

<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>C.W.O.</i>
<i>Nick Hanson</i>	<i>Dave Flowitt</i>	<i>Stu Steel</i>	<i>Jo Moss</i>
<i>18a West End Road</i>	<i>4 Greengate</i>	<i>31 Greengate</i>	<i>21 Vinehall Road</i>
<i>Epworth</i>	<i>Epworth</i>	<i>Epworth</i>	<i>Haxey</i>
<i>Doncaster</i>	<i>Doncaster</i>	<i>Doncaster</i>	<i>Doncaster</i>
<i>DN9 1LB</i>	<i>DN9 1EZ</i>	<i>DN9 1EZ</i>	<i>DN9 1HU</i>



## CLUB RULES

1. As an affiliated member of the Football Association the Club agrees to abide by and aim to implement best practice as identified in the FA Football Development Programme.

2. The Club hold Public Liability Insurance but beyond that liability cannot be held responsible for accidents or injuries that take place in training or on match days. Parents are required to advise of any existing medical conditions and ensure that all appropriate medications are brought to training and match day sessions. Individuals may wish to take out accidental injury cover in their own right. Further details are available on request.

3. The manager runs his side with discretion, subject to the rules and policy of the club. If a parent has a query about football matters, the manager should be approached in the first instance. If a parent is unable to resolve any issue with their manager the Management Committee should be approached to consider matters further.

4. The Club Members Registration Form must be completed and returned in order to be eligible to participate in club activities.

5. Annual membership fees and weekly subscriptions are agreed at an AGM. The fees are payable whether selected for match day or not. Failure to pay subscriptions may result in missing future matches.

6. It is the responsibility of the player to let the manager know if unavailable for training or match days. Failure to do so may result in missing future matches.

7. The club will develop the football skills of all individuals to their highest potential, through best coaching and training practices. The development and of each Player, through all ages, will be reviewed by Managers /Coaching Staff, with support given by Committee Members where requested. Prior to the commencement of each new season, and/or at any other time stipulated by the Team Manager. Each Player's ability will be assessed and Player's along with their Parent's/Guardian's may be approached for any of the following reasons:

i. A player's ability is of a high enough standard to give the opportunity to play at a higher level. This may be in either a higher age bracket or where more than one team exists at the same age bracket within a higher ranking team.

ii. A player may benefit from moving to a lower ranking team to increase his/her chance of regular team football. Where more than one team exists within the same age bracket then the individual will be offered the opportunity to move to the lower ranking team.

iii. A player has shown ability to a high enough standard to warrant playing at a higher age bracket but that over time the player then begins to struggle with the challenges of the game within this age bracket and would be better suited playing in the correct age level.

All decisions will be made in the best interest/welfare of the individual.

In the case of Development Team Player's the aim of the development training will be to develop football skills in a friendly and fun manner. Players can join the development team from the age of 4 upwards and can continue to train with the development team at any point. The offer of playing positions, within Team Football, will be made by the development team coach and the Manager/Coach. Despite all efforts not all individuals in the development team may be recruited to a

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team if no places are available. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to approach the ETCFC Committee if they are unhappy with any issue detailed within Section 7.

**8.** Managers should ensure that all players up to Under 11s are playing at least half of the game time in matches. At 11 upwards playing time will be at the manager's discretion. Reasons for reduced playing time should be explained clearly to players. Small-sided soccer will be played up to U10. U11's and U12's will play 9 a side and thereafter if numbers are sufficient it is envisaged that 11 a side soccer will be played. If numbers are insufficient small-sided soccer may be played. If no such league is available two school years may be amalgamated with the more able players from the lower age bracket moving up to complete the required squad size. Regular player reviews will be conducted as detailed in Section 7.

**9.** Squad numbers will, at each Manager's discretion, be limited to the maximum allowed by their respective league. Where new players approach the club, and squad positions are available then, upon completion and return of a duly signed Trial Agreement Form, individuals will be given the opportunity to train, with the team relevant to their age bracket, for a maximum of 4 weeks. The assessment panel are to be informed of the commencement of all said trial agreements and the assessment of the new player will take place at the end of the trial period before any playing position is offered. No fees will be imposed for the duration of the 4 week trial but successful Trialists will be charged a Membership Fee calculated pro-rata, against current annual fees, based upon the duration of the remaining weeks within the season. Membership Fees must be paid and all signing on documentation must be in order before the individual is selected to play.

