

Taunton Youth FC Community Trust



**Welcome Pack
for players
and
parents/carers**

2021-22 season

WELCOME

Welcome to Taunton Youth FC Community Trust. This booklet will give you information about our Club, what it means to be part of our youth programme and what your child is likely to experience.

The purpose of our Club is to advance amateur sport and promote community participation in healthy recreation, through the provision of sports coaching and access to facilities for football players in the school years Reception – sixth form, who live in and around Taunton. Although it will never be our primary objective, we are always on the lookout for those with the potential to play for Taunton Town FC's first team.

Any child of qualifying age, regardless of footballing ability, is welcome to come and train with us (subject to club capacity).

Better than last week, but not as good as next week



A message from Steve Willis, Chair of the Trustees.

Time flies by - season five in the life of our club will soon be upon us.

Covid-19 will, hopefully, move into the background and allow us to get back to 'normal'. Sadly, however, it has put our finances under strain and I have already written separately on the new kit and payment arrangements ([click here for a reminder](#)).

It's great to see that the Juniors have now integrated fully after a stuttering start due to the pandemic. This, together with a newly formed team entered into the Somerset Youth League, means we have an age range of 4-18.

Also, in collaboration with Bishops Lydeard Football Club, Taunton Town Football Club, and Bridgwater & Taunton College, we have developed a pathway which we believe sets out an attainable journey into semi-professional football ([click here for the announcement](#)). This pathway is shared overleaf.



Steve Willis – Chair of Trustees
Email: beamswillis@btinternet.com
Mobile: 07912 054091

Getting started...



We provide a youth programme for football players in the Primary School Reception to Under 18 age groups. Our programme is open to anyone who has an interest in playing football. All are welcome (subject to capacity). We offer three levels of participation:

Juniors: This is our 'Foundation' age group and is centred around participation rather than organised matches. Ball mastery is a huge part of an individual's growth as a footballer. Being comfortable with a ball at their feet is crucial. In this part of the programme, we spend a lot of time working on mastering skills and ball control.

Training: All players within the same age group train together each week. We welcome players who predominantly play their games for a grass roots team but who aspire to play at a higher level. They will have the opportunity to be selected for the match squad if we see the right quality, attitude, endeavour and commitment on display.

Match Programme: This is for players who have demonstrated an ability to perform at a standard above their local grass roots league. However, we do not identify players to join match squads on the basis of ability alone. We use a range of factors including skill, emotional maturity and commitment to training. Those in this group have the opportunity to play matches in the JPL/Somerset U18 Youth League.

It's all digital

We have 4 primary methods for communicating news and updates about the Club.

1

Teamer is how we communicate invitations, dates, times and locations for training sessions and matches. This is available as a mobile app and has a desktop version. It is free to download and use. New members will be given a link to connect with our Club's account. Via the web version you can let the coaches know in advance of any dates your child is unavailable to train or play.

2

Taunton Youth FC website. Here you can find everything you need to know about the Club including pages for each year group, details of Club sponsors and profiles of our Trustees. You can also find information on our Mission Statement and all our Club policies, including our Safeguarding policy, Complaints policy, Data and Privacy policies. Details on our youngest players can be found on the [Juniors website](#).

3

Social media. You'll find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Please follow us if you use these and help to share and publicise our Club news. If you post anything, please use the hashtag [#JnrPeacocks](#)

4

Email. From time to time we send out emails to parents/carers. We tend to do this only when there are updates that relate to the whole Club rather than to individual year groups. For this reason, it is important that we have an up to date email address for you. We do not send emails to any of our young players directly.



Club membership and fees

All players are required to complete an online registration form for our internal administration processes. There is no initial administration or signing on fee.

The Juniors has its own payment method as it operates in school term time only (with separate holiday clubs as advertised on our social media channels). Bookings are made on a half termly 'block' basis at £6 per session.

The annual membership fee for the U11 – U16 Match programme is £450. For the training/development squad it is £200. Any player who moves between the two programmes during the course of the year will have their fees adjusted.

Fees are payable in 10 equal instalments (£45 a month for the match programme, £20 a month for the training squad) and are to be made by Direct Debit.

The annual membership fee for the U18 squad is £250, with a £5 payment per match collected on the day.

Payments

As part of club membership, we ask that a direct debit is set up for each player. Our processing provider is GoCardless. Payments will be requested on the 2nd of each month commencing on Monday 2nd August and will consist of 10 equal payments of £45 for match squad members and £20 for training squad members, £25 for U18s.

