP Tigers to secure a 5–2 victory. Alongside **Harry, Alex, Titus, Edward and Ale** (whose assist rate is high), the **midfield unit** has **fought hard** battles and shown **great spirit**.

Utility players **Oribim, Javen, Szymon, and Nathan** have also been **invaluable**, stepping in wherever needed in any position to keep the **squad balanced and competitive**.

Yet beyond the statistics, it is the **culture of this team that truly shines**. Week after week, the Tigers **demonstrate selflessness and unity**—this is highlighted by the reaction of the team not by Ellis' spectacular overhead kick or Josh's corner that flew straight into the net, but by the **sheer joy shared by the entire squad** when **Javen** calmly tapped in a rebound. These moments **highlight the togetherness** that defines the squad.

We are very well placed to do well in our league this season and the very difficult cup games have highlighted areas to work on to ensure success as we progress to the next division. Finally, a **heartfelt thank you goes to the parents**, whose support on match days is invaluable and deeply appreciated and the coaches whose feedback I consistently value as I triangulate my own thinking.





The **u14G Jaguars** started their 5th campaign with a host of **new signings** for their 1st at 11 a-side. We **welcomed** Strikers in Sofie & Imogen, a Winger in Alasiya, Defenders Alina & Ellie-May and Midfielders in Ruby, Alexia and Bella into the squad.

The **league and cup** handed the girls the **toughest of starts**, with the first two games of the season in the League and County Cup both against a Fleet side who were unbeaten in a whole year. While we suffered a narrow loss in both with goals contentiously ruled out in both – the signs were already there that it was going to be an **exciting season**.

Despite being beset by injuries, what has followed since has been **9 straight victories** which sees the **Jaguars sit atop** of a large 12 team Tier 1 and also **progress** to the **semi-final** of the **League Cup** following an incredibly exciting game including a last-minute winner against a strong Caterham Pumas side.



Sofie sits top of the goals chart with 18 in all competitions so far, with Kim our assist queen with 9. Faith, Lucie & Violet are our ever presents with 15 appearances in all competitions, where the team has racked up 68 goals and conceded 23.

U12 Wildcats: It's been a **great start** to the season as the girls moved up to 9 a side (and offsides), we've had **5 new players** join us with 3 not having any experience in match days but everyone has slotted in seamlessly. Our **defenders Alannah, Olivia Marnie and Rosie** have been **immense**, and **Tianna** has been doing an **amazing job** behind them in goal (star player about 6 times). The **midfield engine of Bryher and Caitlin** have been **brilliant** and just don't stop running. **Izzy** has followed on from her **goal scoring exploits** from last season and has had some **great support from the wings** and up front from **Charlotte, Nel, Elizabeth and Emmy**.

I was **immensely proud** when we played a **county cup game** against a Beacon hill team 5 leagues above us with 5 Portsmouth academy players in their team and we **held our own** for a long time in the game certainly giving them a scare, the cup runs gave the girls a great experience and we lost out narrowly in the league cup on penalties. There's a **terrific team spirit** amongst the girls that **makes this team special**.
Go Wildcats.





As we reach the midpoint of the 2024/25 campaign, the Guildford Saints **U12G Lynx** can look back with **real pride at a half-season filled with growth, resilience**, and some outstanding football. Competing in the Surrey Women's & Girls League Tier 1, the squad has **embraced the challenge** with maturity beyond their years, showing they fully belong among the strongest teams in the county.

League Performance – Holding Strong in the Top Half: The Lynx have spent the first half of the season firmly rooted in the top half of the Tier 1 table, a testament to the squad's **consistency and competitive edge**. Their performances have blended **disciplined defending with intelligent, creative attacking play**. Even in tight matches, the team has shown **determination, focus**, and the ability to grind out results when it matters.

Cup Competitions – Setbacks and Success: The county cup journey may have come to an early close, but the girls responded in exactly the right way—by **raising their level and channelling their energy** into the league and the League Cup. That response has been nothing short of **impressive**. The Lynx are now steaming into the **semi-finals of the League Cup**, playing some of their best football of the season along the way. Their cup run has showcased the squad's depth, teamwork, and ability to perform under pressure.

Player Development & Team Spirit: Every player in the squad has shown **excellent development** in both **technical ability** and **tactical understanding**. Passing combinations are sharper, defensive organisation continues to improve, and the team's **confidence** in possession has grown each week. Just as importantly, the girls continue to show **exceptional team spirit**—celebrating each other's successes, **working hard for one another**, and maintaining a **positive attitude** in training and matches alike.

