



Newcastle Schools' Football Association Selection Statement

GENERAL

The selection of each City Squad is the responsibility of the management team appointed annually by NSFA, together with other NSFA officials where appropriate. The selection criteria for a squad for the season as a whole or for any particular match are based on the managers'/selectors' judgement and perception of a player's abilities, attitude/conduct (including factors such as punctuality, appearance and reliability), athleticism, decision-making, fitness levels, commitment (including attendance at training sessions) and the need for team balance. All selection decisions, whether for further trials in the trials process, or for the final squad, are based on the managers'/selectors' judgement and the NSFA is unable to discuss individual cases.

Once a team or squad is selected, attendance at matches/training is compulsory. No requests for release from matches/training to play in club matches will be considered. Sick or injured players are expected to attend training sessions if it is possible for them to do so. If players cannot attend, the NSFA must be notified at least 24 hours before the match/training session. If continual absence from matches/training occurs, consultation will take place between player, parents and the NSFA as to their commitment to the team.

At all levels the management team hope to give all players ample and fair time in representative matches - this applies over the city season as a whole, not to each individual match.

At times in certain Inter-Association competition matches, selection and playing time may be made on the 'best team' basis although over the season as a whole every effort will be made to involve the whole squad – the extent to which this is possible will depend on the management team's judgement and perception as outlined above.

TRIALS PROCESS

In order to select the players for the team the following will apply:

- Players must be nominated by their schools, unless there are extenuating circumstances as to why this is not possible. Pupils may only be selected for the City if they are representing their school team. This rule does not apply if the school does not have a team for their age group.
- Players' parents/carers must complete and sign the official Medical Consent Form and pay the required fee for the season as determined by the NSFA.

- The NSFA shall administer the selection process.
- A minimum of two managers/selectors are to be at each trial.
- The management team and other NSFA officials shall be the main selectors.

TRIALS SPECIFIC INFORMATION

- The number of trials to be held will be determined by the number of nominations received.
- Each trial shall consist of match play but trials may also incorporate coaching which will form part of the selection process.
- During match play, players can expect to participate for a reasonable length of time across the trial process as a whole – as determined by the managers/selectors for the purposes of making judgments. Some players may receive more game time than others.
- Every endeavour shall be given to trialling players in their preferred positions, although there will be occasions when a player is asked to trial in another position.
- Selectors shall consider all aspects of the game including (but not limited to) physical ability, skill, tactics and attitude.
- Selectors shall reach decisions by consensus wherever possible. If consensus cannot be reached, a vote by the main selectors shall be held.
- When selecting one player before another, selectors shall make an “on balance” decision, based on all the attributes and abilities shown by the players.
- Following the final trial the management team will decide on the numbers for their squad and they may select a back- up squad in case of injuries/illness. When selecting the final squad, selectors shall consider the balance of the squad in terms of positional play.
- Prior achievements and accomplishments outside of trials and squad training may be considered.
- Injured players may be given time to trial by being exempted from early trials or by being included in squads provided the time-line is sufficient to enable adequate preparation after selection.

AFTER SELECTION

- At the end of the Final Trial the players will either be told straightaway, or more likely their school teacher will be notified as to the final squad. The trialists should check with their teacher.
- All teachers will be notified as to the Final Squad.
- There will be two forms for parents to fill in for administrative purposes. Firstly, there is a medical form so that we have information on any medical condition your child may have and a contact number. This must be a parent’s contact number not a player’s number and it will allow us to contact you in case of any postponement, change of plans or an emergency.

Secondly, there is a photographic form to be filled in as the match reports and photographs are often in the local press. Parents must fill in both the Consent Form and Photographic Consent Forms and hand in to the team Managers at the first game. They can be found on the website

- As a result of rising costs for venues and referees the Newcastle Schools' FA has also asked for a contribution of a small sum per player for the season. This can be paid at the first League match or training session
- On match day we will expect exemplary behaviour and time keeping from the team. For the match your child will need her boots, shin pads and I would advise him/her to bring a tracksuit top or coat as well. The City will provide the strips but your child may wear their own black shorts and socks. (That has become more common over the past couple of seasons).
- When representing Newcastle Schools', players are also representing their individual schools. As such, players are expected to maintain the highest standards within school and represent the school. If this is not the case, schools are well within their rights to refuse permission for a player to attend any given fixture.
- Occasionally, it may also be necessary for players to leave school early in order to attend a fixture. If you require this, please let us know, so that the school can be notified about the game but recently the schools have asked the parent to seek permission for the early release from school.
- We will be relying on parents to get the players to the games. If there is a problem with transport you can contact us and we will endeavour to sort something out. Also, if your child is ill, injured or unable to make a game for any reason, please contact us as soon as possible.
- We hope this will be a good and joyful experience for your child.