



Kent Football United



FAQs

This season we thought we would put together a list of frequently asked questions to assist in answering some of the items we get asked a lot during the season.

What do my monthly training subscriptions contribute towards?

Monthly training subscriptions contribute to the costs in running the club. These include training venues, matchday venues, ground lease, electric, water, maintenance which includes machinery servicing and upkeep, referees where applicable and ground development.

How has the ground changed in the last six seasons?

For those members who have not been here that long, our ground was just a grass field six seasons ago. The amount of work which has gone in has been quite considerable and the developments have continued every season. Any money left once costs are all paid creates a club fund which goes towards development of the clubs infrastructure.

Do Bluewater pay for kits every season as they are a sponsor on the front?

No they do not fund the kits every season. The Bluewater logo is part of a deal which was made in 2016. Kent Football United became the Bluewater community football club alongside the cricket and rugby club they also support. Bluewater paid a lump sum of £12,500 which paid for the cost of laser levelling the entire playing surface at The Glentworth back in 2016. As part of the deal sponsor rights for the front of the home kits were given to Bluewater. This deal will be re-negotiated at the end of the 2020/21 season.

Do I have to buy new kit every season? Can kit be bought during the season?

No you don't. With your membership pack you will be given a kit order form which you can order what you need from. Mitre is a decent make of kit and kits which are well looked after will last 2 seasons size dependant. In addition, we are excited to launch a new club shop from the 2020/21 season which will be open on Saturday mornings 10am till 12noon at The Glentworth. Kit, jackets, polo tops and other merchandise can be bought here throughout the season.

What age groups does the club cover?

The club covers football for all ages from 4 up to 18 both male and female. We are proud that due to the status of the club we can offer a progression for male football into the Kent Youth League at U13s which is County standard. In addition, due to our growing female section, 900% in the past year, we are able to provide a player pathway to the FA Women's National League Tier 4.

What opportunities are there for my child to attend Mens (Saturday) and Womens (Sunday) games and get involved?

We offer opportunities every home game for both the Men and Women. Next season we will have advertise on a weekly basis for ball boys/girls, mascots and flag bearers (new for 2020/21). In addition, all of these will get to take part in a half time penalty shootout and meet the team. Furthermore, continuing from last season there will be opportunities for your child to sponsor a player in the senior setup. This assists us with the costs involved of competing at senior level in a semi-professional capacity and gives even more opportunities for our young players to be involved.

How important is it that I remain behind the RESPECT barrier at all times?

Vitally important as this is a mandatory club and FA ruling. RESPECT barriers can be constructed in many different ways. At KFU we are fortunate to have permanent fencing up with netting which clearly provides a barrier between the pitch and spectators. At other grounds you may come across temporary barriers, rope or even cones. All of these constitute a RESPECT barrier. It is a safeguarding offence to cross this barrier at any times during a game and in doing so you may see yourself facing disciplinary action not just from the club but from the local County FA.

If an opposition team or group of spectators is aiming abuse at our team what should I do?

Nothing on the day. As hard as it may be to bite your lip it is imperative that you do not get involved or engage in any way. Any report you wish to make should be made in writing to your team manager who will then forward to the club. The club then has the powers to officially report it to the league who will open disciplinary proceedings to see if a case is needed. Any involvement you make on the day would see you actively involved and disciplinary action taken upon yourself. If you have a severe concern on the day please make your team manager aware. Team managers are briefed on how to deal with such situations in a way we protect our teams players, spectators and management.

Are all club officials qualified to work with children?

Yes all club named officials are DBS checked to work with children in a footballing capacity through the Kent FA. It is vitally important that ONLY the named officials for the team are on the pitch at both training and matches. In order to ensure the highest levels of safeguarding are in place the Kent FA do regular spot checks on clubs. The Kent FA have a list of all our teams and the officials involved and did do spot checks at Kent Football United during the 2019/20 season. If you have concerns that your team has parents involved working with the team at training and matches who are NOT named official for your team you need to inform the club immediately.