Looking Ahead: With league points still to play for and a League Cup semi-final on the horizon, the second half of the season **promises to be exciting**. If the team continue to build on their progress so far—**working hard, playing with belief, and supporting each other**—there is no limit to what they can achieve.

Well done, Lynx. A fantastic half-season so far—now let's finish it even stronger! 🖤💛🍁





This season marked the **U11 Lions** first step up to 9-a-side football, and they have **adapted amazingly** well, producing a **fantastic run of performances** with 9 wins, 1 draw and just 1 loss, scoring 47 goals and conceding only 16. We've seen some **brilliant team goals**, with **confidence** flowing throughout the squad, and when the ball is moving quickly, they are truly great to watch. As we head into the second half of the season, the focus is on carrying that belief forward, building on the **strong foundations** we've set, and staying switched on in games—especially if we fall behind. With **patience**, trust in our football, and belief in themselves and each other, there's no doubt this team can come back from any challenge and **continue to grow**.



New season, new Jaguars. We **welcomed Elliott Webber, Dan West, Jack Arnell and Maz Amessis** to the **U15 Jaguars** team this year. Seeded in the Premier Division, it's been a **fun filled** first few months. Having had a few lean years on the scoring front we've turned into a **goal machine**, producing multiple nail bitters along the way. A 2-1 win followed by 3-2 and 5-4 victories have really got the **supporters on their feet** over the last few weeks. With two goals of the season contenders already in the bag from Erlin and Yasser, and a multitude of Player of the Match performances, we're **looking forward to the second half** of the season. A very low quality picture of **Erlin's high quality match winner** against Manorcroft attached.





Hawks U10 Girls celebrate their fantastic 3-2 away win at Sutton Utd last Sunday



GSFC U13 Boys Tigers 🐅

It's been a **challenging, but good start** to the 2025/26 season for the boys. Moving up a division, 1st season of 11v11, a bigger pitch, & an increase in playing time has provided us with some **testing** situations but equally **valuable experiences**, which is great for each player's development. The boys have adapted well & have **demonstrated plenty of togetherness & resilience**. With a strong focus on the weekly Club theme/topic & linking what we do in training & how we apply that on a match-day, it's been great to observe the overall performance & application of the whole group. We've played very well & lost matches & on the flip side, have played poorly but won matches, so having that consistency of application of training has helped focus the players & parents attention away from just the end result/outcome, which isn't always an accurate reflection of the match. **Wishing everyone at GSFC a very Merry Xmas & a happy & successful 2026!**

The **U9G Kestrels** have been a **joy!**

The girls have shown **spirit and positivity** in the face of some tough opposition. Training has been **tree-mendous** with lots of **elfort**. **Thanks to all the supporters** for your help, positivity and sideline good cheer.

David and I are looking forward to a **cracker** of a new year with the Kestrels.

Sara & David





The under **8 Lions** have been in **impeious form** this season, **roaring to victory** in every game, gaining promotion and really gelling as a team. Last season's stalwarts **Jake, Thomas, Finn, Tristan, Libby, Sami** and **Dara** were joined by **new recruits Sacha, Fraser, Harris** and **Hunter** as we swept some teams aside and really dug deep when challenged by stronger opposition. Our final record was played 10, won 10, scored 107, conceded 32 which the team can be very **proud** of.

However, the proudest moment for me was definitely when the ref called me aside at the end of our toughest game of the season, away to Virginia Water. We came back from 4-2 down to win 5-4 which was pleasing but he not only **congratulated** me on a **good performance**, he also made a point of acknowledging the **great sportsmanship** of the boys. He highlighted the **excellent, competitive but good-natured spirit** the game was played in and said the boys were a **credit to their families and to the club!** Well done everyone!! 🐯⚽🐯



The **U12G Leopards** have experienced the **full gamut of emotions** in their first season in competitive football (or at least I have!). A really **strong start** to the season, where we almost beat a Tier 2 team in the County Cup, was followed by a heavy loss to a team in our own division in the League Cup. We then picked things up and **won our first 3 league games**, which was immediately proceeded by a run of 3 (narrow) losses. We got things back on track with a thrilling nil nil draw against Claygate, who are one of the strongest teams in our league, and have since gone on to win the last 2. One more to go before Xmas and if we can get the win we'll be well placed going into the new year.

