



# Allendale Football Club

## Managers Handbook

Welcome!

Thank you for your positive interest in seeking to become a team manager or coach at our football club.

We always welcome new volunteers!

This Managers Manual outlines how to quickly become a successful team manager by setting out how we do things at our club.

It is based on previous decisions made by our committees over the years. It is also very much informed by the practical experiences of past and existing team managers.

It also lists many ideas to save your time and effort gladly volunteered.

It is also a good reference to which experienced managers can return on a regular basis.

### Becoming a Coach or a Manager

#### **Step 1**

The first step is to register for a Football Association Number (FAN). Your Club Secretary or Welfare Officer will give you the information you need.

There is no fee. Keep a note of your FAN.

#### **Step 2**

You then need then to apply for DBS approval. This used to be called a 'CRB' or 'police check.' The fee is paid by our club. Your Welfare Officer will give you the information you need.

Once completed you just need to show the documents you used in the application process to our Welfare Officer.

#### **Level One Training**

All prospective coaches without exception must complete an introductory training course called 'Level One'.

You can read more at the course at [www.northumberlandfa.com](http://www.northumberlandfa.com) Just look for FA Level 1 Award in Coaching.

You can book online - just follow the links. Provided you attend all the sessions and retain your receipt our club will refund your fee in full in two staged payments.



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## **Player Registration**

Players first need to register with our club using the registration form so that they can be recorded as a club member for insurance purposes.

Players then need to be registered with their respective team into the league. Team managers are solely responsible for deciding which players to register in the league and how many players should be registered in each team. But inexperienced managers might want to consult more experienced colleagues for advice.

### Recommended Numbers

Team Size	Squad Size
5 a side	7-8 players
7 a side	10-12 players
9 a side	13-15 players
11 a side	15-18 players

Players who are not registered to play in a league and who do not receive a playing strip can be registered only with the club as a training member for a lower monthly subscription.

Players will need copies of their passport and a passport style photograph to register with the league. The Club Secretary needs to sign each league registration card.

Team managers should consider carefully how and when to inform players and their parents if they are to be registered as part of the team. It is often best to tell all the players at the same time by the same method.

Similarly, managers might not want to register the maximum number of players early during the summer break. One or two places can then be reserved for new arrivals nearer to the start of the season.

Speak to your Club Secretary for advice if you wish to transfer in a player who is, or who has been registered with another club in the same season in the same league or if you wish to register a player with a non-EU passport.

TIP – register your players before the end of summer term at school.

You need to take your registration cards with you to every match. Many managers put them in a tin or wallet and store them in their Emergency First Aid bag.

The league registration of every player expires automatically on 30th May.



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## **Equipment**

Your minimum match and training equipment consists of:

- One large kit bag – zipped
- One emergency first aid kit (do not add any item not already included)
- One match ball
- One ball bag (large)
- One training ball per registered player
- One bib per registered player
- Training cones multi coloured – one stack
- Assistant Referee Flags – one pair (Older groups)
- Goalie Gloves
- One whistle

The club makes one large order of new equipment in the summer. This is a good time to replenish your equipment in one go or to ask for larger items which may be shared with other teams e.g. pop-up-goals.

Additional requests for other equipment can be made to the committee by giving advance notice to the Chair. Usually the team manager should purchase the required item, provide receipt to the Treasurer and the club will reimburse.

## **Managing Players Kit**

You will be given a complete set of home and away strips for every player in what would be a maximum size squad for your age group.

Please check that the set is 100% complete when you receive your kit as the club will assume it was complete when you were given the kit.

Most team managers hand out the Strips at the start of the season. Make sure you make a note of which player has which strip. Managers of younger teams might want to ask parents to sign a sheet to confirm receipt. This helps prevent any confusion at the end of the season.

Our club will replace kit which has been damaged or which has become overly worn or outgrown. Simply return the damaged or worn kit and you will be issued with a replacement.

We will not replace kit which has been lost. Players losing kit will need to pay for a replacement.

