

FPCA Football Club – Squad Selection & Matchday Availability Policy

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how FPCA FC manages player availability, training attendance, squad selection and matchday line-ups. It ensures fairness, consistency, and clear communication across all teams (U9, U11, U12, U14).

2. Availability via Spond

- All players/parents must update availability for training and matches on Spond.
- Availability should be confirmed by Thursday evening each week.
- Coaches will use this information when planning training sessions and selecting squads.
- If a player has not updated their availability, they may not be considered for the matchday squad.

3. Training Attendance

- Training attendance is a key factor in squad selection.
- Coaches plan sessions based on expected numbers; regular non-attendance without notice affects both training and match selection.
- Players who consistently attend training will be prioritised for matchday squads.

4. Matchday Squad Sizes

FPCA FC sets the following maximum squad sizes for matches:

- U9 (7v7 football) – 10–12 players
- U11 (9v9 football) – 13 players
- U12 (9v9 football) – 14 players
- U14 (11v11 football) – 16 players

5. Squad Selection & Starting Line-ups

- Squad selection for each match will be confirmed by Friday evening.
- The starting line-up will be confirmed by the coach the day before the match.
- Game changes (substitutes) – FPCA FC uses the term game changes because every player should come on with a positive impact, making decisions that change the game.

6. Playing Time & Rotation

- Coaches are encouraged to manage playing time across the season so all players get fair opportunities.
- Rotation:
- Many teams will play the full first half with the starting line-up and then make changes in the second half.
- Some coaches may choose to rotate during the first half – this is at the coach's discretion, not a club rule.
- Fair Play: FPCA FC operates on a season-long fairness principle – fair opportunities are provided over the course of the season, not necessarily in every single match.

7. Goalkeepers

- Where only one goalkeeper is available, they will usually play the full match.
- Outfield players may be asked to cover if no goalkeeper is available.

8. Communication

- Coaches will confirm the matchday squad by Friday evening and the starting line-up by Saturday (for Sunday fixtures).
- Parents/carers are expected to respect squad decisions and support all players equally.
- Concerns should be raised privately with the coach or Club Welfare Officer.