We've played some **excellent football** so far, regularly **garnering compliments** from the opposition coaches about our passing game. However, **our achilles heel** has been scoring goals, which is a work in progress, but if we can start converting some of the many chances we create, I'm certain we'll be able to turn those early season losses into wins.

Go Leopards!





The **U14G Bobcats** are full of **exciting talent** and commitment to their football. This season we decided to push ourselves and jumped up 2 leagues to Tier 2.

The team have **risen brilliantly to this challenge**. They have treated their fans to some **thrilling encounters** and showed their **mighty courage** winning a penalty shootout against a Tier 1 team to reach the **quarterfinals of the League Cup**.



With the cup competitions out the way we will now be setting ourselves a new target for the league results.

With the **super support of GS coaches**, the arrival of our **new training kit**, and a bit of **Bobcat magic** along the way, we are confident of a strong second half to the season.
David & Sara



It's been an up, down and up season for **U15G Emeralds** so far. 13 played, 7 won, 6 lost. Of the losses (for the second time in successive years) we were drawn against tier 1 opponents in both first round League and County Cup games but deserved much more than a 1-0 loss to Farncombe, in arguably one of our **best performances** of the season so far. October was a **challenging** month, throwing away two-goal leads in two successive matches and conceding eleven goals in three games. Since then, however our season-long possession and territory **dominance** has been appropriately **rewarded** with 15

scored, one conceded, leaving us sitting **top of the table at Christmas** with the best form in the division right now.

Most important, the **team togetherness, spirit** and belief are sky high. Having **welcomed three new recruits** this season, all have settled in **amazingly** to strengthen the well-established Emerald core built up last season following the major restructure of Sept 2024. We have seen some of the **best passing, possession and pressing** of any of my 6 seasons with Emeralds. Our goal per match ratio is double that of last season, with **9 different scorers so far**, a Beckham-esque half-way-line screamer, and some **stunning outside of the box** and set piece goals. If we can continue our **excellent league form**, 2026 will be a **sparkling year** for Emeralds!





U15G Gems: Our second season together as a team. We have a small but committed squad and the **bonds between the girls have developed well now**. We go into the Christmas break second in the league. We continue to **progress as a team** and skill levels are improving across the group. Most importantly, the girls seem to have a **lot of fun!** Wishing everyone at the club a very happy Christmas.



It has been an encouraging first half of the season for the new-look **Guildford Saints Lions U13** squad. This year's team comprises a **strong blend** of **returning players** and **talented new additions**, and it has been **hugely rewarding** to see the team gelling so well both on and off the pitch.

We got off to a **solid start**, securing good results in our seeding friendlies, which culminated in a **thrilling 3-3 draw against a strong Cranleigh side**. Our performances and results throughout this initial phase led to the league confirming our **promotion to the U-13 Championship** for the second half of the season—a testament to the **hard work and commitment** shown by every player.

The team is quickly developing a clear and positive identity. We aim to play **simple, effective football** and demand a tireless work rate **off the ball**. Most importantly, the Lions are learning to **play with and for each other**, displaying **teamwork and camaraderie**.

We look forward to the challenges that 2026 will undoubtedly bring in the Championship. Our goals remain simple: to **continue to improve** as individuals and as a unit, to **have fun**, and to always play the game the "right way"—with **respect for opponents, officials**, and, above all, with **tolerance** for one another.

Keep up the hard work, Lions! We.Go.Again in 2026.





The **U13 Jaguars** had **strong results** during the seeding phase but have faced a **challenging run** of fixtures in recent weeks, competing in a series of demanding league and cup matches against strong opposition. Whilst results have not gone our way, this period has provided **valuable learning opportunities** and has tested the **group's resilience, discipline, and commitment**. The boys have continued **to train with focus and intent**, showing a positive response to coaching, **high effort levels**, and a **clear willingness to learn** from each match. The Managers are **extremely proud** of how the boys have conducted themselves during this demanding phase, both in training and on matchdays, and of the **character and commitment** they continue to show as a group.



What an **exceptional year of progress and enjoyment** for the **U11 Lynx!**

The team has shown **remarkable development** throughout the season, transforming into a **cohesive and formidable unit**. Every week, we have seen a tangible **increase** in the players' **individual confidence** and a significant **improvement** in their collective abilities.

The squad is truly gelling, and their **camaraderie is evident** both on and off the pitch. This growing unity has been the foundation for their increased **consistency in performance**.

The football played by the U11 Lynx is genuinely **great to watch**. We are seeing intelligent combinations, **excellent passing**, and **brilliant demonstrations** of **teamwork** that are a credit to every player. The boys' ever-increasing confidence has led to more consistent performances, reflecting the **hard work** put in during training sessions.

