



Player

Development

Centre

**Parent & Player
Information Booklet**



**COMMUNITY SPORTS
& EDUCATION
TRUST**

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1102239

Welcome

This booklet has been produced to provide parents & players with vital information in relation to Watford FC's Community Sports & Education Trust Player Development Centres.

Watford FC Community Sports & Education Trust

We are Watford Football Club's Community Sports and Education Trust. An official registered charity (Charity No: 1102239) engaging with our communities through sport, physical activity and learning on behalf of Watford Football Club. Being registered with the Charities Commission, we are governed in accordance with charitable law and comply with the Charity Code of Governance to develop the highest standards of governance. A board of Trustees exists, as well as the notable patrons of former elected Mayor of Watford, Dorothy Thornhill, and the Taylor family.

Mission:

Making a positive difference for all through sport, physical activity, and learning

Vision:

Improving Lives, Enhancing Communities

Values:

Innovation, Inclusivity, Integrity

Our communities include Hertfordshire and Harrow, but we are continuously exploring new and exciting ventures to expand the Watford FC family. We currently employ over 60 members of full and part-time staff, 80 members of sessional staff and over 50 active volunteers, all with a passion for making an impact on the lives of those we engage.

SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT - [CLICK HERE](#)

If you are interested in finding out more about what we do, take an in-depth look through our website or you can follow up-to-the-minute updates by finding us on social media – just search on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.



@WFCTrust @PDCWFCTrust



Meet the Team



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Player Development Centres

Our Player Development Centres (PDC) are designed to offer additional training for 'advanced' football players associated with a local Grassroots Football Club. Our PDCs provide high quality coaching to enable players to improve their technical skills, knowledge & understanding of the game. All coaches hold vital qualifications in football coaching, safeguarding and first aid.

Head Coaches – Minimum UEFA B

Lead Age Group Coaches – Minimum FA Level 2

Assistant Coaches – Minimum FA Level 1

Our PDCs are aimed at the following age groups:

Boys

U7-U16

Outfield & GK's

Girls

U10-U16

Outfield & GK's

FOOTBALL
MANAGER

WATFORD

FOOTBALL
MANAGER

WATFORD

FOOTBALL
MANAGER

FOOTBALL
MANAGER

WATFORD

Main Priorities

The Bigger Picture

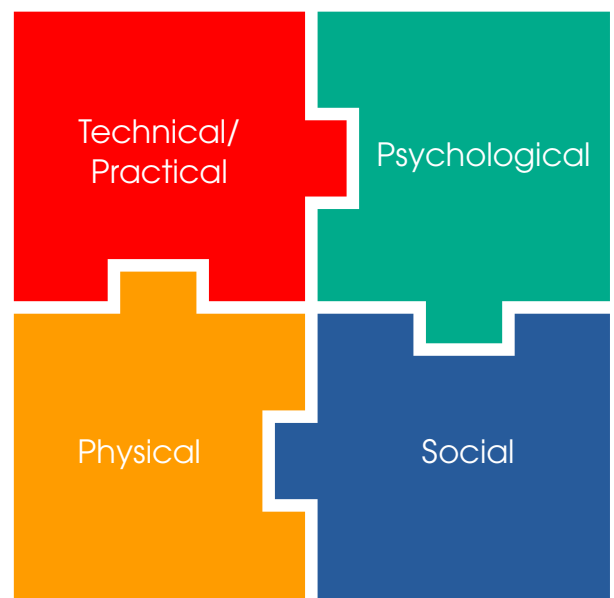
Only 180 of the 1.5 million players who are playing organised youth football in England at any one time will make it as a Premier League professional. That is a success rate of 0.012%. As the stats clearly state, the likelihood of your son or daughter making it as a professional footballer are very slim, but not impossible. We want our players to dream big and we will do our utmost to develop EVERY player that enters our PDC programme. If a player is training well and impressing our PDC coaches, we will send a recommendation over to local professional football academies to explore the possibility of a future academy trial. However, we will only do this if we feel the player is ready physically and mentally to deal with an 'elite' environment. For the majority, we will look to develop their overall game which they can develop, improve and take back to their Grassroots Football teams.

Individualistic Approach

We look to coach the individual, with our main priority of developing each player's technical ability. We will touch on individual tactics and strategies with the players, but their team coaching will take place at their Grassroots Clubs where they play in regular fixtures.

FA Four Corner Model

Players will be assessed throughout the season against the FA Four Corner Model (Technical/Tactical, Physical, Psychological and Social), with our coaches providing two individual player's reports across season to help players understand their areas of strengths and areas of development.