Where new players approach the club, and squad positions are **not** available then, upon completion and return of a duly signed Trial Agreement Form, individuals will be given the opportunity to train, with the team relevant to their age bracket, for a maximum of 4 weeks. The assessment panel are to be informed of the commencement of all said Trial Agreements and the assessment of the new player will take place at the end of the trial period to determine whether to offer the individual a longer term trial. Long term trials will be offered in the knowledge that there will not be any possibility of the player competing in competitive fixtures during the current season unless one or more of the current team members chose to leave the club. This agreement will be discussed with both Player and Parent/Guardian and upon acceptance will constitute a longer term trial period for which the club will impose a charge of £70 for training which will be pro rata to the time of joining or £2.00 per training session or friendly fixture in the short term. Players retained on a long term trial period will only be offered a permanent squad position whenever the squad size drops below the agreed maximum. Long Term Trialists will be retained on a "first come first approached basis" and not "hand-picked" based upon ability.

Where more than one team exists within an age bracket then the club will look to select teams based upon ability. Managers, supported by the Selection/Assessment Panel<sup>1</sup>, will promote the progression of each individual to aspire to play at the highest level. When multiple squads exist within an age bracket then the squad numbers will be split into numbers that will facilitate player progression in both squads.

Where the number of trialists or new players exceed the amount required to split the squad into two teams (each team must have at least 1 substitute). The manager may approach the committee to ask for another team to be created at that age group. (The process will be the same if numbers grow to reach three teams)

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<sup>1</sup> The Selection panel must contain the managers of all teams in that age bracket and at least one committee member or manager from another age group not involved with the team.

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Additional teams in each age group will only be given the go ahead once:

- a) An application has been made by the existing manager(s) to the committee for an additional team.
- b) A an appropriate manager for the team has been vetted and approved by the committee
- c) The basis for splitting the team has been explained to all parents. E.G Usually by ability but for reason of player development it may be by school or by even split of ability.

**10.** To minimise the risk of injury Managers and the Management Committee will be mindful of a child's other sporting and social commitments and take appropriate action as necessary.

**11.** The Club does recognise the need to encourage general diversity of interest in sporting activity and as such will encourage all managers to look to take a break from football training during the "closed season". The duration of the break shall be determined by individual team managers following consultation with both Parents/Guardians and Players. It is the responsibility of all managers to ensure that Players do not feel pressured to train with their team if they should choose involvement in other sporting activity during the "closed season". Post/pre- season tournaments will be limited to two plus our own and should be recognised as fun and played purely on a voluntary basis.

**12.** Epworth Town Colts AFC is a Charter standard club and as such all managers will ensure that all officials involved with the team<sup>2</sup> have the following accreditation:

- i) A valid DBS certificate
- ii) A valid safeguarding training certificate
- iii) A valid first aid qualification

In addition Managers must ensure that at least one official from each team has An FA coaching qualification.

Managers must ensure that at least one representative from each team is present at club meetings

**13.** Epworth Town Colts AFC is fully committed to supporting all standards, for acceptable conduct, set by the Charities Commission, FA and Relevant Football Leagues, of all individuals involved with the Club. The Club has introduced additional support documentation in the form of Codes of Conduct for all, Managers Protocol and a Guide to Refereeing to help identify expectation. The Club has formed a small Investigatory Hearing Panel who will be responsible for assessing any issues of complaint or misconduct brought against the Club. Any individual including coaches reported to the Club Committee on grounds of complaint or misconduct including non-compliance with the clubs code of conduct and/or failure to follow rule 12 will be invited to an Investigatory Hearing to answer to all allegations raised. Players will be invited to investigatory hearings whenever they are subject to complaint or misconduct including non-compliance with the club code. Parents and spectators will may also be invited to hearings if the are in breach of the club rules or codes of conduct. The panel will be responsible for the investigation of all said offences, deciding upon the appropriate sanction and will retain official minutes of each investigation and will report all findings to the relevant league and FA where requested. Guidelines for complaints procedures can be found on the club website.

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<sup>2</sup> Officials includes all committee members, managers, coaches and volunteers involved with a team.