Having a Direct Debit set up in this way (NB: you are covered by the Direct Debit guarantee) allows us to adjust the fees if there are squad changes, request payments for fines and yellow/red card offences and refund any overpayments quickly and easily. You will always be notified of any charges or changes to your direct debit well in advance.

The direct debit is set up by logging into your Taunton Youth Account and clicking on the 'Set Up' button.

More money matters...

Non-payment of membership fees

Our Club is a not for profit organisation.

In cases of non-payment you will be reminded by the age group Coach, Head of Football or a Trustee. If not paid within 1 week or by the time of the next session, we will remind you again. At this point we may suspend your membership and ask that your child does not attend training and/or matches until the money owed is paid.

Cancelling your membership

Once you have committed to the programme if you or your child decides to leave, then **two months advance notice** is required.

This means, for example, if your child wishes to finish at the end of March you will need to give us notice in writing or email by the end of January. This should be sent to youth@tauntontown.com. A verbal message given to the coach does not count. You will then be required to pay all fees due up to the end of March.

What happens if your child misses sessions due to injury

If your child has a long term injury then **monthly payments are still due**, however an assessment will be made at the end of the season and dispensation given if a large amount of play / training has been missed.

i.e. If a player breaks a leg and is off for eight weeks, April's and May's payment will not be required. These decisions are made by the Coach and Head of Football together, and ratified by the Trustees who oversee the financial management of the Club.

Club kit

The following needs to be purchased by parents/carers. All top half items (apart from the match top) come badged and **with initials** on which helps when needing to reunite misplaced clothing with owners!

Our kit brand is Joma supplied by [Somerset County Sports](#) in Taunton. Information on sizes and prices is supplied by the store. Items can be purchased individually; the prices shown are for the whole 'bundle'.

Training programme kit

£57.50 - £67.50 for all items (depending on sizes selected)

- T-shirt (doubles as away Match Shirt – see below)
- Sweatshirt
- Shorts
- Socks
- Rain Jacket

Match programme kit

£107.50 - £124.50 for all items (depending on sizes selected)

- Includes the same items as the training programme kit
- Plus:*
- Champion V Tracksuit
- Match shirt – with squad No 1-99



Returning players are not required to purchase new training and match kit every year. If it still fits from last season, please continue to wear it.



Training and playing with us



Training

All notifications for training sessions are made via Teamer. Out of courtesy to our coaches, who spend a good deal of their time planning sessions for the players, a response is expected for every invite. In addition to the regular weekly training sessions, ad-hoc sessions may be organised from time to time.

Matches

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to arrange transport to matches. If you require assistance, please use our social media channels to see if another parent can help you.

If selected to play in a JPL match every player will be offered at least 50% pitch time. This is a requirement of the league and helps to create opportunities for practice and progression for all those attending. NB: The U18 team is not bound by this pitch time criteria.

Playing for other teams

Our players are free to train and play with other clubs, such as a local grass roots side, school, college or district team. Training squad members can elect to play on a Saturday or a Sunday for another team with the offer to play with the Match Squad on an opportunity basis. Match squad players may play for a grass roots side on a Sunday, but we expect full commitment for Saturdays. Also, on the rare occasion a friendly is organised/fixtures are re-assigned to another date, priority should be given to Taunton Youth. For insurance reasons, scratch teams organised by parents for any tournaments or friendlies outside of our programme are not permitted to use the Taunton Town or Taunton Youth FC name or wear our training/playing kit.

Be proud and show respect

When arriving for and leaving training, a match or other club function it is expected that each player will say hello and greet their coach plus any other coaches in the vicinity. Prior to Covid-19, we used to ask people to shake hands. Individuals are welcome to keep up this custom, but this is now optional and down to personal choice. Greeting others is a sign of mutual respect and also an important signifier as to arrival and departure from the temporary custody of the coach/club.

Photos and Video

We are very proud of our young players and like to take photos of them to create memories, celebrate achievements and share news. Within the Club, we have a video camera and mast which we occasionally use to record training and match footage. The coaches may use this to help review performance and progress as well as to inform and educate the young players on subjects such as positional play.

We subscribe to and follow the [FA's guidance on the use of photographs and video](#).

Please note: we assume we have permission to use and publish videos/photographs of all players (training and match programmes) unless we are advised to the contrary in writing.



Any withdrawal of permission must be emailed to Neil White (Club Admin Officer).

Email: youth@tauntontown.com



You can help the club by signing up to [EasyFundraising](#). It's completely free to register and means that when you shop with major retailers (such as M&S, ebay, Amazon) you could be helping to raise funds for the Club at the same time.

Parental involvement

In addition to the all important activities of washing kit, driving kids, feeding them and encouraging their involvement, there are other ways in which we welcome the active involvement of parents.