Exit Routes

We look to create various exit routes at different stages of the player's time on our PDC programme. Some examples include post 16 further education when players reach U17, Academy opportunities for players that are excelling, and volunteer opportunities for young people to gain vital experience and knowledge.

Venues

St Albans PDC (Boys)

**Samuel Ryder Academy,
AL1 5AR**

Mondays (6pm–9pm)

Watford PDC (Boys)

Westfield Academy, WD18 6NS

Mondays (5pm–9pm)

Hemel Hempstead PDC (Boys)

**The Hemel Hempstead School,
HP1 1TX**

Mondays (6pm–9pm)

Harrow PDC (Boys)

**Bannisters Sports Centre,
HA3 6SP**

Mondays (6pm–9pm)

Girls PDC

**Watford FC Training Ground,
AL2 1BZ**

Fridays (5.45pm–8.15pm)

Advanced PDC (Boys)

**Watford FC Training Ground,
AL2 1BZ**

Fridays (5pm–9pm)



Recruitment & Development Process

1

Players are identified and recommended for one of our PDC's via one of the following.

- Trial request via application process
- Trust football initiative/ tournament
- Local schools
- Grassroots Football Clubs

2

The player identified will then be asked to come for a trial at one of our local PDCs. The player will then receive a one or two week trial based on their performance. Players will be assessed using the FA Four Corner Model (Technical/Tactical, Physical, Psychological and Social).

If successful, the player/parent will be sent an invite into our Player Development Centre programme. If unsuccessful, players/parents will always be contacted to inform them of our decision. Unsuccessful players/parents will be sent our unsuccessful trial letter to explain how we make our decisions during the trial process.

3

Once a registered player onto our PDC programme, typically, our PDCs run for 32 weeks across the season (September-June) excluding school holidays and any bank holiday dates. Sessions run for an hour once a week with all players & coaches following our PDC syllabus with a different topic/focus each week. Fixtures take place during some half terms.

5

Players will remain on the programme for a whole season and players will be invited back for the following season if the coaches feel they have developed/improved across the season based on training performances. This is reflected and communicated through our individual player reports.

If the coaches feel the player in question has not developed/improved across the season, we will unfortunately release the player from the centre as we feel their development is best suited with their Grassroots Football Club at present.

4

Players will also receive two individual player reports across the season (December and June) to provide both parents and players with information of how they are progressing. All our reports are based around the FA's Four Corner Model (Technical/Tactical, Physical, Psychological & Social).

Boys' Development Pathway



Watford FC Academy

Watford FC CSE Trust Football Academy (Post 16 further education)
Invitation only

Advanced Player Development Centre; Invitation only via PDC programme below

Where You Can Go

Player Development Centre;
Invitation only

Watford, St Albans, Hemel Hempstead
& Harrow

Where You Can Join

Holiday Courses

Harry Rising Stars Tots Football

Where We See You

After School Clubs
PPA/In Curriculum Sessions
Breakfast Clubs
PL Kicks

PL Mini Kicks
Matchday Packages
Grassroots Festivals
School Tournaments
Grassroots Football

Girls' Development Pathway

England U15-20

National Performance Camp

Regional Development Programme

Regional Talent Clubs

Advanced Coaching Centre

Player Development Centre

Grassroots Football

Wildcats/School Provision

General Information

Expectations

We expect ALL PDC players to adhere to our three main values.

- **Fun** – First and most importantly, we want all players to have fun. Play with a smile on your face and do not be afraid to make mistakes.
- **Work Hard** – We want all players leaving our training sessions knowing they put 100% effort into everything asked of them. You will only improve if you put your all into everything you do.
- **Learn** – We want all players to come away from each training session having learnt at least two new things to take away and practice. Additionally, we want players to fall in love with practising outside of training with us and their grassroots team. Players need to dedicate their own time outside of training to improve further.

Behaviour

We expect all players to adhere to our three main rules when at every training session.

- **Safe** – Players must ensure that they are playing 'safe' at every training session. This includes tackling and their interaction with other players.
- **Fun** – We want all players to enjoy playing football. Our coaches will create this environment and will NOT accept any player preventing another player from having fun and expressing themselves.
- **Learn** – We want all players to show a willingness to learn through listening and applying themselves within the sessions implemented by the coaches. We will NOT accept a player preventing another player's learning through poor behaviour and poor attitude.

New Players

Please keep an eye on our web page for future trial opportunities to become available.
www.watfordfccsetrust.com/project/player-development-centre/

Various trial application windows will open across the season to allow players/parents to submit their details. These details will then be automatically logged onto our waiting list. This does not guarantee the player a trial. Trials will be offered out based on spaces available at the time.

Any questions regarding trials, please email **trustpdctrail@watfordfc.com**

