

Ware Lions Community Football Club

Player Streaming



Ware Lions Football Club believes in **Football for All**, creating an inclusive environment where every player, regardless of ability, has the opportunity to enjoy and develop through football. This policy outlines the rationale, process, and decision-making hierarchy for player streaming to ensure all players are supported in their football journey.

- **Ware Lions Football Club Executive Committee**

Why We Stream Players

Our primary aim is to promote player development while upholding our **Football for All** philosophy. By grouping players of similar ability, we create balanced squads that allow each player to progress at their own pace, fostering confidence and enjoyment in the game.

Streaming decisions are always made in the **best interest of the player (rather than the parent/ guardian)** and are guided by our commitment to providing opportunities for everyone.

How Streaming Works

- Player welfare is the top priority.
- Ideally, streaming should be completed by **May** each year to allow for:
 - Accurate team registration for leagues.
 - Squad bonding during pre-season tournaments.
 - Early identification of recruitment needs.
 - Resolving any concerns ahead of the season.

Decision-Making Process:

1. **Team Manager** – Initial assessment and recommendation.
2. **Age Group Lead** – Review and discussion.
3. **Ware Lions Executive Committee** – In exceptional circumstances where additional guidance is requested.

Streaming discussions must be collaborative, fair, and transparent, always keeping the **Football for All** ethos in mind.

Club Age Group Squad Size Guidance

- 5-a-side: Minimum **8 players**
 - 7-a-side: Minimum **10 players**
 - 9-a-side: Minimum **12 players**
 - 11-a-side: Minimum **14 players** (Recommended **15-16 players**)
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The Impact of Streaming

Without Streaming:

- Higher-skilled players risk losing motivation if not challenged.
- Lower-skilled players may feel overwhelmed and disengage.

With Streaming:

- Players progress at their own pace.
- Team cohesion improves.
- Development is prioritised over results.
- Every player has the opportunity to participate and improve.

Considerations for Streaming

Primary Factor:

- Player ability, assessed using the **FA Four Corner Model** (Technical, Physical, Psychological, Social).

Additional Factors include (but not limited to):

- Parental involvement (if a parent is coaching).
- Player availability due to schooling.
- Player preferences following discussions.
- Family logistics for coaches with multiple children.
- Balancing player numbers across multiple teams.

Mid-season adjustments may occur if necessary for player development, ensuring every player remains engaged and supported. In exceptional circumstances the Executive Committee may also consider streaming to resolve factors not listed above.

Frequently Asked Questions

When should streaming take place?

Ideally at the end of the prior season (May) before the following season starts, with a possible review at the league's mid-season break.

What if a player does not want to move up?

Players will be encouraged through supportive discussions about their development but will never be forced.

What if a player does not want to move down?

Decisions will be made to protect the player's development and the overall squad balance, with sensitivity and care.

What if parents challenge streaming decisions?

Concerns should follow this pathway:

1. **Team Manager** – Initial discussion.
2. **Age Group Lead** – Mediation.
3. **Ware Lions Executive Committee** – Final decision.

By following this policy, Ware Lions Football Club promotes **Football for All**, ensuring that every player is given the opportunity to thrive in a positive and supportive environment.