



KENNINGTON JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB

APPROACH TO MINI-SOCCER
FOR
UNDER 6 / SCHOOL YEAR 1

This document is also available from the 'Downloads' section on our website

www.kjfc.org.uk

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Kennington Juniors Football Club

Policies and Procedures for the Under 6 Age Group Introduction to Mini Soccer

Topics Covered

- A. Profile of Kennington Juniors Football Club
- B. What is Mini Soccer?
- C. How does the club encourage children to become involved?
- D. The costs involved and how the money is used.
- E. The role and expectations of parents/guardians
- F. What can children expect – how do we meet the needs of the children?
- G. The role and capability of Kennington Junior FC coaches
- H. How we select the coaches to take the Under 6's forward
- I. What is expected of the new Under 6 coach
- J. Club structure and future support
 - bank accounts
 - funding
 - coaching
 - codes of conduct,
 - tournaments to enter
 - leagues



A. Profile of Kennington Juniors Football Club

1. Kennington Juniors FC was formed in 1993 and is now the junior section of the Kennington Senior Club to give boys and girls of all ages, from under six through to under sixteen, the opportunity to enjoy playing association football.
2. The Club has been awarded the F.A. Charter Standard (Community Club) Status, which is the highest recognisable level awarded by the Football Association that a Junior Club can achieve.
3. The Club is affiliated to the East Kent Youth League, the Kent League and Local Leagues.
4. The Club has links with Kennington FC (our senior club), Ashford Town FC, Gillingham FC, Charlton FC and local schools.
5. The Club has its own website: www.kjfc.org.uk on which information is distributed on a daily basis.
6. All key notices, Club contact details etc are posted here on our 'Message Board'.
7. An effective structure also exists to aid the smooth running of the Club through Monthly Managers Meetings, topic-focused sub-committees; and the Executive Committee, which oversees all aspects of the Club.



B. What is Mini-Soccer?

Mini-soccer has one overriding aim: to give children an enjoyable and fun introduction to football

The objectives of mini-soccer and Kennington Juniors FC are as follows:

1. To be enjoyable
2. To introduce children to the world of sport by understanding the purpose of football:
 - Playing in a team
 - Playing to rules
 - Playing to win
3. To capture children's imagination.
4. To give children an appreciation of football skills at whatever level they are displayed or played
5. To encourage children to compete fairly.
6. To give children the opportunity to develop a sporting interest that lasts for life.
7. To develop children's self-esteem through acquiring skills, playing, observing and understanding rules.

At this age, striving to win is more important than the outcome; winning is not everything, making the effort to, is.



C. How does the Club encourage children to become involved?

1. A message is placed on our website around July / August, advising of intended start dates.
2. A letter is also passed to local schools giving details of intended start date, venue, etc. Posters and Flyers are also distributed via the local schools
3. By word of mouth ! – Many of our children become involved with the Club, through hearing of us from other children and from parents talking to parents.
4. The sessions start in early September. However, children in school year 1 from that September are free to join at any point during the season, providing capacity available.

The communication is an open invitation to all boys and girls who are interested in learning the basics of football in a safe and fun environment.



D. The costs involved and how the money is used.

1. The Club will charge £2 per child per session. Sessions last one hour and are traditionally held on a Saturday morning.
2. All monies collected go into the club central fund.
3. The fund is then used to ensure the coaching sessions are fully equipped (bibs, balls, cones, etc.)
4. It is also used to help establish and kit out structured team squads at the end of the first introductory season – which is in the May following the September start – in readiness for Under 7 football the following season.
5. No money is paid to our volunteer coaches, who are all FA qualified and CRB checked.



E. The Role and expectations of parents/guardians.

1. Bring the children to each session. Please arrive on time and stay for the whole session.
2. Ensure the children wear shin pads & appropriate footwear and clothing (depending on the type weather we are experiencing).
3. To help where required, encourage and support all the children.
4. The Club expects parents/guardians to:-
 - Refrain from coaching the players while they are playing.
 - Use jargon or dictate tactics.
 - Shout, argue or swear. Become violent or use sarcasm.
 - Assess players by their faults.
5. The Club does look for parents/guardians to
 - Look for aspects to praise.
 - Praise good behaviour quickly.
 - Praise effort and behaviour more than results.
 - Assess the players with regard to their skills and attitude.
 - Emphasise playing first and winning second.
 - Display patience.
 - Give children an idea of the behaviour expected.
 - Show consistency.
 - Help them understand the rules.
6. The Club expects parents/guardians to read, sign and comply with its Code of Conduct on an annual basis.



