



EASINGWOLD TOWN AFC AIMS AND APPROACH TO SELECTION AND COMPETITION 2025-26

Introduction and Aims

We are proud to have some of the best facilities in the area and are rooted in the communities of Easingwold Town and local villages. We exist to provide opportunities for ALL our young players (boys and girls) to play football for enjoyment but we also aim to help them develop their skills and understanding, as well as their behaviours and attitudes towards the game. We will support ALL our players to realise their full potential and provide a pathway into senior football at our Club.

Selection and Competition

We are not about winning at all costs and are more focussed on the development of our players to fulfil their potential both individually and collectively. We understand the social and personal benefits that participating in team sports can have. So, as well as wanting our players to enjoy their football we also want to encourage them to build positive relationships and friendships with their peers that they can take with them outside the football environment and into their social and school life.

We also want to avoid unnecessary barriers to participation for less able players, so consider it is important that, irrespective of their individual aspirations or abilities to play up a level, that all junior players train and play with their relevant age group. Any requests regarding 'playing up' would be subject to a committee decision and would only be supported in exceptional circumstances.

However, we do recognise the importance to the Club, teams and individuals of our teams winning matches and trophies! Therefore, in line with FA guidelines:

U7-U11: Let the Players Play

- All players should play and train in their appropriate age group.
- Due to league restrictions on the numbers of children that can be registered to play in matches, not all players will have the opportunity to play in league fixtures. When this occurs, the coaches will endeavour, as far as possible, to arrange friendly or in-house fixtures to allow these players the opportunity to play a 'competitive' fixture outside of their normal training sessions.
- Squad selections will take into account factors such as match 'readiness', longevity at the club, attendance to training, behaviour, individual development, and playing positions.
- For players selected for a team, rotation will occur and this will take into account players attendance, development and playing position.
- On match days players will be given equal game time as much as possible.
- Players will develop their game-understanding by rotating positions during practice and games.
- Players will be given the chance to play a 'Game' during most practice sessions.
- As a club, we will not let the children's arena become dominated by adults.

U12 onwards

- Players should train and play in their appropriate age group.
- Coaches may select teams to become more competitive, but as a community club we will continue to favour local players and to also take into account the length of time that they have been part of the club whilst not excluding players who are new to the area and/or club.
- Coaches should balance the competitive nature of the game with the player's developmental needs and the interests of the squad.
- Coaches will not be expected to give equal playing time but should adopt an approach to selection which over the course of a season allows for fair playing time, taking into account players attendance to training, ability, confidence, fitness and attitude/ behaviour