

Soccerscool

Est.2004

Club Handbook 2020/21

Soccerscool Football Club provides a competitive football experience for talented young players. Players are selected from our Red Class or invited to join after a successful trial period.

This handbook outlines the club's culture and guiding principles behind our coaching programme and selection process.



*“Quality without results is pointless.
Results without quality is boring.”*

Johan Cruyff

Ethos

Create a fun, professional environment that stimulates and challenges young players to maximize their potential as footballers.

Provide players with an experience which teaches them valuable life skills associated with playing a team sport.

Educate players in the virtues of taking responsibility on and off the field of play.

Raise standards at the grassroots level in relation to the coaching, playing and spectating of children's football.



Values

Promote a culture of Pride, Respect, Professionalism and Best Practice:

- Coaches and players wearing Soccerscool attire when attending training and matches.
- Good time keeping in order to be organised, prepared and ready to coach or play. Being early, not just on time!
- Playing areas reserved for players and coaches only.
- Understanding the importance of spectators not shouting instructions to the players.
- Parents notifying Soccerscool in advance if their child is unable to attend training.



A Soccerscool Player

Key qualities we look for in the recruitment of players:

- Have a passion for the game.
- Display an appetite for learning.
- Ability to keep the ball as an individual.
- Regular attendance.

Key attributes we aim to instil in our players:

- Dedication to Practice.
- Take Responsibility and Work Hard.
- Resilience and Perseverance.
- Discipline and Respect.
- Teamwork and Competitiveness.

Membership Fees

Membership fees are in addition to coaching fees, they help pay for the following:

- Affiliation to the London Football Association.
- Training facilities.
- League fees.



Training Kit

- Rain Jacket
- Mid-Layer Jersey
- Short-Sleeved Player Shirt
- Black Shorts & Socks
- Shin-pads
- Age Appropriate Sized Football



Stockist

Bespoke kit is available from our supplier Ace Sports. We recommend a visit to this classic old-style sports shop. Alternatively kit can be bought online @ [AceSportsDirect](https://www.acesportsdirect.com).



Ace Sports, 6 Fortress Rd, NWS 2ES
Tel: 020 7485 5367

Match Programme

Match Fees

There is a £5 match fee for midweek fixtures which covers the coach and referee's fee. There is a £1 match fee for Saturday morning fixtures which covers the referees fee. Payment should be made to the coach before kick-off.

Under 8 Squad – (Year 3)

There is no league programme for our U8 squad. The focus during the season is to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in relation to playing 7 a-side football. This will prepare them for playing competitive football when they enter year 4.

Under 9 Squad – (Year 4)

Our U9 squad plays in the Camden & Islington League at Market Road. They play on average 2 matches a month on Saturday mornings. Kick offs are at 9am, 10am or 11am.

Under 10 Squad – (Year 5)

Our U10 squad plays in the Camden & Islington League at Market Road. Matches are scheduled mostly on Tuesday evenings with the odd Monday fixture. They play on average two matches a month. Kick offs are 5pm.

Under 11 Squad – (Year 6)

Our U11 squad plays in the Regents Park League. Matches are scheduled fortnightly on Saturday mornings. Kick offs are at 11:30 am or 12:45pm.

****No results or league tables are published for U9/10/11 age groups.***

Under 12 Squad – (Year 7)

Our U12 squad competes in the Camden & Islington U12B League at Market Road. Matches are scheduled mostly on Tuesday evenings with the odd Monday fixture. They play on average two matches a month. Kick offs are at 6pm. They also take part in a cup competition during the season.

Under 13 Squad – (Year 8)

Our U13 squad competes in the Camden & Islington U13A League at Market Road. Matches are scheduled on Tuesday evenings. They play on average two matches a month. Kick offs are at 7pm. They also take part in a cup competition during the season.

Squad Sizes

To be able to fulfil our fixtures we need to operate large enough squads to cover for all eventualities. Therefore, it may be the case that during some seasons we either have to play some children up an age, or merge two age groups together.

****Results & league tables are published for U12/13 age groups.***



Coaching Programme

The objective of our coaching programme is to produce teams that can play a coherent and recognizable brand of football based on the ability to maintain possession. We select players for our squads each season based on the following criteria.

Skills & Confidence on the Ball

Ability to keep possession of the ball in order to recognise and exploit space or turn out of pressure and start again.

Combining with Others

If a player is able to keep the ball as an individual, then there is the opportunity to combine with others when necessary. Working the ball out of pressure areas and around the pitch provides the foundations on which our brand of football is built. If players are able to do this on a consistent basis then evidence of a pattern of play will begin to emerge.

Game Understanding

How well does a player understand their role in the team in relation to the position they are playing, with and without the ball?

Competitiveness

Football is a contact sport and requires assertiveness and aggression with and without the ball. How willing is a player when it comes to tracking back, putting tackles in and blocking shots? How determined are they in protecting the ball when confronted by an opponent?

Managing Expectations

We set high standards in relation to the technical skills and game knowledge required to play our brand of football. Players who gain most from our club programme have a passion for the game, display an appetite for learning and are dedicated to practice.

Experience over the years has taught us that players who only play football when attending Soccerscool struggle to maintain a place within our club.

Communication

Our coaching team is always available after training sessions to provide feedback for parents. We will also take time out during the course of the season to highlight any concerns we have with regards to a player's lack of progress in relation to his peers.

We really appreciate it when parents let us know in advance if their child is unable to attend training. This helps us when it comes to planning and preparing our sessions. There is a [Google calendar](#) on our website giving the dates when we are closed for school holidays. All match information is done through the [Spond App](#).



Club Honours

We have a proud history of winning League Titles and Cup Competitions. This has been achieved through adhering to our philosophy of placing player and team development first over a *win-at-all-costs* mentality.

League Titles

2018/19 - Camden & Islington A League Champions (U12)

2017/18 - Camden & Islington B League Champions (U13)

2011/12 - Camden & Islington B League Champions (U11)

2010/11 - Regents Park League Champions (U9)

2010/11 - Regents Park League Champions (U11)

2010/11 - Camden & Islington B League Champions (U10)

2007/08 - Regents Park League Champions (U11)

2006/07 - Camden & Islington B League Champions (U11)

Cup Winners

2019 - Camden & Islington Challenge Cup (U12)

2018 - Bloomsbury Invitational Cup (U11)

2017 - Camden & Islington Development Cup (U10)

2016 - Camden & Islington Challenge Cup (U11)

2012 - Regents Park Cup (U10)

***'At Soccerscool we strive for perfection.
If we fail, we might just settle for excellence.'***