

Streaming Policy



At Felpham Colts we welcome all children regardless of their ability, background, experience or confidence with a ball. We have a variety of groups catering for different ages and abilities in order to maximise enjoyment and development.

What it is and why we do it



- ◉ Felpham Colts Aims to provide all the boys and girls at Felpham Colts FC the maximum opportunity to develop their football, personal, social, educational and sporting skills to their full potential with the children's welfare and enjoyment a priority in all decisions we make.
- ◉ Streaming is a process that facilitates the movement of players between an age group's teams, in line with their current level and speed of development.
- ◉ Previous club experience and research has shown that failing to stream before U9 results in players and coaches leaving the club as both seek different challenges.
- ◉ Whilst Streaming can be contentious this is usually due to poor club motives or parents not understanding motives. Streaming is not done at Felpham Colts to win trophies. We do it because we believe that it benefits all players so that they may experience success and develop to realise their potential.

Skill acquisition happens most quickly through 'Deep Practice'. This can be defined as practice that happens at the edge of someone's ability. Tasks and activities should require effort and concentration. All children need to be challenged. Mistakes are an absolutely essential part of learning. A child not making mistakes is not learning at the edge of their ability.



@BlaineMcKenna77

Ladder of Potential

Everyone has varying levels of potential & is at a different stage of a unique journey

Even the best youth players are nowhere near fulfilling their potential

You can get higher than someone even if they have more potential

If you don't work hard you'll stay at the same level or fall down

Success is getting to the top of your ladder & not focussing on others



Felpham Colts FC

Felpham Colts FC

When will streaming take place?



Felpham Colts policy is that Streaming takes place at U9, however the club acknowledges that it can be contentious and that each age group will differ in a variety of ways, therefore Should a Year Group Co-ordinator deem it in the years interest to stream later they may seek approval from club officials to do so however:

- Streaming will **not** take place **before U9**.
- Streaming **must** take place before **commencement of U12**.

Movement of players between teams prior to streaming should only take place in an attempt to balance the teams numbers within the year group and should be overseen by the Age Group Co-ordinator.

Change the way we think!!!



- Children
 - > We need to instill the understanding that we are not 2 or more Under 9 teams but rather that we are all Felpham Colts Under 9s players who will not always play together at weekends
- Coaches
 - > We need to be flexible and interchangeable between teams and understand that the concept of “this is my team!” is not the way “This is our Age Group.” The same will apply to players who will benefit from different experiences challenges and interactions as we move forward.
- Parents
 - > Although it’s natural that a parent should be anxious about their child’s participation in sport, these must not be passed on to our children. Of course we want to win and score goals but that is not what mini soccer is designed for. Its designed to allow the children to participate in a game where they will get plenty of touches of the ball and try things in a game that they have been practicing in the tailored training sessions.

Notes for Parents



- Sometimes as parents we often let our interpretation of things cloud our judgment as to how our child might perceive things. When Coaches talk about ability based coaching quite often the kids understand it (and get more from it) but parents hear something different (A v B, Good v Bad, Privileged v non-privileged)
- As parents and Coaches we need to look beyond that and understand that children do progress at different levels and rates, but they will all get to meet their potential in the end if we let them and support them all. If we try to force them to play at a level beyond current capabilities they will lose heart and may want to quit. If we don't challenge players appropriately, whatever level they are at, their development will suffer.

Notes for Parents



- Swimming Analogy
- If you put your child in for swimming lessons you would find that they all have a grading system from beginner through intermediate to advanced, your child is starting off and they are new to the pool would you
 - Push to have your child in the advanced class because that's where all the good swimmers are?
 - Expect to see all children given the same swimming drills to do leaving the more advanced swimmers unchallenged and the beginners frightened of going back in the water
 - Expect to see the children's swimming ability assessed so that they may be placed at the appropriate level

Why not before U9?



- We choose not to stream before U9 In order to do our best to allow all Children within the year group to become friends and work together, understanding and valuing the different contributions each make to the year group and the teams.
- Historically this has been difficult and has rarely been the case when streaming is done before.
- The Social benefits of mixed abilities in early years are vast and this lays the foundation for the movement of players between teams as the child's development requires it.
- It is commonly understood that it is difficult to assess current ability and future potential, particularly at younger ages. Coaches at U7 will be new to coaching and will not have completed FA Coaching courses, meaning they are unlikely to consider or understand the impacts on player performance such as Relative Age Effect, social and psychological development. This will likely result in a poor assessment of player ability across all areas of development.
- Players ability and development within the group changes considerably as they mature, it is essential that we have set the foundation for the players to move and play in teams consistent with their development needs.

