



The War Memorial Ground, The Vinery, Winscombe, North Somerset BS25 1AS  
[www.winscombefootballclub.co.uk](http://www.winscombefootballclub.co.uk)

## Winscombe Football Club Youth Player Pathway

Winscombe Football Club has been in existence since 1922 and the club is at the heart of the local community with fantastic facilities. The club has teams at all age groups from pre-school right through to veterans with a number of players having played through the minis, juniors and making the step into adult football.

The purpose of the youth player pathway is for parents and players to understand the expectations and structure of the club and how this can help the development through the age groups. Players, parents and coaches should aspire to achieve the clubs core values which are respect, teamwork and sportsmanship in a safe and friendly environment.

**Under 13 to Under 16s – 11 a side football – Annual subs of £180 – sibling discount available between u7 & u16s.**

At under 13, our young adults move to 11 a side football. The club operate in a number of different leagues and the length of the games will depend on the league as well as the age group. The football is fully competitive.

### FAQs

#### Playing for the year above

At Winscombe, we believe that the most important element of football is that the players have fun as well as learning respect and teamwork through playing with their friends/players at their age. From experience, we find that a player will shine within their own age group. It is therefore club policy that players remain within their age group and are registered and managed by that group. As the players go through their teenage years, playing numbers at the club can become challenging. With teams playing on different days, a player may be asked if they would be willing to play for the age group above. As a result, all players will be automatically registered for the age above.

Some players may also be asked to train with a different age group to help them progress. This will be at the discretion of their own manager.

As well as being registered for the age group above, a player will automatically be signed on for our senior teams when they reach their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Some players may choose to start their journey into adult football earlier than others and as a club, we are looking to help nurture players into the seniors.

### Player Expectations



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Seeing players develop through football is at the heart of the club and to achieve this, the coaches have agreed on a series of expectations from the players. Those expectations are principally to be respectful to teammates and the coaches along with listening to what they are being taught. Attending training regularly, being punctual and not being disruptive are also considered important. The expectations the players ask of each other increase and we encourage this to a certain extent however being rude and negative to team mates is a huge challenge the coaches face. Teams have the discretion to implement their own disciplinary strategy to deal with this. When selecting squads, coaches will consider these elements as well as the ability of an individual. Attitude is generally considered the most important factor.

The wearing of shin pads is a club requirement. Any player not wearing shinpads will be asked to sit out any element of training/matches that could involve the risk of contact for their safety. We strongly encourage players to wear proper sized shin protection and not wear the micro pads that are currently trending.

Maintaining discipline in matches is important and any yellow / red cards along with fines from any FA charges are the responsibility of the player/parent to settle. The cost for a yellow card currently sits at £12 and £55 for a red card, or more depending upon the severity of the incident. Red cards will also incur match suspensions, with the duration again dependent upon the severity of the charge. The vast majority of cards are as a result of dissent / bad language and can easily be avoided. Please note that once a fine for a card has been issued, this must be settled within 7 days. Failure to do so will result in the player being unavailable for selection for matches until resolved.

### **Parent Expectations**

When completing your annual registration form, parents' agreement to comply with the FA Code of Conduct, particularly around Respect and Discipline and all other club policies, including use of Social Media, can be found on

[www.winscombefootballclub.co.uk/documents](http://www.winscombefootballclub.co.uk/documents).

Essentially these compromises of behaviours expected at training and matchdays. Over jubilant celebrating and bad language are the main elements as well as the attitude towards the referee. Coaching the players as a spectator is also a big part because of the confusion it brings to the player. As a club, we ask our parents to leave the coaching of the players to the coaching team. If as a parent you feel you want to be involved in coaching, please speak to your team's management group because most will welcome additional help. These expectations apply to all spectators – sometimes friends/family of the player attend and from the club's perspective, the responsibility for their pitch side behaviour is with the players parents.



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The club policy is that every player either has their parent/guardian or an allocated adult in attendance for the duration of training and at matches. Responsibility of behaviour rests with the “ player’s parents”.

### **Gametime**

As the players progress through their teenage years, the level of competitiveness increases especially from the players themselves. As a result, there is no specified time an individual can expect to receive in a game although coaches are fully aware of getting the right balance. The starting line-up will often be decided by how the players approach the warm up and their attitude on the day. At this age, injuries become far more prevalent and the importance of a focussed preparation before a game is increased.

Coaches have the discretion to decide the size of a matchday squad. Not all players will be in a matchday squad every week as there are prescribed limits set by the leagues. Coaches also find that too many substitutes mean they spend their time managing the wider group and not coaching the players in the games. If you have any issues around gametime, individual coaches/managers are available to discuss.

### **U16s & Senior Football**

When a player turns 16, they will be automatically registered to play senior football for Winscombe. They may choose to take their time to take the next steps in their footballing journey and will be supported by u16/senior managers as well as the head of youth development .