




The Spartans FC Youth Section

Live Together - Play Together - Win Together



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Welcome



Let me wish you a very warm welcome to the Youth Section and the Spartans Family

At Spartans FC Youth our key aims and objectives are:

- To provide opportunities for children and young people to play football in a safe environment
- To develop players to play football at the highest level
- To help children and young people learn skills and values for later life

For us, this is at the very heart of 'The Spartans Way'. At youth level our club genuinely believes it's not the winning that counts but ensuring we provide the best development for our players at all levels. This mindset has not prevented us from producing National and local trophy winning teams. Ultimately we want to and do see our most talented players progress to U20s, the Spartans first team and beyond.

In this information booklet you will find everything you need to know about being a member of the Spartans Youth Section whether you are a player, volunteer, parent or supporter.

We are hugely grateful to all the volunteers across the Youth Section who make the running of the club possible with their unerring commitment, effort and support.

You can find contact details for the Youth Section Management Committee at the back of this booklet, if you have any questions or queries at all please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Enjoy the journey. Remember, this is your club so let's make it work.

Welcome to Spartans.

Les

Les Atkinson

Chairman, Spartans FC Youth

Our Home Ground

Find Us

The Spartans Community Football Academy
Ainslie Park
94 Pilton Drive
Edinburgh
EH5 2HF
0131 552 7854



Training and Match Pitches

The Youth Section is based at The Spartans Community Academy. The Academy has a stadium, community and 5 aside pitch. All the pitches are synthetic and are of the highest quality. There are changing rooms, a room for officials, toilets, a café and function suite located within the Academy buildings. We are lucky to be able to hire these amazing facilities.

Some of our 11 aside squads also use Broughton High School 3G for training sessions.

Youth Section home matches are played at The Spartans Community Academy. We also hire pitches at ESMS Arboretum, New Field Edinburgh Academy and other Edinburgh Leisure pitches, e.g. Wardie, the Gyle, Seafield, as allocated to us on a weekly basis.

Small sided match pitch bookings are made and communicated to teams by a Youth Section volunteer. The 11 aside match pitch bookings are made by a member of the Academy staff, Sophie Scouler.

Suitable Footwear



Unsuitable Footwear



Suitable Footwear

To keep the pitches in the best condition all players must wear football boots with moulded studs. Boots with metal studs, blades or trainers cannot be worn as they damage the pitches.

All parents and visitors are asked to stay outside the pitches when dropping off, collecting or watching their children at training or in matches.

The Spartans Team

Youth Section Management Committee



Les Atkinson
Chairman, Spartans FC
Youth Trustee,
U20s Head Coach



Stuart Gray
Coach Development Officer



Steve Thurlow
Treasurer, Spartans FC Youth
Trustee



Carolyn Embleton
Club Manager,
Child Wellbeing &
Protection Officer



Roger Ashworth
Committee Member,
Youth Section Team
Coach

Youth Section Trustees



Michele McNab
Trustee



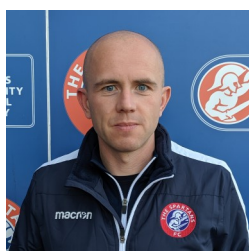
David Hiddleston
Trustee

Boys Section

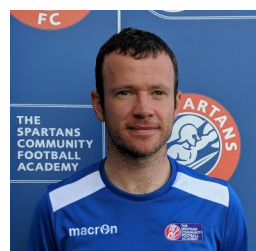


Chris Sim
Small Sided New Squad
Development

Player Development



Craig Dinwoodie
Development Manager
(U13-U17)



Eddie Malone
Development Manager
(Small Sided)

Girls Section



Zsolt Jakri
Girls' Coordinator

The Spartans Community Academy Management



Douglas Samuel
Chief Executive, SCFA
Spartans 1st Team Manager



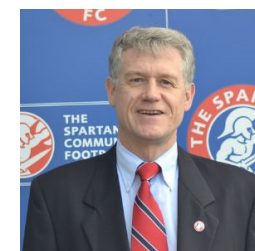
Debbi McCulloch
Business Operations Manager,
Spartans Women's Head Coach