If a player leaves during the season, do ensure that you have the kit returned as soon as possible. The longer you leave it before seeking its return, experience shows it is less likely to be returned. We will withhold the registration of any departed player until all kit is returned. This means the departing player will not be able to sign for another club until the kit is returned.

Our strip normally last 2-3 seasons so it is necessary to hand the kit to another team manager. You will be told when all kit is to be handed in at the end of the season. You might want to plan ahead a



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couple of weeks in advance, ensuring that you hand in a complete set as, if not, you are only passing on the inconvenience to the manager who receives your kit.

## **Communicating Your Approach**

Communicating about how you intend to manage your team is best done at the start of the season. Make your decisions and stick to them!

- How will match day teams will be selected and managed on the day?
- Will players who miss training be selected for the next match?
- How you will communicate match arrangements to parents (you should not communicate directly with players by texts or social media)?
- On what days and times and by what mechanism will you respond to communication from parents?
- Your approach to time keeping and what action you will take if players are late?
- A deadline before which you will accept apologies in advance for training sessions and matches?
- What action you may take if apologies are sent on the morning of a match or if they are not sent at all?
- How you expect to be informed well in advance of any holidays or other planned family events
- What approach you will take in response to players or adults using foul or abusive language at any time and/or challenging decisions of the referee?
- That you will not under any circumstances accept any form of sexism, racism, homophobia or any form of bullying.

## **Organising Matches**

It is the responsibility of the home team manager to take the lead in organising matches.

As soon as you are given a fixture, you should book your pitch

About two weeks before your match, you should book your referee.

No later than the Tuesday before your match you should contact the away team manager to:

☐ Agree the venue and provide directions to our venue

☐ Agree the kick off time. Each league has a standard kick off time. Managers usually mutually agree to a different kick off time. But if there is no agreement, the kick off reverts to the standard time.

☐ Agree colour of strips. The home team changes if there is a clash.

Send a text or email to the away manager to confirm what has been agreed. Keep a copy of this message until after the match is played.



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If you are the away team and the home team has not contacted you by the Tuesday preceding the match then you should contact the home manager. Inform our club Secretary if you are unable to make contact.

## **Immediately before the match**

- ☑ Complete your half of the team sheet and hand it to the away team manager
- ☑ Hand all your player registration cards to the away team manager
- ☑ Inform the referee and our Club Secretary if the away team is unable to produce a registration card for any player

Immediately after the match

- ☑ Text the result of the match to your league to the number supplied
- ☑ Email a copy of the fully completed team sheet to the league. Remember to ensure that EVERY box is completed. You can use a mobile phone to take and email an image. Add match details in the email.
- ☑ Inform the Club Secretary immediately of any red or yellow cards.

## **Paperwork**

Most administration is now done online but do make a note of where you can find copies of the paperwork you will need.

Player Registration Card

Match Day Team Sheet

Player Emergency Contact Details

Contact details for teams managers in your league

Emergency Incident Form

## **Finding Referees**

You will be given at the start of each season a list and contact details of qualified referees.

But the best way to secure a referee is to work in partnership with your fellow team managers. Referees are more likely to officiate if you can offer two or more matches, one after each other.

Welcome your referee and make payment of the standard fee on arrival rather than making the referee seek payment at the end of the match.

If you are not able to secure a neutral, qualified referee, toss a coin with the away team manager to determine who shall referee the entire match even if you have already agreed who will referee. You cannot officiate one half each.



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Your Code of Conduct means you, your players and supporters should never challenge any decision of any referee but do not be surprised if referees do not return if they have been subject to any form of abuse.

Our club will pay the cost of the training course and the equipment needed by any adult member or older player willing to pass the short training course that is needed to become a qualified referee.

## **Pitch and Kit Management**

A Respect Barrier must be put in place for every match. Everyone other than fully qualified team coaches and substitutes must stand behind this barrier at all times.

Qualified team managers, coaches and all substitutes stand on the opposite side of the pitch to the Respect Barrier. Inform the referee if the away team does not conform to this FA standard.

Managers of mini soccer teams are responsible for ensuring the pitches are marked and goals are erected prior to home matches. Each end of the back-bar must be fastened with the lynch pins. The base of the goal must be fastened to the grass using 4 heavy duty U Pin safety fasteners. Do not start the match unless all these safety devices are in place.

