

STEVENAGE BOROUGH JUNIORS CLUB HANDBOOK 2024-25

LAST UPDATED 31/05/2024



INTRODUCTION



This Club handbook is for players and parents and should provide you with most of the information on how we run our club, what is involved in running our teams and generally everything to do with becoming and remaining a Stevenage Borough Junior.

This handbook details how we strive to act as a club and how we expect anybody representing the club to behave; as a player, coach parent or supporter.

It will detail the clubs principals and ethos and will also explain who is involved in the running of the club. Our handbook is updated every season to ensure the details are up to date and relevant.

We thank our club team sponsors who support our individual teams and special thanks to our coaches sponsor BKM Scaffolding who provide kit for all of our volunteer coaches.

Stevenage Borough Juniors has consistently grown since its early days and along with the increase in size, the organisation and dedication of a group of volunteers has ensured that the quality in facilities, coaching continues to improve. Many Stevenage Borough Junior teams have won local season long leagues, cups as well as many summer festivals & competitions but we much more measure our success by seeing players firstly enjoying themselves, secondly continually developing and improving and finally by the number of players we retain to keep playing the beautiful game.



OUR COACHES & VOLUNTEERS



It is important to remember all of our coaches and support roles including our committee members are volunteers. They give up their time so your children can play football.

Please always try to remember this when dealing with our volunteers as without these people there would be no club.

We always need more volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please email contact@sbjfc.org

Thank you



PRINCIPLE OBJECTIVES



- 1. To provide a community football club which is run to promote healthy recreation by providing the best affordable facilities, coaches & equipment for playing football**
- 2. To enhance football education for all Stevenage Borough Junior Players which in turn will help each player improve and become a respected member of our club**
- 3. To help every player become the very best footballer they can be regardless of which level they are at upon arrival at the club**



CLUB PHILOSOPHY



We believe that the best all round footballers can adapt and have the intelligence to recognise that the game is ever changing. The style of play may need to be adapted depending on a variety of factors, available players, conditions, position, style, weather conditions, pitch conditions as well as other external influences.

We want our players to become game intelligent decision makers who enjoy playing football at the highest possible level. We aim to achieve this by adopting a mix of coaching styles, by taking the best from the old and the new and never settling or resting on our laurels. We are always striving to improve the clubs players, the coaches & facilities. The world is ever evolving and changing as is the football world and styles and types of play that might be strived for now may not even exist in the future and we need to allow and accommodate for this.

We want players who

**Maintain
high levels of
possession**

**Are
aggressive
and positive
in 1v1
situations**

**Constantly
look for the
goal or goal
scoring
opportunities**

**Create high
and instant
pressure**

**Stay compact
in formation**

**Provide cover
for other
players
attempting to
disrupt/regain
possession**



GAME PHILOSOPHY UNDER 7 – UNDER 11



1

Matches at the first two phases (Under 7 to Under 11) need to be considered an extension of training. Focus needs to be on development of core skills utilising the opposition as an additional pressure facility rather than the enemy!

2

How the team play rather than what the final score line is will always be the focus at these stages, we want players to be comfortable on the ball. We want players to have an education in every position be it goalkeeper, defender, midfield or attack. Players should be given the opportunity to try every position on both sides of the pitch regularly. We know that players tend to have a natural ability at a particular position but this should be seen as an opportunity to coach the player and help develop the other sides of their game as well as enhancing the natural ability already shown.

Educate parents, players, and all spectators that rather than more goals than the opposition being the target, the development of players is the key focus. The players are children, they will make lots of mistakes and they need encouragement throughout and not criticism. Coaching should be left to the coaches.

3

4

Equal playing time must always be considered; there isn't any good reason why at this young age players should be spending more time than others on the side-lines. When possible, volunteer goalkeepers should be given equal game time on the pitch to the rest of the players. Goalkeepers should be rotated so that no player must play more often than any others in goal. If however a player shows a particular desire to stay in goal and further develop their goalkeeping then again this will be encouraged but not to the detriment of either the rest of the squads goalkeeping opportunities or also the individuals outfield game time. Over 70% of all goalkeepers touches are with their feet so the emphasis at these phases should be to develop the technical ability of all players with the ball at their feet.

Important Note – Inevitably there will be situations where players may be struggling to meet the level of their current team. In these cases, where possible we will look to move these players into a more appropriate team within our club. However, where this is not possible it may be the player would need to move clubs to find the right level of football for them. This rarely happens but if it does the coach should explain the situation to the parents and support the player with the move where possible.

GAME PHILOSOPHY UNDER 12 – UNDER 18



As players progress through the club and move from learning phase 2 into learning phase 3 we must take into consideration that the match day environment will have changed and that games become competitive. League tables are evident and peoples focus can be seen to switch from development to being the best regardless of how we act, develop or play.

1

As a club we appreciate that whilst the environment has changed our focus should remain the same and that whilst we have to acknowledge the leagues and the structure from which we are a part of we mustn't let this dominate our game philosophy. We still want our players to be intelligent decision makers, we still want to encourage players to be confident on the ball, we still want players to play the ball out from the back and we still want to encourage fair play. The way we structure our squads at these stages should help to ensure that all players are playing at a level appropriate to their ability and that allows for progression and movement should any player be struggling or excelling.

2

At this stage players will tend to focus on one or maybe two positions although the principles of the first stages should mean our players are comfortable to play in any position within reason if required. In addition at this stage equal game time may not be as appropriate. However, we would expect any player attending a match to play at least 40% of the total game time on the majority of occasions. Any situation which would mean this was not possible would mean the player should be considering a move to a different team

3

We as a club want all our teams to be successful both in terms of developing players to the best of their ability and also by trying to win. The balance of this is the challenge for all coaches, parents & most importantly players.