Each year group is asked to identify a volunteer **parent representative**. The primary purpose of this role is to help commutation and organisation in relation to fundraising and social activities. It's a small task in terms of time input, but makes a huge difference when it comes to things like organising the rota for match day raffles and co-ordinating numbers for functions.

If you have skills, time or contacts and would like help we'd like to hear from you. Please message [Steve Willis](#) (Chair of Trustees) for an informal conversation.

Code of conduct for parents



We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game. As a Club we support The FA's Respect programme to ensure football can be enjoyed in a safe, positive environment. Remember, children's football is a time for them to develop their technical, physical, tactical and social skills. **Winning isn't everything.** To us, performance and the holistic development of a child is the main focus. We ask that you play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for spectators and parents/carers at all times.

In particular we ask that you agree to the following.

I will:

- Remember that children play for FUN.
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success.
- Always respect the match officials' decisions.
- Remain outside the field of play and within the Designated Spectators' Area (where provided).
- **Let the coach do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do.**
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials.
- Avoid criticising a player for making a mistake - mistakes are part of learning.
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by the Club, County FA, league or The FA.

I may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning from a club or league official.
- Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer.
- Required to meet with the club executive committee.
- Obligated to undertake an FA education course.
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club.
- Requested by the club not to attend future games.
- Suspended or have my club association/membership removed.
- Required to leave the club along with any dependents. In addition:
- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club.

Our 24 hour rule

All parents/guardians are welcome to discuss any part of the coaching syllabus and the way our programme is run – either with a coach or a trustee. However, we have a **24 hour rule**. This means our coaches have been advised they do not need to engage in any feedback and conversations about a match or training session until 24 hours have passed. This cooling off period helps to take the emotion out of a situation. It also enables people to go into a discussion with an even-keel approach, looking to exchange valuable information and find common ground for the benefit of all.

For parents: whilst we will always recognise your right to speak with a coach on behalf of your child, the added benefit of the cooling off period is that you may actually decide that your child is the best person to have the conversation with the coach.

Life, and sport, will have many ‘red lights’ and ‘roadblocks’. If children don’t experience adversity or get uncomfortable from time to time they will be hindered in their development as a person or player. If young people can learn to communicate for themselves to solve problems, they will be much better for it in the long term. Of course, you may have to step in from time to time, but working through conflict with their coach is beneficial for their future.

Parents: please refrain from coaching from the side lines. You do not know what instructions your child has been given. Your child is part of a team and may have been given a specific set of tasks.

Remember: Everyone has a bad game (or a bad day at work etc.). Many children are already too hard on themselves when they are not playing well. Helping them understand the ‘big picture’ is crucial if there is a poor result - it is no big deal.

Mistakes are a natural process of learning; we all make them. After a game or training session which might not have gone well, please ask them about the positive things they experienced - the effort in running back or blocking a shot etc., how they helped the team.

We put the process before the outcome, and ask that you do the same.

Code of conduct for coaches



We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game and our coaches/managers are no exception.

On and off the field they will:

- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators.
- Adhere to the laws and spirit of the game.
- Promote Fair Play and high standards of behaviour.
- Always respect the match officials' decisions.
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission.
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials.
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour.

When working with players they will:

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning.
- Explain exactly what they expect of players and what they can expect from us.
- Never engage in, or tolerate, any form of bullying.
- 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 they organise are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity.
- Cooperate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists, welfare officers) for each player's best interests.

Our coaches/managers understand that if they do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by the Club, County FA, league or The FA.

They may be:

- Required to meet with the club, league or County Welfare Officer.
- Required to meet with the Club's Trustees.
- Monitored by another club coach.
- Required to attend an FA education course.
- Suspended by the Club from attending training/matches.
- Suspended or fined by the County FA.
- Required to leave or be sacked by the Club. Also, their FACA membership may be withdrawn.

If at any time you have concerns regarding the behaviour of a Club coach please bring this to the attention of Neil White, Welfare Officer, immediately.

Code of conduct for players



We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game. As a player, you have a big part to play. That's why The FA asks every player to follow a Respect Code of Conduct.

When playing football for Taunton Youth FC we ask that you agree to the following.

I will:

- Always play to the best of my ability.
- Play fairly - I won't cheat, complain or waste time.
- Respect my team-mates, the other team, the referee and my coach/manager.
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee.
- Shake hands/fist pump with the other team and referee at the end of the game.
- Listen and respond to what my coach/team manager tells me.
- Talk to someone I trust or the club welfare officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club. (For our Club, the Welfare Officer is Neil White)

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by the Club, County FA or The FA.