Considerations for Managers



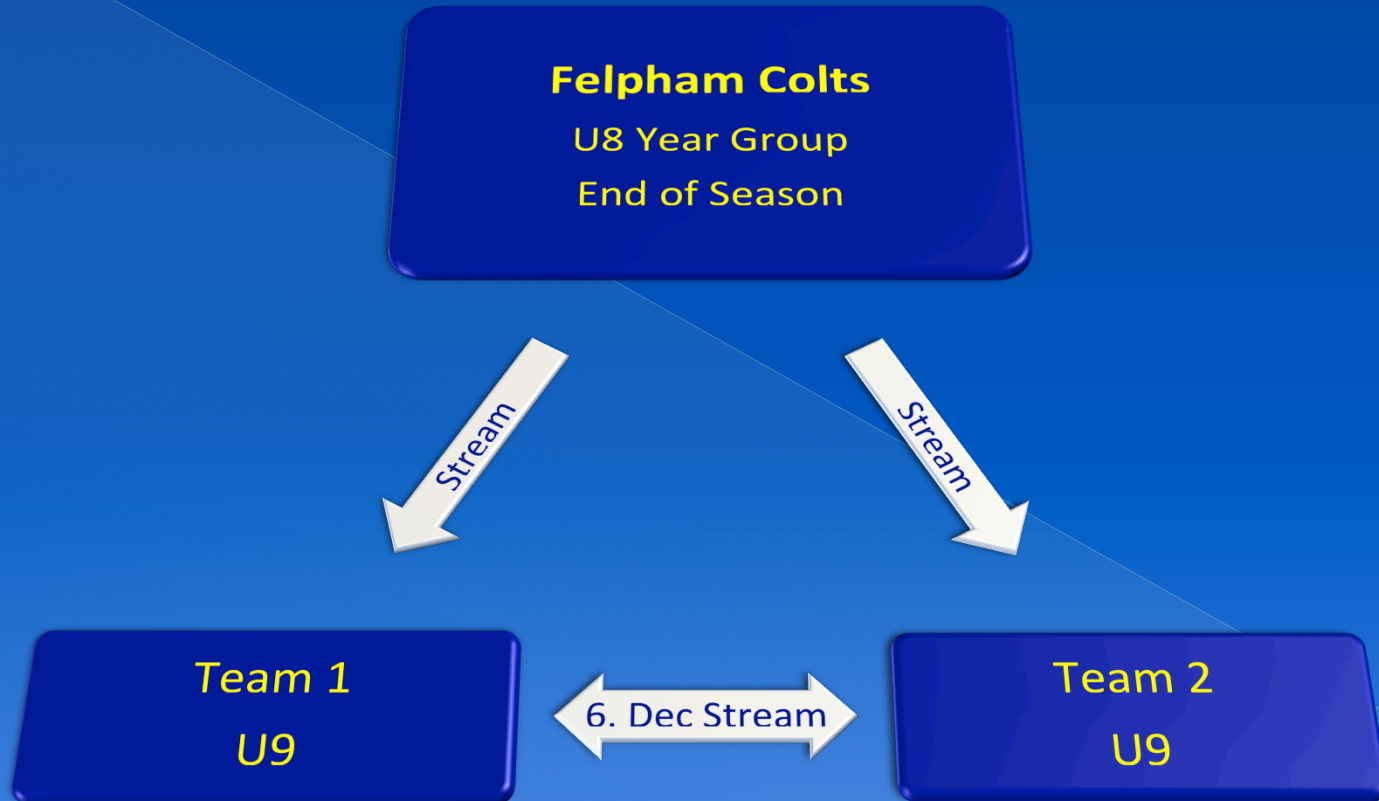
- ⦿ Availability and level of qualified coaches in age group.
- ⦿ Professional Academies scout players from U9 through visits to high performing teams.
- ⦿ Team size changes e.g. U11: 7v7 to 9v9.
- ⦿ League fixture selections/standard.
- ⦿ Competitive Leagues start at U12.
- ⦿ Players with disabilities.
- ⦿ Players may play in an older age group in carefully agreed circumstances.
- ⦿ Streaming of goalkeepers.
- ⦿ Training location and day (whole age group to train at same time/location).
- ⦿ New manager/coach appointments require consent of a Club Official and must sign policy agreement.