4

Children will always have that competitive edge and have that desire to score goals but as coaches and educators of the game we as a club need to ensure the correct learning focus is given at every age group.

5

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PARENT/GUARDIAN ROLE



As a parent/guardian you have a key role to play in our club. As well as supporting your child we also expect you to live the values and philosophies of our club whilst around training, matches or any club related event.

What does it mean to be a Stevenage Borough Juniors parent/guardian?

Your job is to support your child and provide a positive view of their game and performance. Here is a snapshot of our key expectations for you as parents and guardians

Always ensure your child's coaches are aware of any medical issues or ailments

Always try to get your child to the session/match on time

Only provide positive encouragement at matches

Always ensure your child has appropriate clothing, footwear and shin pads at matches & training

Always ensure your child has a drink for training and matches

NEVER use foul discriminatory or inappropriate language

Always show Respect to players, coaches, opposition, parents and officials

Report any situations where the expectations of the club are not being met by players, parents, or coaches

Pay your children's fees on time (Or speak to us if you are having issues)

On match days stand and remain behind the relevant respect barriers

Always speak to the coach or age group manager if you have any issues

Help and support your coaches by helping with set up and packing away at matches



TRAINING AND MATCHES



As a club we try to provide the best training and match venues we can at an affordable cost. We are very proud of the venues we have access to and work with our partners to ensure they are respected and kept at a good level. It is very important that you and your children respect our venues and their rules as without these venues we would not be able to provide the facilities our teams require.

Generally matches take place on Saturdays or Sundays with Kick offs ranging from 10am through to 3pm although the majority are morning.

Training is held on either a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday at either 5pm, 6pm, 7pm or 8pm. Older age groups are generally allocated the later time slots. **Please note your training slots and times may change at the start of a new season.**

A full list of our venues can be found on our website www.sbjfc.org in the Find Us section but a summary is also below:

Match Venues

Venue	Address
Barnwell Middle School	Shephall Green, Shephall, Stevenage SG2 9XT
Barnwell Upper School	Barnwell, Shephall, Stevenage SG2 9SR
King Georges Playing Fields	Sish Lane, Stevenage SG1 3LS
Valley Sports Academy	Broadhall Way, Shephall, Stevenage SG2 9BN
Ashtree Primary School	Chertsey Rise, Shephall, Stevenage SG2 9JQ

Training Venues

Venue	Address
Valley Sports Academy	Broadhall Way, Shephall, Stevenage SG2 9BN
Round Diamond School	Whitehorse Ln, Stevenage SG1 6NH

CLUB CONSTITUTION & STRUCTURE



Stevenage Borough Juniors has a formal constitution. There is an AGM held every year and details of this are notified to all members 30 days prior to the AGM.

The Club is driven by the Executive committee, the details of each committee member and their role are below:

Name	Responsibility	Contact Details
Adrian Barry	Chairman	adesbjfc@outlook.com 07584 511089
Amanda Harwood	Child Welfare Officer	Amanda16h@outlook.com 07989 637688
Caroline Gray	Club Secretary	Carolinegsbjfc@outlook.com 07940 287681
Brian Fletcher	Head of Football Development/Youth Football	Brian@bspn.co.uk 07958 625354
Carol Moore	Treasurer	Carolsbjfc@outlook.com 07949 495257
Darren Mugford	Head of Facilities	Darrenmugford@btinternet.com 07971 600751
Warren Potter	Disciplinary Officer	Warrenpottersbjfc@outlook.com 07985 021034



CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT



As a club the conduct of our players, coaches and supporters define us and it is something we take very seriously.

In an ideal world this would be something we would not have to worry about but unfortunately the reality is very different.

We expect all of our players, coaches and supporters to comply with our codes of conduct. The full version of this can be found on our website www.sbjfc.org

The next three pages however give a high level summary of our expectations of you when representing our club. Please read and adhere to this. Failure to do so could result in fines, bans or expulsion from the club.

VERY IMPORTANT

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DO NOT ✗

- Instruct or coach players
- Say anything negative or use foul or discriminatory language
- Shout aggressively even in support of your team
- Talk to or shout at the referee, coaches or players
- Get involved in confrontations with other supporters

DO ✓

- Encourage all players with positive language and actions
- Clap good play and goals from both teams
- Respect all players, officials and supporters
- Help coaches with set up and packing away



★ **Supporters Code of Conduct**



DO NOT ✗

- Shout or be aggressive towards players of any age
- Question the referee or any other officials
- Instruct constantly telling players what to do (We coach not manage)
- Use any form of foul or discriminatory language
- Take part in training sessions. You are a coach not a player!
- Encourage poor behaviour or standards from our players

DO ✓

- Create a positive environment where players can express themselves
- Encourage all players with positive language and actions
- Clap good play and goals from both teams
- Respect the referee and their decisions
- Be respectful to all coaches and supporters
- Give all players reasonable opportunity and game time
- Deal with or report poor player or supporter behaviour
- Set an example whilst representing our club



Coaches Code of Conduct



DO NOT ✗

- Shout or be aggressive towards other players
- Do not question the referee or any other officials
- Use any form of foul or discriminatory language
- Display poor behaviour or standards

DO ✓

- Give 100% and try your best at all times
- Encourage all your team mates with positive language and actions
- Listen to your coaches and treat them with respect
- Respect the referee and their decisions
- Be respectful to all coaches and supporters
- Raise any issues or problems with your coaches
- Set an example whilst representing our club



Player Code of Conduct

THANKS FOR READING OUR HANDBOOK AND PLEASE REMEMBER.....



This is just a game

These are children playing it

The coaches are volunteers

Referees are human and often just kids themselves

Mistakes will happen

This is not the Premier League!