I may:

- Be required to apologise to my team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager.
- Receive a formal warning from the coach or the club committee.
- Be dropped or substituted.
- Be suspended from training.
- Be required to leave the club. In addition:
 1. My club, County FA or The FA may make my parent or carer aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct.
 2. The FA/County FA could impose a fine and suspension against my club.

Within the Club we have two additional **very important** rules/expectations:

1. We have a zero tolerance attitude towards consumption of alcoholic drinks, smoking (including vaping) and the use of non-prescribed drugs. If any player is seen to consume these illegal substances (or attends a club function when under the influence of the foregoing), they will be dismissed from the programme immediately. The decision of the Head of Football on this matter will be final, with no right of appeal.
2. We expect our young players to treat themselves and others with respect. Misdemeanours at school and in general life may have consequences for participation in the programme.

Making the most of social media

The importance of brand

Our brand refers to the way others encounter us. It promotes recognition and sets us apart from other clubs. It generates interest and referrals, and helps players and parents to know what to expect when they come to us.

Our brand and what we stand for needs to permeate through our entire Club.

It goes beyond our name, visual identity (club colours and logo) and website and includes

- How we behave
- How we represent ourselves on social media
- How we interact with others (other clubs, referees, other coaches, business partners, etc.)

Making the most of social media

Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) is great for sharing information, experiences and promoting the Club. Used in the right way, social networking activity can have a positive impact on your own reputation and that of the Club.

Please follow these tips to create a successful brand for yourself and the Club.

DO...

Play nice. Allow others to express their opinions and treat them with the same respect you would personally expect.

Pause and think. Nobody's perfect but think before you contribute or respond to something that others have posted. How will it make you and the Club look?

Consider who you connect with. Your online networks are a reflection of you and your association with the Club.

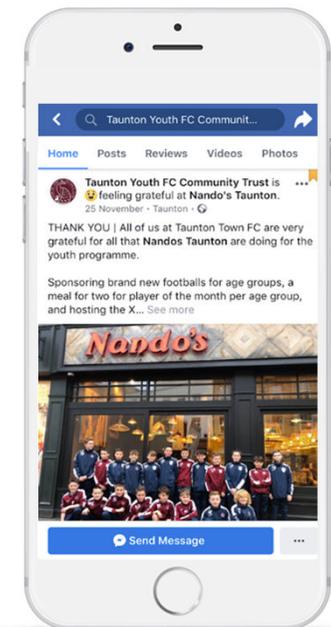
Understand your digital footprint. You may have no control over information once it is live. Your messages, tweets and conversations in public forums can be recorded, intercepted and / or saved and sent via email.

DON'T...

Post when you're cross, emotional or (for adults) under the influence of medication or alcohol. You're likely to type something that you wouldn't ordinarily say in person.

Use inappropriate language, make derogatory statements or post comments that could be read by others as being hurtful. Do not use social media to defend the Club or settle old scores.

Endorse or make promises on behalf of the Club. Be careful not to promise things or make commitments to others if you don't have the proper authority.





Club policies

Details of all our Club policies can be found on our website, including:

Safeguarding Policy
Complaints Policy
Separated Parents Policy
Anti-Bullying Policy

Equality Policy
Data Protection Policy
Financial Assistance Policy

TheFA
Charter
Standard.



ACCREDITED
CLUB
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

In April 2020, we were awarded the FA's Charter Standard. This demonstrates to parents, sponsors and the public that our Club is well organised, safe and provides opportunities for all. It also confirms our Club has FA-qualified coaches as standard, adheres to FA Respect policies and codes of conduct, and prioritises child welfare as well as appropriate levels of discipline.

As well as being an FA Charter Standard Club, we are also an England Football Accredited Club. England Football Accredited Leagues and Clubs set the standards, raise the bar and fly the flag of respect and diversity for football in England.

Taunton Town FC Discounted Season Ticket

All players in our programme (juniors, match & training squads) qualify for free entry to Taunton Town first team matches played at home. There is no need to buy a ticket, but you must turn up in your Taunton Town training kit to be let in for free.

Up to two parents/guardians and close family members can purchase a season ticket at a discount of 50% which includes all home league games, pre-season friendlies and priority booking for ticket only cup games. This is the same deal the first team players get for their friends and family.

Please contact [Alan Slade](#) (Taunton Town FC Finance Director) if you would like to purchase any season tickets.



Taunton Youth FC Community Trust



We hope you have found this pack useful.

**If you have any questions or concerns please email:
youth@tauntontown.com**

