

Ascot United Football Club

A Charter Standard Community Club



#WeAreAscot

Streaming Policy – Season 2020-2021

Introduction

Streaming can be one of the more contentious activities undertaken at a grass roots football club. This document serves to explain , **WHY, WHEN & HOW** we stream – offering guidance and support to coaches throughout the club.

We won't always get everything 100% correct but by using guidelines and applying common sense we aim to have all players playing at a level that is commensurate with their ability levels from Foundation Phase all the way to Senior Football.

Neil Richards
Director of Football

Why do we stream..?

It is the responsibility of the football club to ensure all our players are offered the best chance of development.

We take on the responsibility to coach our players with development at the forefront, and to measure success on player improvement and personal development rather than winning matches or trophies.

If teams are streamed correctly, players are allowed to develop with teammates of similar ability and results will generally look after themselves.

Streaming should not be seen as disruptive, but as a positive move for the club and most importantly the players.

Streaming is for the benefit of the players – **NOT** the parents.

[Visit us at www.ascotunited.net](http://www.ascotunited.net)

Ascot United Football Club Limited – registered in England and Wales.
Registration number 6883550

Company Secretary and Registered Office – Aldbury Group, 17 Linford Forum, Rockingham Drive, Linford Wood, Milton Keynes
MK14 6LY



Streaming Guidelines

- Always concern yourself first and foremost with the welfare of the player.
- Streaming should be discussed within the age group and if possible completed by the end of April so :-
 - We can ensure we enter teams into the correct division in the correct league.
 - New squads can compete in summer tournaments together.
 - Any issues with players or parents can be resolved during the close season.
 - Any shortfalls in squads will be identified early and advertising can be done during the summer.

How streaming is done is up to each individual age group and controlled by the AGC but it must be fair to all players and inclusive of all appropriate coaches.

Age groups can hold streaming meetings and conduct independent trials when appropriate.

- No current Ascot United FC member must be left without a team to play for.
- Squads sizes will be a **minimum** of :-

5 aside – 8 players

7 aside – 10 players

9 aside – 12 players

11 aside – 14 players (The club strongly recommends squads of 15-16)

What happens if we don't stream

- Players playing at a level too **LOW** for them will develop bad habits, will lower their average performance rate and this will affect their development as it will become too easy for them. This will probably result in players becoming bored, frustrated and they may give up football.

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- Players playing at a level too **HIGH** for them will feel under pressure and not perform. They will potentially be criticised or ignored by teammates leading to scenarios where they will get less ball contact in training and matches.

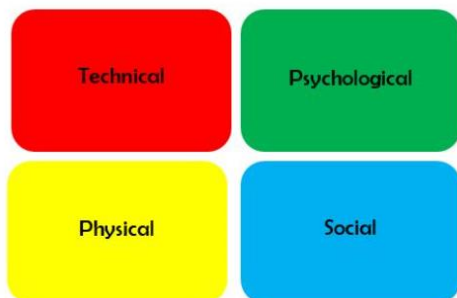
Is it in the spirit of football to have a player who dominates every week, when the club has a higher team he could play for?

Factors to take into account

Primary Factor

The player's ability is paramount and player movement decisions should include all aspects of the **F.A. Four Corner Model**

The 4 Corner Long Term Player Development Model



Secondary Factors

- Movement of a player who's parent is the Coach or Manager
- Which day(s) is the player available – Private Schooling factors
- The player and parents' preference after discussion.
- Sibling in the same team and / or logistics for volunteer coaches

NB - Once streaming is done, there will be occasions when players can move up or down during the season, depending on their development or a change in circumstances

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FAQ

- ***When should streaming take place?***

Ideally streaming should happen ahead of the start of a new season, moving too many players during the season will be disruptive for players and coaches. It may also be appropriate to review the position of the age group at the point of the season when the League also stream and move teams based on results (this is usually at the Christmas break).

- ***What do we do if a player does not wish to move UP?***

We cannot force the player to move but we must communicate to the player and parents and explain that we feel the decision is in the best interests of the player's development. The manager must make it absolutely clear that he or she is in favour of the move and must not give any mixed-messages to the parents publicly or privately.

If the player wishes to remain after discussion then they remain and it can be reviewed in the future.

- ***What do we do if a player refuses to move DOWN?***

This is difficult but we have to enforce it as it is no good for the development of the player, the players' teammates and would be stopping another player moving up.

- ***What do we do when a parent questions streaming decisions?***

Discussions to resolve any concerns should take the following route -

Team Manager – Will solve the vast majority of concerns

Age Group Co-ordinator – Will mediate between Manager and parent / player

Section Head – Raise outstanding issues to the Football Executive for a final decision

(Please refer to our contact list on the website for details)

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