Paul McMillan
Facilities Manager

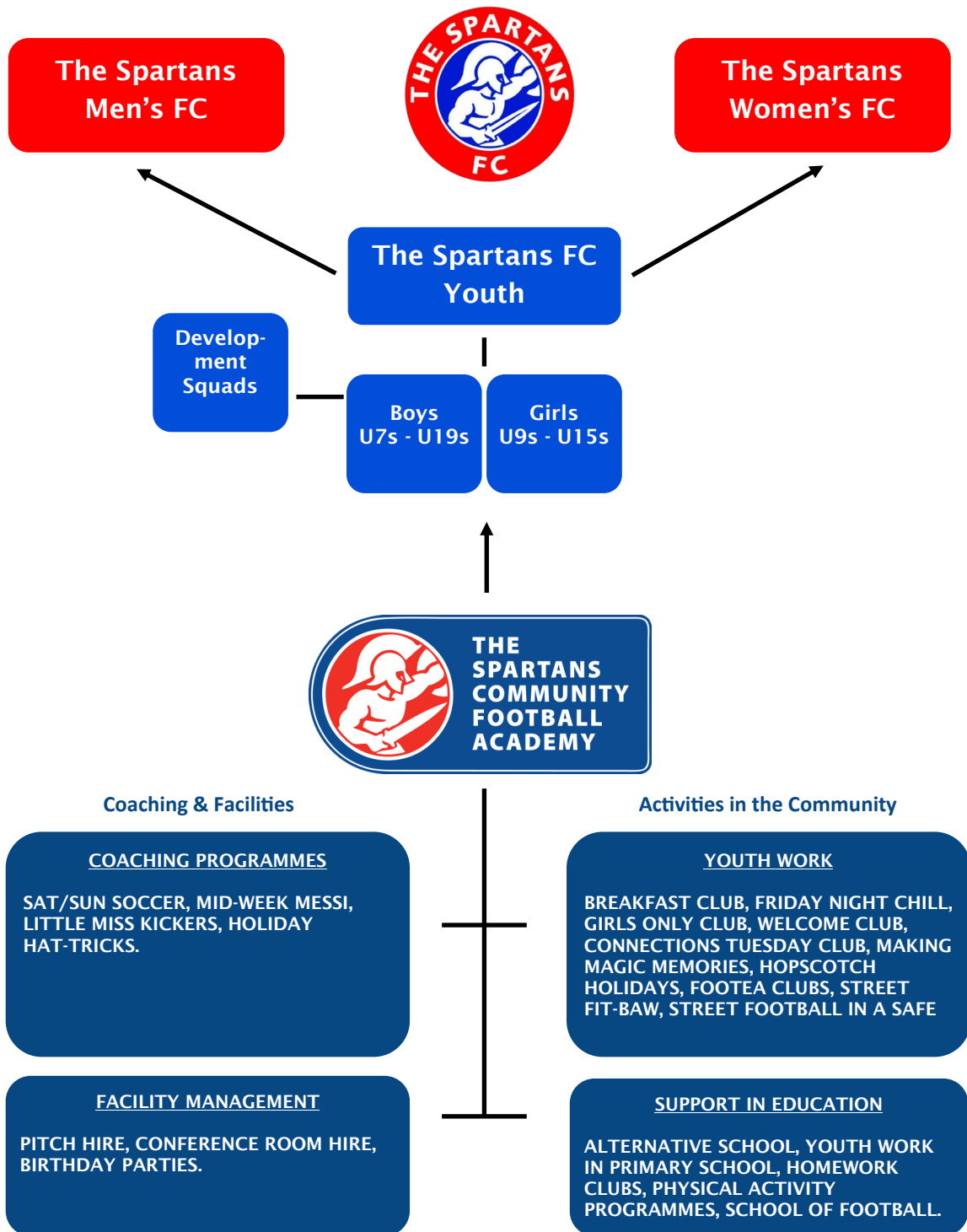


Nichola Sturrock
Football Development
Manager



Craig Graham
Chairman, Spartans FC

The Spartans Family Tree



The Spartans Community Football Academy & The Spartans Football Clubs

The Spartans Youth, Men's and Women's teams hire The Spartans Community Football Academy pitches for training & matches.

The Community Coaching Programme feeds players into Spartans FC Youth squads.

The Spartans Family History

The Spartans Youth Section

The Youth Section is a registered charity with the aim of providing school age children in north Edinburgh the opportunity to play football. “Flora’s Soccer School” first started in May 1996 led by Carlos de Angelis. Due to its popularity and the dedication of its volunteers, the club quickly developed beyond a friendly kick about in Inverleith park with an honesty box for subs. Securing funding enabled the professionalism of the club to progress, coaches completed SFA Coaching Qualifications, equipment and match kit were purchased. Players from many local schools joined the club prompting a name change to “Inverleith Star”. In 2003 Spartans FC suggested a merger to give the club a youth arm and so Inverleith Star became Spartans FC Youth. In 2009 the girls’ section was extended to cover all age groups from U9s to U15s.

Today the Youth Section has over 450 boys and girls playing football from the ages of 6 through to 19, with several graduating to the first teams, as well as a few in each age group moving on to Professional Clubs.



The Spartans Men’s Football Club

Spartans Football Club was established by two former Edinburgh University players, Elliot Wardlaw and Jimmy Beaumont, in summer 1951. The club became a full member of the Scottish Football Association in 1976 and moved into City Park as tenants of Edinburgh City Council. The Spartans FC Men’s senior team play in the Lowland League, the Men’s U20s squad play in the Lowland Development League. The Connections Team is the disability section of the club.

The Spartans Women’s Football Club

Spartans Women’s FC officially formed in August 2008 when Edinburgh Ladies FC, a Scottish Women’s Premier League Team, and Royal High Thistle, a Scottish Women’s League Second Division South East, East and Central Team joined the Spartans Family. Throughout the past eight years our SWPL side has competed at the very top level of Women’s football in Scotland. Achievements include SWPL League Cup Runners Up during seasons 2010/11/12/13, Scottish Cup Runners Up in 2014, and finishing second in the SWPL in season 2011.

The Spartans Community Football Academy

Established in 2008, at the heart of The Spartans Community Football Academy is the vision to change lives for the better in north Edinburgh. The facilities at Ainslie Park and the community coaching programmes are run as a social enterprise, reinvesting profits back into the business.

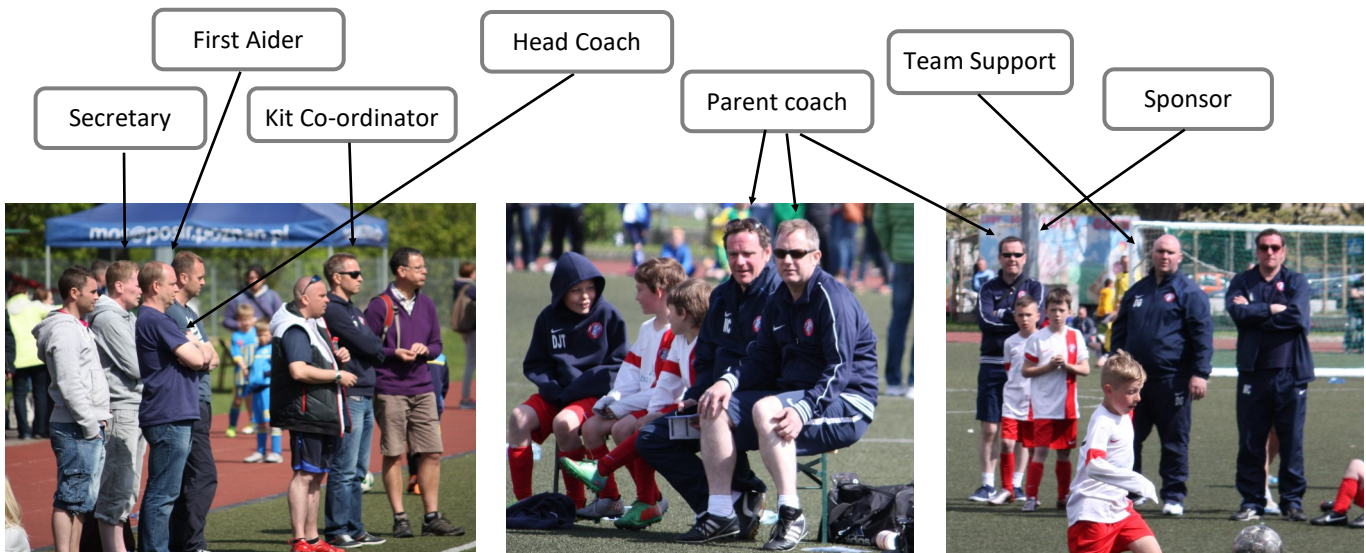
The Academy develops and delivers innovative programmes in youth work and education, these programmes include: Support in Education - Alternative School, Youth Work in Primary Schools, Homework Clubs, School of Football, Physical Activity Programme. Youth Work - FooTEA clubs, Spartans AM Breakfast club, Street Football in a Safe Playground, Street Fit-Baw, Friday Night Chill, Girls Only Club, Welcome Club, Connections Tuesday Club, Making Magic Memories, Hopscotch Holidays. Football Coaching - Sat/Sun Soccer, Mid-Week Messi, Player Development Programme, Little Miss Kickers, Holiday Hat-tricks. For more information please visit: www.spartanscfa.com.