F. What can the children expect – how do we meet the needs of the children?

1. Learn the basic skills and techniques of mini-soccer.
2. Improve in their own time, at their own pace.
3. Make friends, teammates and be part of a club.
4. Have fun!!
5. Be disciplined – accept and respect rules and authority
6. Play to win – but not at all costs.

If the children are to enjoy football and take part, they need to:

1. Feel that they are both a success and have a sense of achievement
2. Take an active part in the game.
3. Learn to play as a team.
4. Understand the rules.
5. Develop soccer skills.
6. Be able to take part whatever their ability.
7. Develop fitness.
8. Progress their footballing and team skills

We at Kennington Juniors FC set out through mini-soccer to meet these needs.



G. Role and capability of Kennington Junior FC coaches

1. FA qualified to at least Level 1
2. CRB checked and certified
3. Child protection workshop attended via FA events
4. Qualified in first aid.

The Under 6's will be coached by Club coaches for a minimum of four to six months.

Over this time, we will integrate interested parents/guardians into the coaching of small groups of players, with a view to them assuming team coach roles by the end of the introductory season (May).

From the outset, parents/guardians will be asked to help the coaches, by refereeing small-sided games, putting out and collecting equipment etc.

The coaching itself will be of a set structure, teaching the basics of football. Above all, it will be fun and age specific.

Over the course of the introductory season, the club coaches will begin to stream children based on their ability, with a view of identifying appropriate groups of children to develop as team squads for the following Under 7 season and beyond.

Parents/guardians will regularly be communicated with regarding the group's progression and will always be accessible to discuss individual player's needs and development. They will ensure that the wider activities of the club are effectively communicated to all.



H. How we develop new coaches to progress the Under 6's forward.

1. Initially, parents/guardians will be asked to support the coaches as appropriate to ensure the success of the sessions.
2. Over the first four to six months of training sessions, the future coaches/managers will almost certainly have shown themselves and be easy to identify.
3. These individuals will then be asked to start to take charge of taking/conducting training sessions involving small groups of children, aided by the club coaches.
4. This will allow them to become confident in their own suitability/competence, as well as giving the club coaches an opportunity to assess and develop as needed.
5. All sessions will still be managed by the current Kennington coaches who have a minimum of Level 1. This is for insurance purposes, CRB, First Aid etc.
6. Once our future coaches/managers have been identified, we will support these individuals in obtaining their Level 1 coaching status. This will then allow them to plan/take their own sessions/teams forward with support from the Club and within our structure.
7. From May (once the introductory season finishes), squads will be selected so that the new coaches can take them forward and develop them, in readiness for the under 7 season the following September.

The number of squads will be dependent upon the number of children available for selection, the number of parents/guardians willing to develop as coaches and the number of teams that the club are able to support at that point in time.



I. The role of the new Under 7 coaches

1. To take responsibility for the running of their squad, from under 7 age group onwards (school year 2) – Ideally there are two coaches per team.
2. Gain a FA Level 1 Certificate in Football Coaching.
3. To run the team within the club structure and adhere to its Code of Conduct.
4. Open a bank account for your team, and organise the management of team funds.
5. Be accountable for your team/supporters/funds etc. This will all come under the Clubs Code of Conduct.
6. Work with the other coaches in your age group for the collective benefit of all the children. Part of this will be to ensure that the children are playing at their appropriate level of ability. – It is recognised that children develop at different speeds and their assessment is key to their enjoyment and success.
7. Participate in the regular managers meetings and ensure effective communication of club information to all parents/guardians.



J. Club structure and future support

1. Each new coach will be given a list of who does what within the Club. It is not a closed shop and all help is welcome.
2. New coaches will be advised on how to set up team bank accounts, obtain funding etc.
3. Each new team will be given sufficient funds for equipment needed.
4. The Club operates regular 'coach the coaches' sessions, using our more qualified coaches to pass on their knowledge.
5. Coaches will be advised of mini tournaments that are held in the summer months, so that they can participate if they wish.
6. Coaches will be helped to obtain entry into one of the mini football leagues that exist both within Ashford and across Kent.

The Club will give as much support as necessary to help and integrate our new coaches. We are an open and voluntary organisation providing structured football for over 350 children. We operate under the FA Charter Standard and our own Code of Conduct.

Note: All contact details for Club Officials can be found on the club website: <http://www.kjfc.org.uk>

Your first point of contact regarding Under 6 / Under 7 support is **Rob Martyn**, Football Development Officer

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