To cap off a brilliant year, the team secured a great and convincing victory in their final game, a perfect demonstration of how far they have come. Most importantly, the boys are clearly **enjoying their football**, which is the greatest success of all. I would also like to give a **big shout out to LAURA** as this team has done amazing under her leadership. She is the gel that lynx this team 🤗! I wish all the U11 Lynx players and their families a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

A **great start to 2025-26** for the Guildford Saints **Diamonds u15s**. We have started the season in **great form**, top of tier 1, 6 points clear, not lost a game so far, scored 15 and conceded 3 in 6 games. **League cup** has seen us reach the **semi final** stage which is due to be played mid January, our record in this competition is played 3 won 3, scored 13 conceded 4.

The **good news** keeps coming as we have once again reached the **semi finals** of the **county cup**, We are all **excited** to see what happens with this **great team of girls** in 2026!!!!





What an **outstanding year** it has been for the **PAN Team**! We are **immensely proud** of the achievements.

Championship team : The team has demonstrated **phenomenal consistency** and **skill**, placing them at the very top of their game they have **performed brilliantly** and currently hold a crucial **3-point** lead at the **top of their league** table heading into the New Year!

League Team : The **success continues** with the league team, who are also **leading** their **respective league**. An exceptional highlight is their **commitment to fair play**, earning a **perfect record** of **100% Respect Points**—a true testament to their **sportsmanship**.

Beyond the results on the pitch, the culture within the PAN Team is truly special.

The players have **developed bonds** that make them closer to family members, creating a **supportive and powerful unit**. Their **dedication, positive attitude**, and **commitment** make them an **absolute joy to coach**.

As a coach, I am **incredibly proud** of everything they have achieved, the way they conduct themselves, and the **fantastic environment they create**.

I wish all the PAN Team players and their families a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

It's been a period of **significant change** and hard work for the **Ladies team**, and I want to **commend the commitment** and resilience of every player. The start of the season has certainly been **challenging**, marked by frequent changes in the squad. We have seen many players join and many unfortunately leave, which always makes building consistency difficult. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up and adapted during this time of transition. Despite the early challenges, the tide is turning, and the outlook for the rest of the season is **incredibly positive**. We are now starting to play **some very good football**. The dedication in recent weeks is truly paying off, and I have every confidence that we will have a **positive rest of the season**.

I'm delighted to see the team gelling nicely in recent weeks. This developing bond is crucial and is translating into the quality of our sessions. **Training has been great!** The **effort and focus** displayed by the squad are **fantastic**, and I am sure the results will follow soon.

Goalkeeper Needed! 📞 **Call to Action:** If anyone knows a potential goalkeeper, please send them our way!

To take the next step and solidify our defence, we have a **desperate need for a dedicated goalkeeper**. Finding one would truly make the world of difference to our performances.

I am incredibly **proud to manage this team**. The **dedication and spirit** the girls show are **inspiring**. I wish all the girls and their families a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**





U16' s Wildcats : Starting where we left over last season with a string of **great performances**, but nothing to show for it. However, the girls were soon rewarded with their first win of the season. That was soon followed by a draw and another win. Some results haven't gone our way, even though we have **dominated games**, but not been clinical enough with our finishing. The girls are having a **good season** and currently sit 10th in a close league, where one result can lift you four or five places. This group of girls are **truly amazing**, and their **desire, commitment** and **attitude** is nothing short of **exceptional**.



GSFC Christmas Draw: last week to purchase tickets for the draw, which will be made on 24th December. Fabulous prizes up for grabs: £500 cash, free membership for 1 player 2026/27 plus many more prizes on offer. Tickets can be purchased via team managers.

Huge Thanks to Sponsors:



Mas + U15 Tigers



Designer Electrical Ltd U14G Tigers



That's all for this Newsletter, we hope you have enjoyed reading the team reports.

I would like to thank all our volunteers for their hard work so far this season, our pro-coaches, players and parents for making Guildford Saints FC one of the top clubs in the area and contributing to our amazing award: **Club of The Year 2025.**

Happy Christmas to one and all, have a fabulous festive season. Wishing you all a **Happy, Healthy New Year** and we look forward to seeing you all for the 2nd half of the season starting in January 2026.



