

The Spartans FC Youth Player Recruitment Guidance (Boys)



Small Sided

It is normally the case that each age group has 40 players, split into 4 x 10 players for each 7 aside team. In the last year of small sided when the age group has reached 9 aside, then the age group would plan to gradually increase numbers to create 11 aside squads if progressing with 3 squads.

Why spaces become availability (small % each year)

- 1) Kids leave - do not enjoy
- 2) Clashes with other sport/activities
- 3) Sign for professional team usually at 9/10 years
- 4) Leave to join a different team

So, a space could arise for a player in any of the teams from Pele to Beckham. When any new space becomes available the first choice for recruitment will be to look to fill the space with a player who is attending The Spartans Community Academy coaching programmes.

For older small sided squads (at 7 or 9 aside stages), when Pele level players leave there are opportunities to recruit players outside The Spartans Community Academy coaching program in order to find a player of a suitable standard. The following considerations should first be made and discussed with the Coach Development Officer in advance of any external recruitment taking place.

First the Head Coach should discuss with the age groups team coaches if there are any internal players who are promising and could be nurtured and developed to join the Pele team? Remember player development is a long-term investment.

Exceptional Circumstances – External Player Recruitment Criteria

- 1) Pro Youth player who was at Spartans and wants to return
- 2) Looking to recruit Pele level player to replace a Spartans player who has signed for Pro Youth
- 3) Player already in the academy programme but not next on list, (at the discretion of The Spartans Community Academy staff
- 4) In last year of small sided and need to recruit players at appropriate level of play

If it is agreed that a Pele standard player is to be recruited, then The Community Football Academy Manager should be advised in advance. Players at this age group cannot be asked to come for a trial, if they are invited to attend training then they should be invited to join.

Recruitment from the academy is always our first choice. The Youth Section and The Spartans Community Football Academy have a partnership which is successful for both parties and so it is important that this relationship continues to be respected and valued.

For further details please contact the Coach Development Officer.