Our Youth Section

Parent Volunteers Make us Tick

As a grassroots football club we are a team on and off the pitch. Monthly subs payments cover pitch hire, referee fees, match kit, balls, equipment, coach training and qualifications but don't cover the cost of paid coaches. To make the teams work successfully on a week to week basis parent volunteers are essential.

This is a fantastic opportunity to use existing skills and maybe learn some new ones, it's amazing to be part of the Spartans community and part of your child's football journey.



To put this in perspective, we have over 120 volunteers helping in the Youth Section. 90 of the volunteers are coaches and of these there are currently only 10 non-parent external volunteers supporting our squads.

The club gives full support to all volunteers, you don't need to have any knowledge or experience of football to get involved. Ask anyone who currently coaches/volunteers with the club, it is a rewarding and enjoyable experience that many do long after their children have left the club.

Volunteer Recruitment Process

All new volunteers and staff joining Spartans FC Youth go through the following recruitment procedure:

- Meet with the Squad Head Coach or a member of the Spartans FC Youth Management Committee
- Complete an application form
- Provide 2 referees who will be checked and accepted by the club
- Complete a SFA Self-Declaration form
- Sign the SYFA Fair Processing Notice form
- Complete a satisfactory PVG Scheme Record or Scheme Record Update*
- Sign up annually to the Code of Conduct for Safeguarding Children's Wellbeing
- Complete the Scottish FA's Children's Wellbeing in Scottish Football online module

*A PVG is required if an individual is deemed to be carrying out regulated work. Regulated work involves: caring responsibilities, teaching or supervising children and/or protected adults, providing personal services to children and/or protected adults, having unsupervised contact with children and/or protected adults. Regulated work can also apply to certain positions of trust within organisations, even where the role doesn't involve any direct contact with children or protected adults.

To find out more about volunteering please get in touch: clubmanager@spartansfcyouth.com

The Spartans Way

Club Ethos

The welfare of the child comes first. Children and young people must be treated as such and not as small adults. Children should be given a fair chance to participate, compete and win. As a club we will constantly seek to stretch and challenge the abilities of the players with the aim of developing them to play football at the highest level. Players are expected to be punctual, have good standards of behaviour and be ready to listen, learn and practise.

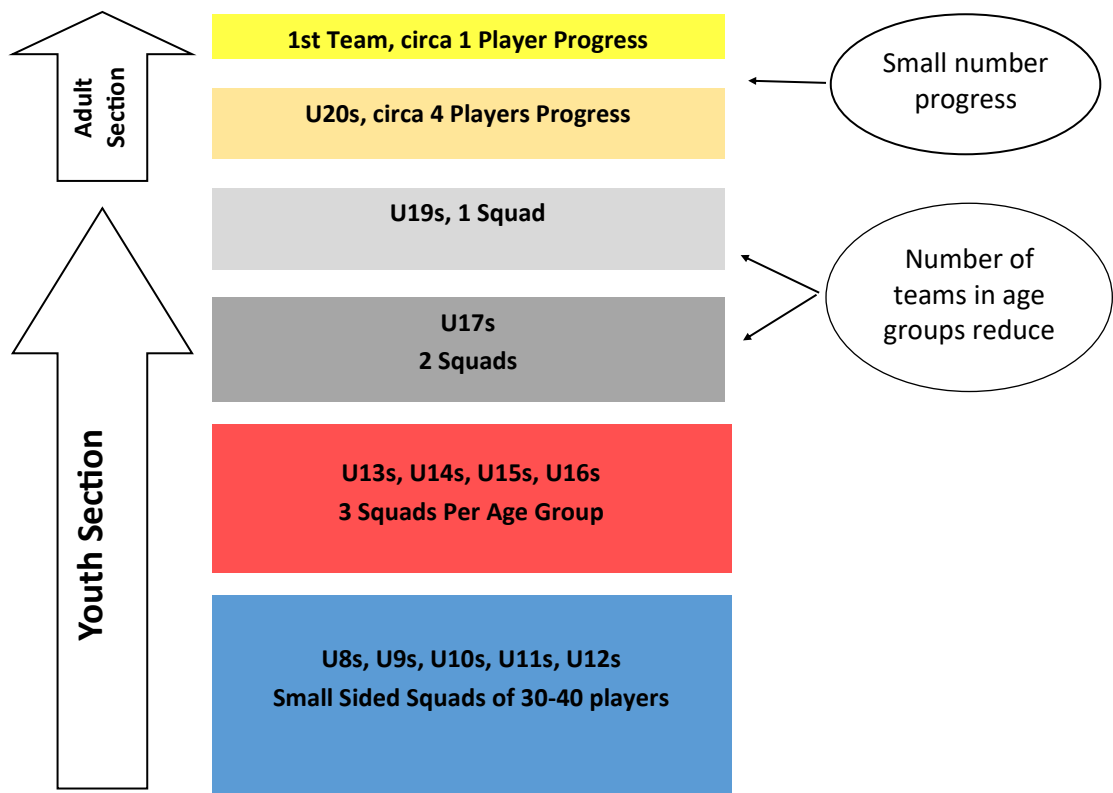
Participation at all times is encouraged with an emphasis on skill development, athleticism and the development of the whole child socially as well as in a sporting context. Our aim is for players to learn life skills and strong values for later life. Competition is encouraged but not to the detriment of the development of skill, speed, stamina, strength and suppleness. "A win at all costs" attitude is discouraged.

