

Welcome to EB Lions AFC

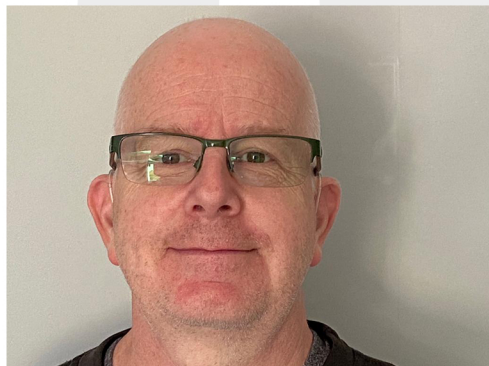
As a new player and parent to the Club, welcome to EB Lions AFC, your local youth football club.

We hope all our players have a long and happy childhood, growing up with us all the way to becoming an adult. This is a fantastic opportunity that will serve to build confidence and close friendships and above all else provide fantastic life-long childhood memories.

This short guide seeks to introduce parents into the first few years of youth football, what it involves and who to contact. It is about fun, development and enjoyment, not simply playing the best players and is about involving every boy or girl.

EB Lions AFC support all the FA initiatives that are aimed at “Fair Play” and “Respect” which includes players, supporters and all those involved in youth football. We expect every person involved, as a coach, spectator, parent or player whether home or away, to abide by the guidelines set. We should all act as role models.

We hope you enjoy your season and wish you every success with the club.



Adrian Bush - Club Chairman

Football Development

EB Lions AFC is always working hard to enhance the development of young players in our villages within the FA framework and are committed to helping young players reach their full potential, whatever that may be.

This means that, as a Club, we have a clear development path from 4 through to 12 years old. This transcends through 5 a side, 7 a side and 9 a side football, but is centred on player development and coaching - improving players, building confidence, experience, learning skills, tactics and teamwork.

The high level structure is broadly as follows:

U5 and U6 We focus purely on learning with a ball, with sessions structured around fun.

U7 and into U8 Familiarisation with small sided games and some gentle development work in training. (Time spent on the pitch in a game is not based on ability!)

U9 and U10 Skill levels and experience start to show (for some, not all). Technical development comes more to the fore, to work towards improving skills and ability

U11-12 An introduction into 9 and 11 a side football - merging of 7 a side teams

U12-14 Ability really does start to show and focus will move to playing best 11-14, whilst trying to improve those falling below the ‘bar’

U15-18 Competitive football where the best will play and full competitive team positions exist

18 and beyond Many senior players go on to train as referees and coaches

Expectations

We will over time gradually begin to improve players technically and educate them in patterns and theories of play.

Our Club has a vested interest in the development of young local talent but our main aim is sport, enjoyment, friendships and a positive childhood experience.



Please also remember that our coaches at U6-U8 are normally completely new to this and will take time to learn the ropes and what’s involved, so they need your positive support to help them. They have enough to do managing the children, dealing with ‘difficult’ parents should not be part of the job role.

The aim is for children to fall in love with the game whilst helping develop their technique before they make the step up to the ‘adult’ 11-a-side game.

Kids want to win whatever they play. But their emphasis isn’t on winning so for us the emphasis shouldn’t be on winning. It should be about enjoyment, fun, learning the game, falling in love with it and getting better at it.

Respect



Our aim as a Club and as Coaches is to:

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning
- Explain exactly what we expect of our players and what they can expect from us, consistently
- Ensure the parents/carers of all the players under the age of 18 understand these expectations
- Develop mutual trust and respect with every player to build their self-esteem
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- Ensure all activities are appropriate for the players' ability level, experience, age and maturity

Our club, our pride

We are incredibly proud of our FA Standard Charter Community Club status. As coaches, parents and guardians, we all have a responsibility to promote high standards and uphold the ethos of the FA RESPECT campaign:

- Players are number one
- Fun - not winning - is everything
- Fans only cheer and coaches only coach
- No yelling in anger
- Respect the officials and referees decisions
- No swearing - whatever the opposition are like

Clubs are the heartbeat of football in this country. We have a shared responsibility to ensure that this experience is a positive one, particularly at the youngest age groups. We have a commitment to coaching, player and coach development, and the raising of standards of skill and also behaviour in the game - all of which are big priorities for both us and The FA.

Who to contact

Your coach is always your first point of contact

Your Team

Your Coach

Coach Email

Coach contact number

Your coach will keep you regularly posted with details for training and matches. The club will also keep you up to date with news via our email newsletter and the website. You can also find us on Facebook and follow eblions on twitter.

The club committee are also always available to help with any questions or queries. Your key football related contacts are listed below and details of the full committee team can be found on the club website contacts page.

Club Chairman and Girls Football Development

Adrian Bush
chair@eblions.co.uk

Football Development

Damian Fielding and Paul Young
footballdevelopment@eblions.co.uk

Facilities and Pitches

Adrian Bush
facilities@eblions.co.uk

Child Welfare Officer

Stacey Coath
childwelfare@eblions.co.uk



CHARTER STANDARD
COMMUNITY CLUB

New player and Parent guide