I have spoken to my team manager and want to help out. Can I do so straight away?

You are not permitted to work with the team until such time the club has confirmed it to you in writing. The process is as follows. As per rule 9 you need to write to the secretary s.macneil.kfu@gmail.com stating your wish to get involved with one of our teams. The secretary will then make contact. Your application will then be put to vote to become part of the management committee of the club. On approval you will complete a DBS application and be sent a club uniform order form. Once all complete you will be able to commence working with the team. It is a club rule (8e) that all officials working with teams must wear club branded uniform.

If I am warming up the goalkeeper, even for 10 minutes, do I need to be DBS checked with the club?

Yes you do. Anyone who is actively involved with the team on the other side of the RESPECT barrier MUST be DBS checked and a named official to ensure we meet all safeguarding requirements. If you know you complete one of these roles or would like to please speak to your manager and make contact with the club secretary s.macneil.kfu@gmail.com. The process is quick and simple and ensures the club are operating at the highest levels of safeguarding across all of our teams.

What equipment is provided for teams each season?

The club buys new footballs every season for its teams and ensures all teams have the necessary cones and bibs to complete training sessions. Due to the size of the club it is unrealistic for us to buy additional equipment such as ladders, hurdles, hoops, poles for every team. Therefore, from the 2020/21 season we are opening a club coach store at the home ground. This store will feature club owned equipment which teams can use for training sessions. It is a cost effective way of us providing a higher level of equipment which is accessible to all of our teams.

What is the best way I can support my child during their football at KFU?

Firstly ensure you arrive promptly for training and games. Preparation is key to success and development and is something which you are in control of. Encouragement and positivity at all times – children are children and develop at different ages. No two children's football journeys will be the same. On the side lines please refrain from coaching which is against the club code of conduct, which you would have read. Encouragement is much appreciated and goes a long way to a positive experience. Support your coach in what they are trying to do – if you watch the training sessions and the skills they are working on try to replicate these outside of organised sessions at the club. Can you reinforce that knowledge in your home environment whether that be in the garden or down the park? Finally, encourage your child to WATCH the game. Not skill videos but matches. It is proven that children who watch football matches have a much better understanding of the game whether that be on TV or even better LIVE. There is lots of affordable non-league football available on Saturday afternoons available to go and watch.

If I arrive at training before my coach what should I do? Can I bring my own ball?

As per rule 10b of the club rules it states that if you arrive before your management then you must wait off of the pitches until they arrive. In addition, no personal footballs should be brought to training or match venues as part of our clubs policy and direction on a professional approach. You wouldn't attend an academy session with your own ball kicking it against the fence or running on their pitches with no coach instruction and so the same rules are expected at Kent Football United.

What support do the club give the club coaches which other clubs do not?

All of our coaches are given FREE in-house CPD every month on various aspects of coaching. This enables the upskilling of our coaching staff through the sharing of knowledge and experience within the club. Furthermore, when teams move from 5v5 to 7v7, 7v7 to 9v9 and 9v9 to 11v11 we give transition support. All of our coaches are also given cash incentives to enhance their coaching qualifications with a 50% payback scheme available on all FA courses 6 months following completion. There is a clear and direct line of communication to the top of the football club for all coaches which they are able to use for advice, guidance and support in any aspect of their role.

How can we keep up to date with information at the club?

Every month a club memo is sent round to all teams which covers the main points of information. In addition, our social media pages are updated on a daily basis with content from the club. Please give them a follow if you haven't already. www.twitter.com/kentfootunited and www.facebook.com/kentfootballunited

Why is Kent Football United the best place for my child?

This club which is now starting our 10th anniversary season has developed quicker than any other club. The rapid rise of our home facilities, 900% growth in female football, player pathways to semi-professional football for boys and girls, club goalkeeper school, KFU community projects and a driven committee to improving and upskilling the coaching staff which we have. The club runs with a clear professional approach of maintaining high standards with the development of young footballers our sole focus.

Thank you for your continued support to Kent Football United

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