Make sure you store all kit as you would wish to find it on the correct place in the loft. You can delegate this task to adults but do check personally it is stored correctly before you leave.

## **Top Tips for Managing Matches**

Here are some tips you might want to adopt to manage your matches effectively.

- ☑ Tell players that any who arrive late will start as a substitute – that often solves any problems of lateness.
- ☑ Offer a warm greeting and handshake to the opposition manager, coaches and the referee on arrival – it's amazing how a polite introduction can set the scene for the rest of the day!
- ☑ Never publically challenge any decision of the referee. Everyone makes mistakes and the decision is just not going to be overturned!
- ☑ You cannot manage your team properly if you are acting as the assistant referee. Insist that one of your reliable adult members runs the line!
- ☑ Tell you players in advance how you intend to manage substitutions during the match and what approach you will take if they show dissent to the referee or if they lose composure
- ☑ Do engage in polite / sporting discussion with your opposition manager and opposition parents from the outset but never enter into discussion on any contentious matter. Insist that your players and parents do the same
- ☑ Never talk to opposition players before or during the match – but do congratulate them on their performance at the end.



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☑ Thank and congratulate the performance of the referee at the end of the match regardless of the performance.

## **Pitch Inspections**

In the case of bad weather (wind, rain, cold) the decision is left to the discretion of the manager of each team. Obviously older aged players are more able to withstand poor conditions better than younger players. There is therefore no need for 'one on, all on' or 'one off, all off'.

Team managers can consider:

- The weather forecast - the BBC hourly forecast is often accurate.
- Will the players be sufficiently comfortable to enjoy the training session?
- The need to give timely certainty to parents
- The views of other team managers of a similar age group - give them a call and make a joint decision?
- The need for players to wear appropriate clothing, including waterproof tops and pants, gloves, woolly hats etc.

## **Training**

You will be allocated training slots which will identify what days & times, and what playing areas are available for your team. Please ensure you use only those training slots allocated to your team.

Do let other team managers who train in your vicinity know with good notice if you do not intend to use your slot on any session; those teams may well want to make use of the additional slots. And those other managers may well make space in their session to allow your players to train with that team instead.

Please ensure players arriving early do not encroach on to the playing areas being used by other teams before your training session starts. Similarly, ensure you and your players are completely free of the training areas by the time you are due to hand your area over to a waiting team. This means you'll need to start packing equipment up a few minutes in advance. Make sure also you clear away any litter, especially drink bottles etc.

Please be aware also of the danger of footballs being kicked out of our training area into a neighbouring training area. This is a real risk, especially to young players. In most cases, simply turning around the playing direction of a goal can easily solve this problem.

Please leave your training area as you would wish to find it!

## **Residential Trips**

Our Welfare Officer can advise you on what you need to do to prepare well in advance for any residential trips. Your plans will need to be approved by our central committee before you make any booking.



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## **The Final Whistle**

We hope you enjoy your time as a team manager or coach. You will quickly gain in confidence and you will learn and improve in your own performance, especially if you work as part of a team with your colleague team managers.

We hope you continue to volunteer with us for many years but at some stage you will wish to end your career at Allendale FC.

That is very understandable but do consider carefully the process and the timing of your departure.

Leaving abruptly in the middle of a season can cause real problems. It is always much better to leave after the end of the season.

You should first speak quietly as soon as possible to the Chair of the Club about your future plans. Do not speak to players and adult members as uninformed rumours can spread quickly. The good work you have done as a team manager may all well be lost if the team folds or players leave due to any uncertainty.

## **Emergency Procedures**

You will be given a laminated copy of our Emergency Procedures at the start of the season. A copy is always available on our club website.

Our procedures will help protect the health and safety of our players and adult members. They also protect your own safety and your own position.

Do have a copy with you at all times at all training sessions and matches. You can keep them in your Emergency First Aid bag along with your Player Registration Cards and the emergency contact details for all your players.

There is a defibrillator in the yellow box attached to the outside wall of the Allendale sports club.