Boys' Player Pathway

The Spartans Community Football Academy prepares our annual Under 7s squad intake for transition from their coaching programmes into the Youth Section. The selection criteria used to identify players for the Youth Section is based on a number of different factors, of which ability is only one. This way of working has proved to be an enormous success.

We work in Partnership with the Scottish Youth FA to follow the Player Pathway which takes a player-centred approach to developing the football potential of a young child. The pathway is progressive, coherent and challenging. **At Spartans FC Youth we follow the player pathway carefully and don't fast forward or miss out any of the development stages.**

Our squads play Fun 4s at U7, Super 5s at U8, Soccer Sevens at U9, 10 & 11 and 9 aside at U12. From U13 and up squads move to 11 aside games and we have teams at each age group U13, 14, 15, 16, 17 & 19. The number of teams in each age group reduces as the squads progress up the player pathway. A small number of players progress into our adult teams and beyond.



The Spartans Way

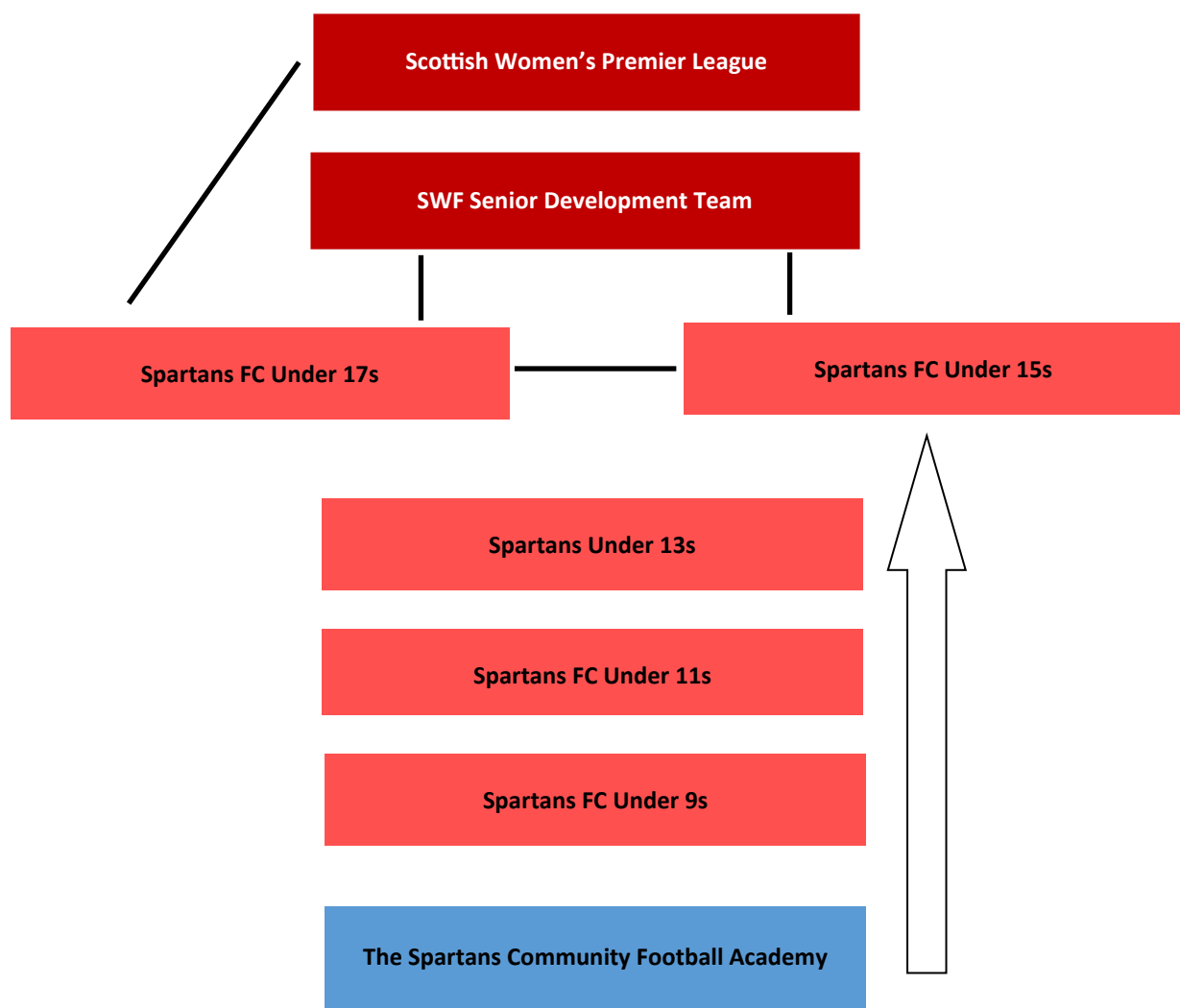
Girls' Player Pathway

The Girls' Section is committed to enabling each player to fulfil her potential. In order to achieve this, the programme operates in an environment that is conducive to individual and team progress.

Our pathway for girls wishing to participate and develop football skills begins at aged seven with us running a weekly Monday training session for Under 9s. Younger players may join our community Sat/Sun Programme from the age of 4. Under 9s take part in regular fun football festivals in 3v3 and 4v4 formats. Festivals are not result focused and scores are not recorded. Our Under 11s and Under 13s train twice a week. These age levels are thriving with us currently having around 30 girls playing football every week per age group. The U11s and U13s play in the South East region of Scottish Women's Football, the younger group play in the regional league (no league table) and the older squads play in the League, the League Cup and they also take part in the Scottish Youth Cup. The regional league at Under 13s level has three divisions, our second year U13s play in the top division, our development team play in the second division.

Our Under 15s play in the SWF league, the League Cup and the Scottish Cup.

Our aim is to encourage lifelong participation in women's football by offering a pathway from children's to youth and to adult football to volunteering or coaching.



Our Coaching Philosophy

A Spartans Coach

Our approach to coach recruitment is not just about finding the person with the right qualifications, more important is finding volunteers with the right attributes and attitude. Our coaches put learning before winning, stream players at the right age and not before, rotate players even at the cost of winning matches, and follow the Player Pathway. This can mean short term pain but will result in long term gain. This approach sees us produce highly skilled, resilient players and young adults.