Please help if you can

<https://gofund.me/677ef5c2>

The **GSFC Support Fund** has been set up to enable Guildford Saints Football Club to provide financial support to players wishing to join the Club who otherwise would not be able to do so for financial reasons. **GSFC is passionate** about being inclusive and offering players the opportunity of being part of a team/Club to **enhance each players skills, social skills, and health & wellbeing to be the best players they can be.**





Law 11 Offside

11.1 Offside position

It is not an offence to be in an offside position.

A player is in an offside position if:

- any part of the head, body or feet is in the opponents' half (excluding the halfway line) and
- any part of the head, body or feet is nearer to the opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second-last opponent

The hands and arms of all players, including the goalkeepers, are not considered. For the purposes of determining offside, the upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit.

A player is not in an offside position if level with the:

- second-last opponent or
- last two opponents

11.2 Offside offence

A player in an offside position at the moment the ball is played or touched* by a team-mate is only penalised on becoming involved in active play by:

- interfering with play by playing or touching a ball passed or touched by a team-mate or
- interfering with an opponent by:
 - preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent's line of vision or
 - challenging an opponent for the ball or
 - clearly attempting to play a ball which is close when this action impacts on an opponent or
 - making an obvious action which clearly impacts on the ability of an opponent to play the ball

or

- gaining an advantage by playing the ball or interfering with an opponent when it has:
 - rebounded or been deflected off the goalpost, crossbar, match official or an opponent
 - been deliberately saved by any opponent



**The first point of contact of the 'play' or 'touch' of the ball should be used; however, when the ball is thrown by the goalkeeper, the last point of contact should be used.*

A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent who deliberately played* the ball, including by deliberate handball, is not considered to have gained an advantage, unless it was a deliberate save by any opponent.

*'Deliberate play' (excluding deliberate handball) is when a player has control of the ball with the possibility of:

- passing the ball to a team-mate;
- gaining possession of the ball; or
- clearing the ball (e.g. by kicking or heading it)

If the pass, attempt to gain possession or clearance by the player in control of the ball is inaccurate or unsuccessful, this does not negate the fact that the player 'deliberately played' the ball.

The following criteria should be used, as appropriate, as indicators that a player was in control of the ball and, as a result, can be considered to have 'deliberately played' the ball:

- The ball travelled from distance and the player had a clear view of it
- The ball was not moving quickly
- The direction of the ball was not unexpected
- The player had time to coordinate their body movement, i.e. it was not a case of instinctive stretching or jumping, or a movement that achieved limited contact/control
- A ball moving on the ground is easier to play than a ball in the air

A 'save' is when a player stops, or attempts to stop, a ball which is going into or very close to the goal with any part of the body except the hands/arms (unless the goalkeeper within the penalty area).

In situations where:

- a player moving from, or standing in, an offside position is in the way of an opponent and interferes with the movement of the opponent towards the ball, this is an offside offence if it impacts on the ability of the opponent to play or challenge for the ball; if the player moves into the way of an opponent and impedes the opponent's progress (e.g. blocks the opponent), the offence should be penalised under Law 12
- a player in an offside position is moving towards the ball with the intention of playing the ball and is fouled before playing or attempting to play the ball, or challenging an opponent for the ball, the foul is penalised as it has occurred before the offside offence



- an offence is committed against a player in an offside position who is already playing or attempting to play the ball, or challenging an opponent for the ball, the offside offence is penalised as it has occurred before the foul challenge

11.3 No offence

There is no offside offence if a player receives the ball directly from:

- a goal kick
- a throw-in
- a corner kick

11.4 Offences and sanctions

If an offside offence occurs, the referee awards an indirect free kick where the offence occurred, including if it is in the player's own half of the field of play.

A defending player who leaves the field of play without the referee's permission will be considered to be on the goal line or touchline for the purposes of offside until the next stoppage in play or until the defending team has played the ball towards the halfway line and it is outside its penalty area. If the player left the field of play deliberately, the player must be cautioned when the ball is next out of play.

An attacking player may step or stay off the field of play not to be involved in active play. If the player re-enters from the goal line and becomes involved in play before the next stoppage in play or the defending team has played the ball towards the halfway line and it is outside its penalty area, the player will be considered to be positioned on the goal line for the purposes of offside. A player who deliberately leaves the field of play and re-enters without the referee's permission and is not penalised for offside and gains an advantage must be cautioned.

If an attacking player remains stationary between the goalposts and inside the goal as the ball enters the goal, a goal must be awarded unless the player commits an offside offence or a Law 12 offence, in which case play is restarted with an indirect or direct free kick.

Hopefully, the off-side rule is now crystal clear!

