



Respect

A FA Accredited Club



EB Lions AFC - Club Ethos

EB Lions sets out how we want to run as a club. It's simple, concise and can be understood by players, parents/carers and officials.

- To provide football to children of all ages and abilities irrespective of skill & ability
- To provide football in a safe and friendly environment.
- To deliver age-appropriate coaching to support long-term player development.
- To encourage all players to try their best and make the most of their abilities.
- To offer a challenging but supportive environment where children can learn from their mistakes without undue pressure and anxiety.
- To promote good behaviour and respect for others.

As a club, we believe that long term player development is more important than short term gains. By getting our parents/carers to understand the importance of our Club Ethos – through club/coach engagement, by us being consistent, confident and clear about our coaching approach. How we plan to develop our players and the team also involves parental engagement on our footballing journey, in this cementing positive attitudes towards development and draws the focus away from just results.

To try and move towards the very difficult balance between winning and participation, we encourage parents/carers and players to be open minded and to take a 'training view' on match days for development:- skill's and mentality.

Each coach will have their own interpretation of this balance, which is fully supported by the club, within limits. Moreover, 100% is seldom achieved although that is the aim and intention!

Children need to be allowed to play in a relaxed manner, in a positive environment and be allowed to make mistakes. The response to mistakes as coaches and parents is crucial in this area too, as it is natural to feel the urge to stop all mistakes (because it's detrimental to results) but will inevitably lead to children who will be fearful of trying out new skills and techniques.

EB Lions believes that it is not right to label a player only as a defender or attacker at an early age and encourages players to try all positions (even the ones they don't like), albeit once again this is not necessarily good for immediate results as players will be initially uncomfortable.

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The pressure at games can be immense - most matches are surrounded with a lot of noise coming from the sidelines, and too many voices giving advice. It is again an interesting comparison with school life, where no parent would not want fifteen teachers shouting advice to their child! It is understood by EB Lions that junior football will sometimes be seen as having the same values as professional football with too much importance on the appearance of pitches, kits, corner flags, results, results, RESULTS!

EB Lions would like players to be able to play with both feet, play in all positions, be creative and with great technical ability and have fun in a relaxed environment. Children will develop better in a training environment where they feel safe to make mistakes without excessive pressure of winning.

This is the aspiration of the club and we hope that everyone associated with the club will see the long-term benefits for the children. Whilst winning is fantastic, the real success stories however are of those children who, as a result of joining EB Lions, have had the chance to make new friends, enjoy the game, feel part of a team and build much needed confidence. This will hopefully result in a lifelong love of the game and provide nothing but good memories of playing Youth football.

Finally, in order to achieve these aims and continue to attract players, volunteers and sponsors the reputation of the club as a whole is of the utmost importance. The good name of EB Lions AFC is something to be proud of and it is the responsibility of all those associated with the club to uphold the values that are so important to maintaining the success.

EB Lions Committee
September 2022