Best Practice

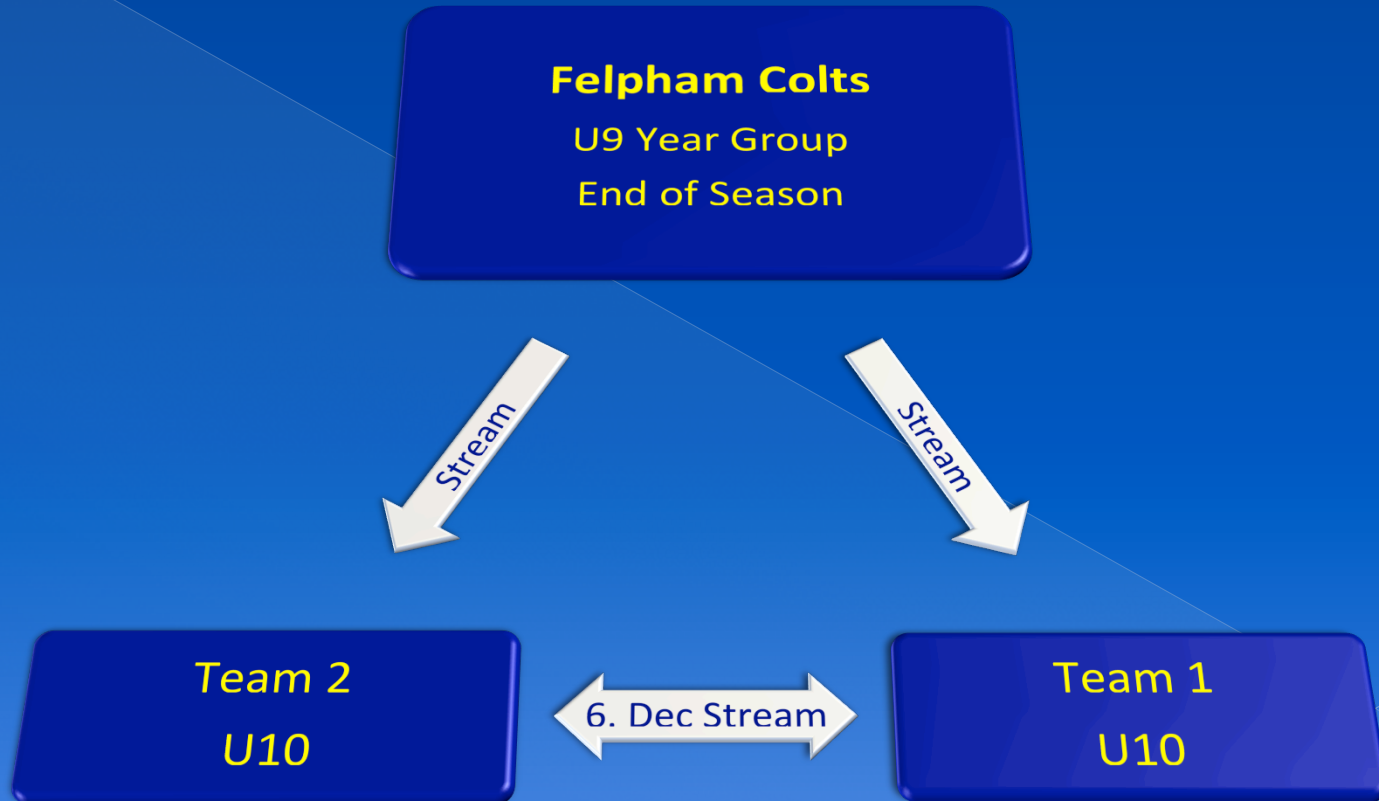


- **Process:**
Follow a clear process that has been pre-agreed.
- **Transition:**
Ensure the transition is handled professionally for players moving teams. (NB: Players are usually happier a few weeks after streaming when they are with players of similar ability and have settled in to their new team.)
- **Coaches Teamwork:**
Year Group Coaches must work together, Managers should be agreed & appointed post players streaming. Where Coaches hold FA level 2 qualification they shall be appointed to Rangers.
- **Avoid Conflicts of Interest:**
Coaches should make every effort to remain impartial to their own children to avoid conflict of interest. Players welfare and development is the sole consideration when streaming.