At training our coaches aim to: facilitate fun and enjoyable sessions appropriate to the ages of the players, to provide well organised and planned practices and games, to communicate appropriately, to encourage children to have the freedom to express themselves, and teach basic ethics of fair play and sportsmanship.



Positive Coaching



The Scottish FA, in partnership with the Winning Scotland Foundation has embraced a new Positive Coaching Scotland (PCS) programme. Their vision is a football culture in Scotland where young players developed in a positive, safe environment, where they learn to win through effort and where valuable life lessons are developed. The SFA run a series of workshops for coaches, parents, leaders and volunteers to provide skills and expertise on Positive Coaching. The workshops focus on mastery, mindset, life skills, and values.

Spartans FC Youth fully supports and actively promotes the Positive Coaching Scotland model in its coaching.

We encourage success through effort not results, use language that builds confidence, and fosters a culture of resilience and self-belief.

Coach Development Officer

Spartans FC Youth's Coach Development Officer, Stuart Gray, is responsible for making a positive impact on the development of coaches and players.

Stuart meets new coaches to ensure they understand their role and what's expected. He provides support to all our coaches through guidance, feedback and encouragement. He organises regular In-Service Nights enabling coaches to share knowledge and have access to continuous coaching development opportunities.

We have also created a club Small Sided curriculum which the coaches work to which sets out step by step training sessions to grow the skills of the young players with fun & enjoyment at the forefront.



Player Development

Development Squads

The Spartans FC Adult Section in conjunction with the Youth Section run Development Squads for a small number of identified players.

Development Squad players are nominated by their Head Coach to receive an additional professional coaching session each week which are held at Ainslie Park. Players invited to join a development squad continue to train with their age group squad as normal. Development Squad participants are reviewed on a regular basis. From time to time exceptional players will be invited to play up or train with the age group above their own in order to further foster their development potential.

Development football creates an additional pathway for talented youth players to move onto the highest level of adult football within the club and beyond. The highly experienced development squad coaches are from left to right, Carlos de Angelis and Chris Sim. For more information on the development squads please contact the Coach Development Officer.



Goalkeeping Coaching



Training Times—Fridays:

Small Sided - 3:45pm to 4:30pm
11 Aside - 4:45pm to 5:30pm

Goalkeeping training sessions are open to all Youth Section goalkeepers and are an excellent opportunity for additional training from SFA Qualified Goalkeeping Coaches Colin Boyes and Brian Garitty.

Spartans Tool Box

Players have the opportunity to practice/develop in their own time by watching and practising the sessions available on the Spartans FC Youth YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjtbM1_NtpfZ7Qt-9zATLTg



Spartans Youth Skills Homework STEP OVER BAC...



Spartans Youth Skills Fake Kick and Turn sidebyside



Spartans Youth Skills Homework FAKE KICK TUR...



Spartans Youth Skills Homework DRAG TURN ...



Spartans Youth Skills Homework TWIST OFF ...



Spartans Youth Scissors Homework Skill



Spartans Youth Ronaldo Chop Homework Skill



Spartans Youth Skills Homework Inside outside ...

