



VERWOOD TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

Youth Section Mission Statement and Ethos

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Verwood Town Football Club is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for children and young people to enjoy Youth Football.
- 1.2. This document sets out our mission statement (what we want to do) and ethos (how we will do it)

2. Mission Statement

VTFC Youth Section is committed to providing a safe, supportive environment that is accessible to young players of all abilities from Verwood and the surrounding area.

We will challenge our members to improve as players, as team members, and as individuals.

We want our young players to aspire to play for our senior team in years to come and for every player to be proud of their achievements.

3. Ethos

- 3.1. We like to be competitive, but we are not a 'win at all costs' club at any level or age group.
- 3.2. Anyone can come and train with their age group at VTFC; we are limited only by player to coach ratios (10 kids to 1 qualified coach recommended) Our coaches and helpers are CRC checked, first aid qualified and have been trained in child safeguarding, our Managers are FA level 1 or 2 qualified coaches.
- 3.3. Everyone who trains with a VTFC team should get some practical playing experience on the pitch if they are over 6 years old (a restriction imposed due to FA Rules) by;
 - a) Playing in friendly development teams, fixtures or events; and / or
 - b) Playing in a league team where points may or may not be counted; and / or
 - c) Playing in a tournament side

This is subject to limitations imposed by the FA and leagues we play in (e.g. **no fixtures for players under the age of 6**, max team sizes permitted by a league) and number of qualified FA Level 1 managers available to host a team or fixture. (We must have qualified staff for a game).

Some age groups may have enough players and qualified volunteers to run a 'development team' which they can build into a league team – competing in an easier league, or playing down an age group (e.g. New Forest League where this is permitted).

- 3.4. Our Managers will do their best to ensure that each member of a **league team** will get a fair number of selections, and a fair amount of playing time on the pitch (all positions), noting;
 - a) Some of our leagues are very competitive and the Manager will only put a player into a league side who they feel can get something out of the experience (e.g. be confident to play in and cope with the situation) – this means that not all players who train will join a 'league side'.
 - b) Managers may select and play children in their strongest position on the pitch in key games (noting Under 10s and up are entitled to place more (but not all) emphasis on results over performance and development), and
 - c) Managers may rotate / roll subs throughout a game, and
 - d) Managers may reward players who make every effort in training and matches with more playing minutes.

4. Reporting concerns

- 4.1. Anyone can report any issues observed that are contrary to our mission statement and ethos, to any member of the committee, but are highly recommended to contact our Child Welfare Officer on - **Child_Welfare@VTFC.co.uk**
- 4.2. Watch items:
 - a) Children who are told that they are not allowed to train with VTFC
 - b) Children who train, but are not able to play in organised games at VTFC
 - c) Children who are registered to play in league sides who don't seem to get fairly selected or played