

Frequently asked questions and answers for new players and parents



Q1. Who is the child welfare officer and how can I make contact?

A1. Jonathan Warnock takes care of welfare matters. If you have any questions or anxieties of any nature that you don't feel comfortable discussing with your team manager then please get in touch. The feelings and wellbeing of all players are always of our utmost concern. Phone 07946 733184, or email Jonathan.Warnock@clara.co.uk.

Q2. S87 is a 'Christian football club', what does this mean?

A2. S87 is run by a multi denomination Christian leadership and receives some funding from Christian based organisations. However, it's not a club exclusively for Christians and accepts players of any religion, or of no faith at all. Although you don't have to share the 'beliefs' of the Club, you're expected to respect and adhere to its standards and moral values which are embodied within its rules, regulations and codes of conduct.

Q3. How does a player join a squad and get into a team?

A3. Simply contact a Club official, ideally the relevant manager directly. Squad size, admission procedure and team pick policy varies at the discretion of each team manager. This ensures that the most suitable approach is taken for the membership of each team (the Club recognises that the variable personalities and squad inter-relationships play an important part in the smooth running and performance of a team). Team managers can be consulted on their policy, and they'll be able to tell you their: limit on squad players, system for new player acceptance (whether or not trials are held and if so when the next trial will be run) and general match team-pick policy.

Q4. What player clothing and equipment is needed?

A4. The kit order form gives details on the mandatory and optional requirements available from the Club. Other equipment to source yourself includes boots, shin pads, ankle protectors and goalie gloves. A discreet hardship fund is available upon request, and donations of good condition outgrown kit, boots and equipment are gratefully received.

Q5. What costs are involved initially and thereafter?

A5. In summary the general outlay is: clothing (mandatory kit total £30) and equipment (see you local sports supplier) as mentioned above, annual sign on fee (£12), match subs (£3 ea.) and training subs (£2 ea.). Optionally, match and training subs can be paid by a £12 per month standing order, which runs all through the year not just during the season but even so still offers a substantial saving on the weekly cash alternative. Additional friendly matches, tournaments and social events are not covered within the standing order. All payments must be made in advance. Please don't put team managers in awkward positions by making late payments.

Q6. When and where are the matches played?

A6. From the last week in September to the last week of March all home games are played at the Victory Ground in Nowton Road. This facility is shared with Bury St Edmunds Cricket Club who has priority outside of this period. For the weeks before and after this period local authority pitches at Nowton Park and Hardwick Heath are used. Matches kick-off at 1030, and managers will advise on when they want players to arrive for preparation. Away matches also start at the same time so travel time must also be allowed for. As an example of away match arrangements, a team may meet at and then depart from a local Bury car park at 0915 to arrive in Ipswich for 0945.

Q7. When and where does training take place?

A7. Regular training sessions take place on Thursday evenings at the Nowton Park astro pitch. Times vary for the teams as follows: U9/10/11/12/13 1800 to 1900, U14/15 1900 to 2000, and U15X1/16 2000 to 2100. To make the most of allocated pitch time some teams deal with administration, briefings and warm-ups outside the astro pitch before and/or after session times – check with the team manager on the exact times of arrival and dismissal. Note that parents/carers are responsible for players to/from the gate of the astro pitch, i.e. S87 does not supervise players between the car park and astro pitch (please make sure junior players have visited the loo before the session).

Q8. What league do the teams play in?

A8. All S87 youth teams play in the largest youth football league in East Anglia – the South Suffolk Youth League, which has over 350 affiliated teams. The number of teams and thereby divisions varies for each 'youth-year' and currently all opposition is based outside of Bury St Edmunds (all other local youth football is played on Sundays within the smaller Ipswich and Suffolk Youth League).

Q9. What are the very basic match formats played within the South Suffolk Youth League?

- A9. U9 to U11: Mixed boys and girls, 7-a-side mini soccer rules (<http://www.thefa.com/TheFA/RulesandRegulations/~media/Files/PDF/TheFA/MiniSoccer0809.ashx>), 12' x 6' goals, no offside, size 3 balls, 25 min e/w, unlimited rolling subs (two mandatory teams per club entry, A & B)
- U12 to U14: Mixed boys and girls to U13 - separate at U14, 11-a-side FIFA rules bar exceptions (<http://www.thefa.com/TheFA/RulesandRegulations/LawsOfTheGame>), 16' x 9' to full size goals, offside rule applies, size 4 balls, 35 min e/w, unlimited rolling subs
- U15 to U16: Separate boys and girls, 11-a-side FIFA rules bar exceptions (<http://www.thefa.com/TheFA/RulesandRegulations/LawsOfTheGame>), full size goals, offside rule applies, size 5 balls, 45 min e/w, unlimited rolling subs

Q10. How can I get news on the other league matches and the league table?

A10. This facility will be available on our website shortly but in the meantime you can visit: <http://full-time.thefa.com/Index.do?league=8081905> where you select your required 'age-group/division' from the centre drop-down menu.