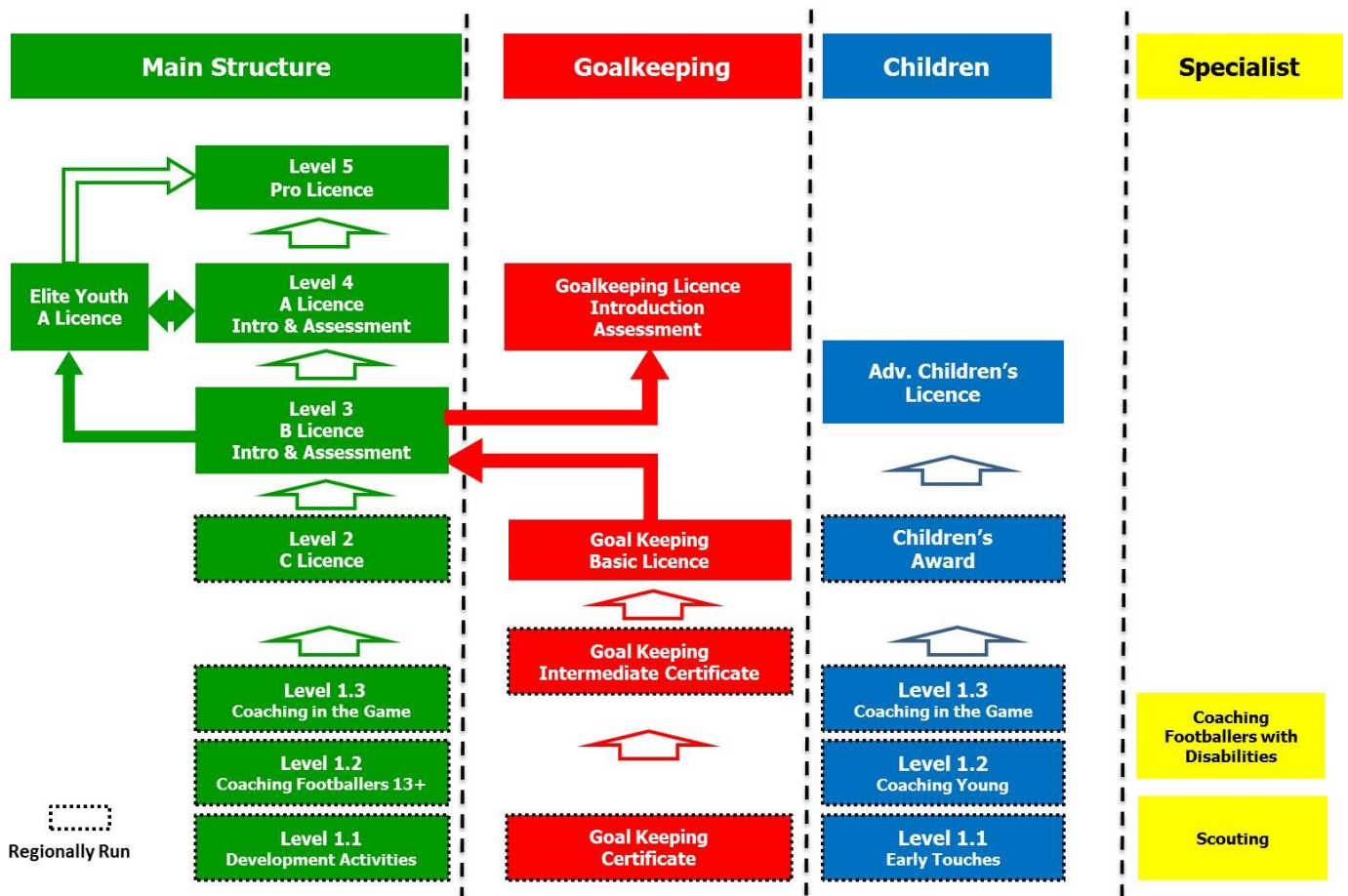
Coach Development

Funding of Coaching Courses

Good coaches are vital, they provide the knowledge for players to succeed at every level and play a pivotal role in the development of our young players. Spartans FC Youth is committed to promote, encourage and facilitate the development and training of all its coaches.

The club will fund, in full or in part, relevant coaching courses and qualifications. Full funding is provided for SFA Coaching Pathway courses to Children's and Main Pathway Level 1, 2 and 3. Funding for coaching qualifications beyond this level can be applied for. Please contact the Coach Development Officer, Stuart Gray to discuss.

Coaches who complete coaching courses of Level 1 and 2 will be eligible for a discount on their child's subs.

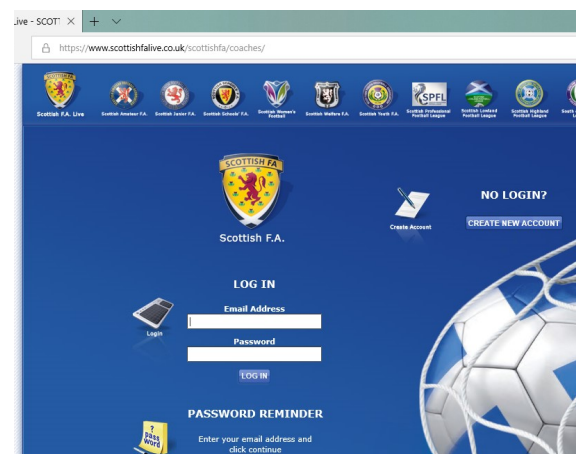


SFA Course Booking

Booking can be done via: www.scottishfalive.co.uk/scottishfa/coaches/. You will need to login to your SFA account. Once logged in, select the course that you want to do and the region you would like to do it in. Spartans FC Youth is part of the South East Region.

Complete the registration and payment screens to book onto the course. Where applicable tick the Quality Mark box to benefit from reduced fees.

Coaches pay for the cost of the course at the time of booking and then claim a refund by emailing the Club Treasurer.



Coaches Corner

Resources

There are many resources available to all coaches which support and enhance the coaching program and curriculum developed and promoted by the Coach Development Officer.

All the following resources can be accessed through the Spartans FC Youth website. The Spartans Way booklets (Small Sided curriculum), coaching booklets & coaching DVDs are also available from the Coach Development Officer.



Spartans Toolbox Videos



Spartans Toolbox Booklet



1v1 Sessions



Creative Player Programme



SFA small sided street games



Spartans Positive Coaching



Spartans Wonder Sock



Hearts FC street games



SFA Nutritional Guide



Sports Session Planner



SFA Coaching Pathway



Small Sided Paper

SFA Quality Mark Legacy Club

What is Quality Mark?

The Quality Mark Award scheme is designed to support and recognise the work of clubs and teams who have a desire to be the very best they can be.

The Quality Mark Awards are run by the Scottish FA in partnership with McDonald's and sportscotland.

The SFA Quality Mark Award aims to keep driving high standards and increasing the development of our players, coaches and volunteers.

To gain an award - Entry, Standard, Development, Community or Legacy - there is a related list of criteria that a club must achieve. This criteria is aimed at improving or supporting management, development structures, administration, planning and welfare.

The Spartans FC are proud to have first achieved the SFA Quality Mark's most prestigious Legacy Club award in 2008. The award is audited and reviewed every 3 years.

As a Scottish FA Quality Mark Legacy Club we are nationally recognised as:

- Having a programme that is player centred and coach led
- That we strive to provide the best environment for players and coaches to achieve their full potential
- That we are "safe, effective and child friendly"



CLUBS FOR COMMUNITIES

Legacy Clubs

Central Region

- Cumbernauld Colts
- Falkirk FC Foundation
- Gartcairn Football Academy
- Holytown Colts
- Milngavie FC
- Milton FC
- Motherwell FC Community Trust
- Rossvale FC
- Stenhousemuir FC Community
- Syngenta Juveniles FC
- Tullibody Community FC
- Warriors In The Community
- Wasp Community Football Club

East Region

- AM Soccer
- Broughty United CFC
- Carnoustie Panmure FC
- Dundee West FC
- Dundee United SC
- East Fife CFC
- Ferry Athletic
- Glenrothes Strollers CFC
- Inverkeithing Hillfield Swifts

North Region

- Colony Park FC
- Stonehaven Youth FC
- Westdyke Community Club

South East Region

- Blackburn United CFC
- Bonnyrigg Rose CFC
- Broxburn United SC
- Hibernian Community Foundation
- Linlithgow Rose CFC
- Murieston United CFC
- Penicuik Athletic YFC
- Spartans Football Club
- Tranent & District CSC

South West Region

- Annan Athletic FC
- Blantyre Soccer Academy
- Bonnyton Thistle FC
- Claremont AFC
- Cumnock Juniors
- Glenburn Miners Welfare FC
- Kilbirnie Community FC
- Kilwinning Sports Club
- Strathaven Dynamos AFC

West Region

- Drumchapel United
- Giffnock SC
- Glasgow Girls and Boys
- Greenock Morton Community Trust
- Pollok United Soccer Academy
- Port Glasgow Juniors CSC

Shetland

As a Legacy Club we are continually striving to have coaches who are qualified to a defined standard on each team:

11 Aside

Each Squad has a minimum of:

1 Coach Qualified to 1.3 on the Main Coaching Pathway

1 Coach Qualified to 1.2 on the Main Coaching Pathway

Small Sided (4s/5s/7s/9s)

Each Squad has a minimum of:

1 Coach Qualified to 1.3 on the Children's Coaching Pathway

1 Coach Qualified to 1.2 on the Children's Coaching Pathway

Our Leagues

East of Scotland Soccer Development Association (ESSDA)



The Spartans FC Youth small sided age groups play in the East of Scotland Soccer Development Association league. ESSDA was formed in 1997 and has grown into one of the largest football associations of its kind in Scotland with a membership of over 230 teams. Soccer 7/9s is organised in divisions, reflecting the variety of levels of football ability that children exhibit. The “strongest” division is named Pele, followed by Iniesta, Maradona, Zidane and Beckham. Football 4s and Super 5s are organised at a number of central venues on a Saturday or Sunday morning. League matches are non competitive, i.e. there are no points for winning or league tables at these age groups.

Tournament play and friendly matches, except between two teams within ESSDA, must have the prior permission of the association General Secretary. A permit from the SYFA is needed before teams can play in football festivals or tournaments. Permission forms can be downloaded from the SYFA website www.scottishyouthfa.co.uk or by contacting the General Secretary. **It is the responsibility of a team secretary/Head Coach to ensure the appropriate approvals are gained every season because it is essential games are covered for insurance purposes.**

Team registration to the league takes place every January. Fixtures are played between 1 March and 30 November inclusive each year. No matches, including friendlies, can be played between the second weekend in December and 31st January inclusive each year without the consent of the SYFA Board. Clubs will be permitted to play friendly matches indoors or participate in Festivals during this period provided they are registered with the SYFA.

Teams participating at age levels U11s, 10s, 9s, 8s and 7s are not permitted to play in any Festivals or Friendly matches until they are fully registered with SYFA at the start of the year. All players should be registered on the SYFA Live system. Only registered players are allowed to play - even in friendlies. Players must only play for the age group for which they are registered. It is the responsibility of the team secretary to ensure that all players are correctly registered with the SYFA.

South East Region Youth Football Association (SERYFA)

Our 11 aside age groups play in the South East Region of the Scottish Youth Football Association. The league provides a structured platform for every player at all age groups to develop their skills, tactical awareness, physical strength and mental toughness through the competition. The object of the league is to foster, develop and improve the game of association football among the classes of U13s, 14s, 15s, 16s, 17s, and 19s of youth football clubs. Within each age group there are 4 leagues, with league 1 being the strongest.



Registration to the SERYFA takes place every June and it is the responsibility of the team secretary and Head Coach to register their team. Before playing any league match all players must be registered with the SYFA, it is the responsibility of the team secretary to process and check all players are registered correctly before they play.

Playing an unregistered player could result in teams being disqualified. Age groups under those listed above are not allowed to play 11aside matches and if found to be doing so face action taken against the team and club by the SYFA.

U13s and U14s matches are generally played on a Sunday morning and U15s and U16s on a Sunday afternoon. U17s and U19s matches are played on a Saturday afternoon. Advance consultation and approval must be gained from the SERYFA League Secretary to digress from these timings.

Matches are refereed by a qualified official, match results are recorded and points allocated for wins and draws. SERYFA official team lines are used as a record of each league match played, these can be downloaded from the website. For Scottish Cup Ties SYFA team lines must be used.

Training Timetable

Training Session Planning

Training sessions are held at The Spartans Community Football Academy on the Community Pitch, the Stadium Pitch and at Broughton High School (BHS) 3G Pitch.

The Youth Section training timetable from 11aside (Under 13) and up follows a set program as pictured below, with teams moving to their next training slots as they move up the age groups.

Not all training slots are popular, i.e. Friday nights, so by moving teams every year it means that no one team has the unpopular Friday night training slot permanently.

The Girls Under 9s train on Mondays in the 5 aside pitch at the Spartans Community Academy.

Players should attend all training on time with a football, water bottle, shin pads and bags of enthusiasm.

	Community Pitch			Stadium Pitch		Broughton High School		
	Pitch 1	Pitch 2	Pitch 3	Pitch 5	Pitch 6	Pitch 1	Pitch 2	Pitch 3
Monday								
6 to 7:30	U12	GU11	GU11	U11	Dev Sq	U14	U14	U14
7:30 to 9	GU15	GU13	GU13	SWPL	SWPL			
Tuesday								
6 to 7:30	U13	U13	U13	U10	U9	U15	U15	U15
7:30 to 9	U19	U17	U17	FC	U20	U16	U16	U16
Wednesday								
6 to 7:30	U14	U14	U14	GU11	U12			
7:30 to 9	GU13	GU13	SWPL	SWPL	Ext			
Thursday								
6 to 7:30	U15	U15	U15			U17	U17	U19
7:30 to 9	U16	U16	U16					
Friday								
5 to 6			Dev Sq	GK	Dev Sq			
6 to 7:30	SWPL	U11	Ext	U13	U13			
Saturday								
9 to 10:30	U9	U8	U10	Sat/Sun	Sat/Sun			
10:30 to 12	U7	Sat/Sun	Sat/Sun	Sat/Sun	Sat/Sun			

Youth Section Membership

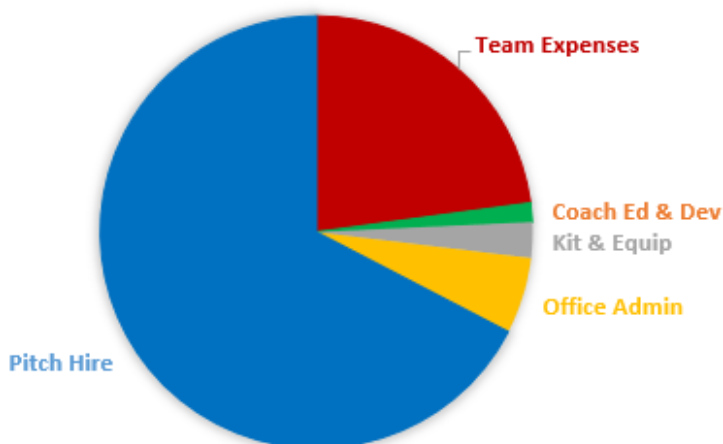
Player Subs

Player subs are payable on the 1st of every month, 12 months a year. Subs are £30 per month for small sided teams and £35 per month for 11aside.