Streaming Model



Streaming Model



Process



Fulham Colts FC
Fulham Colts FC

Timing	Activity	Communication
March	Pre streaming meeting (timeline and dates agreed)	Empty streaming report issued to coaches
March - May	Player monitoring by all Coaches	
1 st Week April	Communicate streaming process to parents	Example Email to be issued
April	Coaches initial streaming meeting	Discuss Streaming report
4 th Week May	Final Streaming meeting to stream players and appoint coaches	Completed Streaming report
1 st Week Jun	Communication to moving Players parents/carers	Example Email
2 nd Week Jun	Communication to all parents/carers of final teams	Example Email
3 rd Week Jun	Registration Day for all Teams	
Early Dec	Mid season streaming review	
End of Dec	Communicate movement of players	Example Email
End of Dec	Submit transfers of moving players	

Transition



- The decision to transition players between teams must be in the interest of the player's long term development.
- Parents shall be communicated to early in the event of a transition in accordance with the process.
- The Player is to be informed in such a way as to ensure that the reasons are fully understood negating impact (positive or negative) to confidence.
- The only reason to transition players between teams is for a player's and team's development. It should therefore be regarded as normal for players to move between teams.

This is not an A and a B team but 2 or more teams that provide the opportunity for the whole age group to play matches and compete at the level appropriate to their development today.

Player Development



- ◉ All players should be provided the opportunity to meet their potential.
- ◉ All Players will be reviewed iaw process and, if appropriate, given the opportunity to face new/greater challenges.
- ◉ Equally, it may be deemed appropriate to move players if they find it difficult to meet challenges and it is deemed to be in the **best interest of the players** continued development.
- ◉ To provide players with equal opportunities to develop, the Club's Equal Playing Time philosophy shall be adhered to.

Equal Playing Time philosophy

- ◉ At the U-6 to U-14 age group, coaches will aim to provide all players with equal playing time during a season.
- ◉ At the U-15 age group onwards, coaches will use discretion in playing time but all players present at matches shall play a minimum of 10 minutes per regulation length game.
- ◉ At all age groups, players may receive less playing time for failing to participate in all practices and games, or for disciplinary reasons.

Risks



- Miscommunication to parents causes a lack of understanding.
 - > Standardised club email sent in accordance with process
- Coaches disregard process causing conflict within the age group.
 - > Streaming forms must be submitted to club. Coaches educated to the Felpham Colts model on volunteering.
- Miscommunication to players impacts confidence.
 - > Handout of Clubs ethos and process for all parents. Ensure all coaches understand the philosophy and communicate this to the players/parents continuously prior to streaming. Development officer speak to parents at new team meeting? Direct Parents to the Club Website
- All of the coaches children could be in the same team.
 - > Unlikely with 4 coaches in place. Identify likelihood in earlier seasons and identify suitable parent to become coach as required. Club Officers to engage.
- Coaches disagree on players current level and who plays in what team. (Subjectivity impossible to erase)
 - > The process is clear and should remove ambiguity with each player streamed against the same system. Any disagreements will be settled by Club Officials.
- Players may leave due to parents perception of thier child being demoted.
 - > Communication/handout at initial age group (U7). Parents must understand that development of the player is the only reason.
- Separation of players from friends.
 - > All year group will train in the same place at the same time and all year groups will have a session per term with all players mixed.
- Confident Year Group Coordinator required to manage internal matters within the year group.
- Streaming immediately on setup (U7) can cause a hostile atmosphere and a large number of players to leave. Not streaming sees a large number of players and Coaches leave by U11

ULTIMATE MITIGATION is COMMUNICATION AND TEAMWORK BETWEEN COACHES!!!
WORKING TOGETHER TO AID UNDERSTANDING WILL MINIMISE EVERY RISK ABOVE.

Opportunities



- ✓ **All players** are challenged at the right level.
- ✓ Takes account of players developing at different rates/times.
- ✓ Education system and research literature suggests streaming as the best way to ensure all levels develop.
- ✓ More touches of the ball when playing in a team of similar ability.
- ✓ Prevents children and parent coaches leaving the club (U10 has highest attrition rate)
- ✓ Gives coaches and players 2 seasons to ensure they have players in the right place prior to league streaming and competition
- ✓ League streaming at U12 will be more accurate as previous season results will reflect the teams ability level more accurately.
- ✓ Felpham Colts are more likely to be successful in competitions (whatever division) whilst developing **all** children to become the best they can be.
- ✓ Allows coaches to better identify areas for development and focus for future sessions.
- ✓ Better for player confidence in the long term.
- ✓ Prevents players from spending significant time as a substitute
- ✓ Affords all players the opportunity to reach their greatest potential, within a safe and fun environment, without the need to find another club.
- ✓ Players are more likely to remain playing the sport for longer