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RESPECT

The ArcOframe Stadium, Ruskin Drive Sports Village, St Helens, WA10 6RP

17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

TO: ALL PARENTS, CARERS, COACHES, ASSISTANTS

RE: **AUGUST PRE-SEASON UPDATE (1 of 2)**

Hello again

Hope everyone is enjoying the Summer Holiday break and the kids aren't too bored as yet.....!?

The weeks are flying by as we head toward the official league opening weekends in early September, and there has been lots going on in the background in readiness for the New Season.

This latest update covers the main two projects that we need to complete if we are to get everyone ready and set for the 'Big Kick Off':

### **PLAYER REGISTRATIONS / CODES OF CONDUCTS**

You may recall from our last update, that we had requested that every parent register their child/children with the FA Whole Game System (WGS) to obtain a 'FAN' number and in doing so, each parent also register their own FAN account on the same system, too.

There were two reasons for requesting those accounts to be set up.

Firstly, each player who plays for any grassroots football club is attached to the club they play for via the same FA online system (WGS). If a player doesn't have a FAN account on WGS, then we cannot attach the player to our Club on WGS, which in turn, means that the player would not be able to play in League Games when the Kick Off arrives.

As at the time of writing, our Junior Club Secretary reports that this part of our registration process is 95% complete, which means you guys must have done your bit – so a *BIG thank you!*

That moves us on to the second reason why we need those FAN accounts, and that's the task of registering each parent and child direct with Pilkington Football Club. Unfortunately, there is no direct link that we can use to bring details logged on WGS into our own Club, and irrespective, we as a Grassroots Football Club have an additional responsibility to ensure the information we collect on each parent and player also includes confirmation from each individual that they understand and respect the 'Codes of Conduct' that apply to each and every one of us when we become involved in Childrens/Youth Football.

The physical process of registering both parents and players with Pilkington FC will be organised via our new Junior Club Website, which is due to be launched in the coming days. That process will automatically include the need for each parent and player to confirm their approval of those 'Codes of Conduct', too.



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However, rather than outline that process in more detail during this update, we shall send more detailed instructions on 'How to Register' in the second of our August updates in due course.

To be clear on this matter... ALL Players who represent Pilkington FC this coming season will need to be registered with the Club before they can take part in any official League fixtures this season, so by the time the website is launched, we'll have 2-3 weeks to get this process completed. 🙌

### **NEW PILKINGTON FC JUNIOR TEAM WEAR**

Most of you will be aware that we are changing the teamwear across the whole Junior section this Summer, and the vast majority of you have been supportive of this programme by paying the £30.00 contribution that we requested in our last update. Thank you!

Orders for each of our Teams were placed with our new supplier (Kappa) during the course of July, with delivery times promised for the duration of August.

However, following receipt of the first two team orders last week, it became evident that Kappa have not maintained the commitments they made during the order process, whereby we had assurances that the specific kit options we had chosen would be well stocked throughout this period.

The first two orders that have been received had missing items and/or socks that were evidently not what was originally ordered, e.g. one of our Under 8's team box contained socks sized Adult 6-8.

What is now clear, is that there will be a mighty scramble between now and the end of August to ensure that all kits arrive in the sizes and colours that were originally ordered earlier in this pre-season. Having seen how clear and specific we had been in the ordering process, it's hugely disappointing that the guys at Kappa appear to have mismanaged the process come the time for them to deliver.

That said, we are confident that we'll get there before the 'Big Kick-Off'.

### **NEXT STEPS...**

There will be a second August update being circulated in the coming days which will cover the new Website launch, including those Parent/Player registration details. It's vitally important that everyone takes the time to do their bit in this respect, as outlined above.

Finally, apologies for the delay in our ability to start distributing our new Teamwear. It's hugely frustrating from the Club's perspective. But we're keeping everything crossed that we'll have everyone kitted out and ready, come League Season 'Kick Off'!

Up the Pilks!! ❤️



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