Discounts are available to Youth Section Coaches and families with more than one child attending. Assistance with subs is available, please contact the Club Manager for more information.

Your subs fund: pitch hire, equipment, new balls, match kit every 2 years, annual league and SFA fees, insurance, coaches kit, coaches course fees, First Aid training, referees fees and administration costs.

Pitch hire is by far our biggest expense as we choose to hire our pitches as much as possible from The Spartans Community Football Academy (SCFA). Whilst the cost is greater we think it's worth it, the pitches are of an extremely high quality and the facilities available (café, toilets, changing rooms etc) are second to none. By hiring the SCFA pitches it also means that we are contributing to the fantastic work that they do in our local community and we are proud to be part of the Spartans Family.



Player Kit

Match kit is provided to players when they first start playing 7aside matches. Match kit is replaced every 2 years and players are expected to look after their kit. No lunch time tomato soup stains please!



Some teams choose to purchase an Away kit for games when they face opposition with the same red/white team colours, this is optional and would be team funded.

Training kit

Training kit can be purchased by visiting the Spartans FC website "Club Shop". Some teams fundraise or seek sponsorship in order to pay for training kit for their squad.

www.spartansfc.com/spartans-shop/

Coaches Kit

We provide our Youth Section coaches with training kit free of charge. The items provided include t-shirt, 1/4 zip top, training pants and a waterproof or fleece lined jacket. There are additional items available which can be purchased by the coach from the Club Shop.

The reason we provide training kit for coaches is that it means our coaches are easy to identify by players/parents and other teams.

A coaches kit order form will be provided to coach volunteers or can be obtained by emailing: clubmanager@spartansfcyouth.com



Team Activities

Youth Section sub payments cover the cost of providing the following: training equipment, match kit, pitch hire and annual league registration fees. Teams are encouraged to seek sponsorship or carryout fundraising events in order to raise funds for other activities, e.g. attendance at tournaments.

Having fun doing other activities outside of training and matches is also important to our squads and is encouraged. Team activities make memories, foster friendships and build team spirit.



Team Funds

Any squad funds raised must be deposited in the Spartans FC Youth bank account where the funds will be ring fenced for their use. Under no circumstances should a squad set up a bank account bearing the name of, or for the use of, a team/age group squad.

Any squad or individual who sets up a bank account bearing the name of, or for the use of, a team in Spartans FC Youth will be doing so out with the governance of Spartans FC Youth and Spartans FC Youth take no responsibility for such actions.

If Spartans FC Youth management committee become aware of the setting up of such bank accounts those involved will face disciplinary action which could result in them being asked to leave the club.



Attending / Organising Tournaments

Taking part in tournaments is an exciting opportunity for squads and a great life experience for players. Any squad considering entering a tournament or taking a trip at home or abroad, that will require significant fundraising activities, **MUST** inform Spartans FC Youth Management Committee before any plans are made or funds are raised.

In addition it is essential that the correct paperwork is completed and approvals are sought from the League and/ or the SYFA as appropriate in order to take part in tournaments.

Teams planning to organise their own Football Festival should inform and seek permission from the Youth Section Management Committee in the first instance.

The Spartans Football Year

January	February
<p>Return to training New Age Group Squad Starts No ESSDA Outdoor Football Allowed SYFA New Season Registration Commences - small sided teams (Team Secretary) ESSDA New Season Registration Commences - small sided teams (Team Secretary) Annual Player Registration small sided teams starts (Team Secretary) Girls Teams Player & League Registration</p>	<p>Positive Coaching Scotland Workshops Friday Night Goalkeeper School Restart Small Sided Development Squads Restart ESSDA In-Service Youth Section AGM</p>
March	April
<p>Small Sided In-Service Annual Player Registration completed - small sided teams (Team Secretary) ESSDA Season Starts 11 aside transition tournaments start</p>	
May	June
<p>11 aside transition festival for teams moving from 9s</p>	<p>Development Squads (Finish for Summer) SERYFA New Season Registration Deadline - 11 aside (Team Secretary) SYFA New Season Registration Commences - 11 aside teams (Team Secretary) Annual Player Registration starts - 11 aside (Team Secretary)</p>
July	August
<p>SERYFA New Season Meeting</p>	<p>Annual Player Registration completed before season starts (Team Secretary) Small Sided Development Squads Restart Goalkeeping School Restart</p>
September	October
<p>Small Sided In-Service Boot Room 11 aside In-Service</p>	
November	December
<p>Development Squads (Winter Shutdown)</p>	<p>Meeting with New Age Group Squad Parents</p>

Club Information

The following documents are available to all Youth Section members, contact the Club Manager for further details.

Club Policies

- Health and Safety Policy
- Childrens Wellbeing and Protection Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Approach by a Professional Club Policy
- Equity Policy
- Disciplinary Policy
- Codes of Conduct
- Privacy Policy
- General Data Protection Regulations Policy

Key Contacts

Les Atkinson, Chairman
chairman@spartansfcyouth.com

Steve Thurlow, Treasurer
treasurer@spartansfcyouth.com

Stuart Gray, Coach Development Officer
stuart.gray@spartansfcyouth.com

Carolyn Embleton, Club Manager / Child Wellbeing & Protection Officer
clubmanager@spartansfcyouth.com, 07845 434053

Sophie Scoular, 11 Aside Match Pitch Booking
sophiescoular@spartanscfa.com

Useful Websites

<http://www.essda.co.uk/>

<http://seryfa-online.info/>

<https://scotwomensfootball.com/fixtures-and-results/>

<https://www.scottishyouthfa.co.uk/>

<https://www.scottishfalive.co.uk/>

<https://www.edinburghleisure.co.uk/venues/sports-pitches/>

<http://www.spartansfc.com/>

Club Guidelines

- Youth Section Guidelines for Fun 4s/Super 5s
- Youth Section Guidelines for Soccer 7s
- Youth Section Guidelines for 9 aside
- Youth Section Guidelines for 11 aside
- Moving from 5s to 7s
- Moving from 7s to 9s
- Moving from 9s to 11s
- Player Feedback Form
- Youth Section Subs

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