

West Midlands County Schools' FA



Selection Statement

Players eligible for trials and subsequent selection **must** attend a school within the Metropolitan County of the West Midlands.

GENERAL

The selection of each squad is the responsibility of the Director of Representative Football and the management team appointed annually by West Midlands County Schools' Football Association (WMCSFA), together with other WMCSFA officials where appropriate.

The selection criteria for a squad for the season as a whole, or for any match, is based on the managers'/selectors' judgement and perception of a player's abilities, attitude/conduct (including factors such as punctuality, appearance, and reliability), athleticism, decision-making, fitness levels, commitment and the need for team balance. All selection decisions, whether for further trials in the trials process, or for the final squad, are based on the director's, managers'/selectors' judgement and the WMCSFA is unable to discuss individual cases.

Once a squad of around 25 is selected for the season, a match day squad of 16 will be selected. The squad will usually rotate after each game depending on performance, fitness, availability and overall balance of the squad. If a player is unavailable for a match, their parents should inform the Manager asap so that a player from the standby list can be called into the match day squad. If continual absence from matches occurs, consultation will take place between player, parents and the WMCSFA as to their commitment to the team.

In Inter-County competition matches, selection and playing time may be made on the 'best team' basis although over the season every effort will be made to involve the whole squad – the extent to which this is possible will depend on the management team's judgement and perception as outlined above.

The WMCSFA operates with the following squad sizes:

- A squad of approximately, 25 for the season
- A match day squad of 16 will normally be selected at least 7 days prior to a game. Those on standby should also inform the Manager of their availability so they can be called into the match day squad if required
- Some squads will be changed throughout the season with new players being introduced as they are nominated by schools

TRIALS PROCESS

In order to select the players for the team the following will apply:

- Players should be nominated on the official nomination form.
- Players should attend a school which is within the West Midlands CSFA as defined by the English Schools' FA.
- Schools should affiliate to their local District Association.
- Players can be nominated for "open" trials by parents or team managers of clubs. In the event of players being selected through this route, their school will be notified, and final selection will depend upon the support, and eligibility of the school.
- Players' parents/carers must complete and sign the official Consent Form.
- The WMCSFA shall administer the selection process.
- A minimum of two managers/selectors are to be at each trial.
- The management team and other WMCSFA officials shall be the main selectors. Other selectors may be invited by the WMCSFA as appropriate.

TRIALS SPECIFIC INFORMATION

- The number of trials to be held will be determined by the number of nominations received.

- Each trial shall consist of match play, but trials may also incorporate coaching which will form part of the selection process.
- During match play, players can expect to participate for a reasonable length of time across the trial process as a whole – as determined by the managers/selectors for the purposes of making judgments. Some players may receive more game time than others.
- Every endeavour shall be given to trialling players in their preferred positions, although there will be occasions when a player is asked to trial in another position.
- Selectors shall consider all aspects of the game including (but not limited to) physical ability, skill, tactics, and attitude.
- Selectors shall reach decisions by consensus wherever possible. If consensus cannot be reached, a vote by the main selectors shall be held.
- When selecting one player before another, selectors shall make an “on balance” decision, based on all the attributes and abilities shown by the players.
- Following the final trial, a squad of players will be announced. When selecting the final squad, selectors shall consider the balance of the squad in terms of positional play.
- Prior achievements and accomplishments outside of trials and squad training may be considered.
- Injured players may be given time to trial by being exempted from early trials or by being included in squads provided the timeline is sufficient to enable adequate preparation after selection.

Should you have any concerns regarding the trials process or Selection Policy, please contact the Safeguarding Officer in the first instance.

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