



Player Pathway and Movement Policy

All football players will be placed in a team commensurate with their ability level and continually monitored to ensure they are on the best pathway for their development. Fulham United will endeavour, where possible, to provide players with the opportunity to play in the highest grade for their skill level.

As players develop at different stages, we allow for the movement of players within and between age groups, preferably up. Unexpected events may trigger a downward placement of a player. Occasionally, during the season, injuries, players playing for higher ages groups and holidays may reduce the number of players available for a specific age group.

Due to the impact that these decisions can have for the player, parents, coaches and teams, the club has created the following procedure to be adhered to by all involved.

Player Movement Process

When a coach requires a player from another team or age group, the following process must be followed:

1. Coach contacts the Technical Director

The requesting coach must first contact the relevant Technical Director and explain the need for an additional player.

No player or parent is to be approached before approval has been received from the Technical Director.

If the relevant Technical Director is unavailable and a decision is required within a reasonable timeframe, the requesting coach must contact another appropriate member of the Football Department for approval. Coaches must not bypass the approval process because the Technical Director is unavailable.

2. Technical Director/Football Department approves the request

The Technical Director, or Football Department member where the TD is unavailable, will consider the request and, where appropriate, identify or approve suitable players based on factors including:

- player development
- ability and readiness
- previous opportunities
- team requirements
- workload and wellbeing
- the player's normal position and likely role

The purpose is to ensure opportunities are appropriate and player movement is coordinated across the Club.

3. Primary coach is consulted

Once approval has been received, the requesting coach must communicate with the player's primary coach.

The primary coach should advise on the player's:



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- expected minutes with their regular team
- recent and upcoming workload
- soreness, injury or fatigue
- general wellbeing
- any other reason why additional football may not be appropriate

The player's commitments to their primary team take priority.

4. Parent permission is sought

Once the Football Department and primary coach are satisfied that the opportunity is appropriate, the player's parent/guardian may be contacted.

This contact may be made by the Technical Director, requesting coach or player's primary coach.

The opportunity should be explained without creating any expectation that the player must participate.

5. Player chooses

Once parent/guardian permission has been received, the player must also be given the choice of whether they would like to participate.

Participation is always voluntary.

If either the player or parent/guardian shows hesitation at any stage, the matter should not be pursued. Another suitable player should be approached instead.

Players should never feel that declining an additional game will affect their position, selection or future opportunities at Fulham United.

Player Workload

The wellbeing of the player takes priority over filling a position in another team.

Where a borrowed player has already played a match on the same day, coaches must manage their additional workload carefully.

These players should generally be used in wider or lower-load roles and should not be used in positions requiring sustained high-intensity running.

Players who have already played that day should not be used as:

- central midfielders
- box-to-box midfielders
- high-pressing strikers
- centre backs required to operate in a high defensive line
- other roles determined by the Technical Director or coaching staff to involve a similarly high physical load



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Where possible, their minutes should also be managed appropriately rather than treating them as a normal full-game player.

A borrowed player who has not already played on that day may play in these higher-load positions, subject to their normal workload, fitness, wellbeing and the judgement of the coaching staff.

Player Welfare

At all times, coaches should consider the cumulative demands being placed on a player rather than simply whether they are physically available to play another match.

The Club would rather approach another suitable player than place unnecessary physical or emotional pressure on a child.

Communication Pathway

Requesting Coach → Technical Director (or Football Department member if unavailable) → Primary Coach → Parent/Guardian → Player

No step should be bypassed.

The Technical Director or relevant Football Department representative may intervene or withdraw approval at any stage where they believe the proposed player movement is not in the best interests of the player or Club.

Guiding Principle

Opportunities to play with another team should be viewed as part of a player's development pathway, not simply as a way of filling numbers.

The player's development, wellbeing and willingness to participate always come first.