



**PILKINGTON FC**  
**Juniors**

# **PARENT / GUARDIAN WELCOME PACK 2024**

**#UPTHEPILKS**





**PILKINGTON FC**  
**Juniors**

## **Welcome to Pilkington Junior Football Club**

Thank you for choosing Pilkington Junior Football Club for your child. We're delighted to have you and your child as part of our team.

This welcome pack is designed to give you an overview of what our club is about and what you can expect. You'll also find important contact information for those involved with the club, should you need to reach out.

Please take the time to read through this information. While some of it may be familiar, we hope it will enhance your child's experience playing football.



## Our Background & Ethos

Pilkington FC Juniors is a volunteer-led grassroots football club located in the Dentons Green area of St. Helens, Merseyside, based at Ruskin Drive Sports Village. Sharing County FA affiliation with Pilkington FC Senior Teams, our long-term goal is to provide a pathway for local talent to develop and play football within a high-quality environment, within the St. Helens area.

Since the junior section was reformed in 2017, it has grown steadily, adding new teams each year.

Our ethos is to ensure that children can play football in a fun, safe, and positive environment.

## Our Committee

Our small committee meets regularly to discuss club matters and oversee the running of Pilkington JFC. The committee, supported by team managers and coaches, consists of:

- **Chair:** Darren Roberts - [chairman@pilkingtonfcjuniors.co.uk](mailto:chairman@pilkingtonfcjuniors.co.uk)
- **Secretary:** Jamie Dickson (U18s Coach) - [secretary@pilkingtonfcjuniors.co.uk](mailto:secretary@pilkingtonfcjuniors.co.uk)
- **Club Welfare Officer:** Rachel Jones - 07745789502 [welfare@pilkingtonfcjuniors.co.uk](mailto:welfare@pilkingtonfcjuniors.co.uk)
- **Treasurer:** Jane Roberts
- **Matchday Coordinator:** Kevin Stead (U13 Pumas Coach)
- **Referees & Teamwear Coordinator:** Phil Barrigan (U12 Madrid Coach)

Additional committee members include: Greg Clare (U12 Lilies Coach), Dave Llewelyn (U12 Barca Coach), and John Rees (U13 Lilies Coach).

**Please note that all committee members and managers are unpaid volunteers.**



## FA Charter Status

We are proud to have achieved FA Charter Standard status, a significant accomplishment for a club of our size. This status reflects our commitment to upholding the club's ethos and includes:

- A coach from each team holding at least an FA Level 1 coaching qualification.
- Adherence to FA policies and procedures.
- All coaches trained in First Aid and Safeguarding.
- Completion of FA Criminal Record Checks (DBS) for all coaches and helpers.

## Managers & Coaches

Most of our managers and coaches are parents who have stepped up to help. All of them volunteer their time to ensure the children have a team to play in.

Typically, each team has a manager/coach and an assistant, who receive full support from the club.

## Teams

Our teams begin playing matches at the U7 level (Year 2). By this time, most players have already gained experience through our partnership for sessions for younger children, which helps them learn the game before joining leagues.

Teams play in different formats and for different durations, depending on their age group:

- U7 to U8: 5-a-side, duration 40 minutes
- U9 to U10: 7-a-side duration 50 minutes
- U11 to U12: 9-a-side duration 60 minutes
- U13 and above: 11-a-side duration 70 - 90 minutes, depending on age.

### Player Transfers

Players are registered with one team within the Club. No player can transfer from one team to another within the Club without explicit approval from the Junior Committee. Coaches or parents must not actively recruit players from other teams within the Club. If a Coach/Manager receives a request from a parent for a current Pilkington Junior FC player to join their team, they must refer them to the Committee for instruction.



## Game Time

Our Club's philosophy is to offer equal game time for all players from Under 7 to Under 9, as far as is reasonably practical. From Under 10 to Under 11, Coaches are able to use discretion when determining player game time, although as a minimum all players should play a half game minimum. From Under 12 and above, games are played competitively

## Free Kicks & Corners

We adopt a Free kick and Corner Rotation Policy up to Under 12 to ensure that all players have the opportunity to participate in set-piece situations, such as free kicks and corners, to support all player's skill development and equal participation.

### Assigning Free Kick Takers:

- Coaches rotate players as free-kick takers, giving different players the chance to take direct or indirect free kicks throughout the match.
- This rotation might be predetermined before the game or decided on the spot by the coach, depending on the situation (distance, angle, etc.).

### Assigning Corner Kick Takers:

- Similar to free kicks, players are rotated to take corner kicks.
- The rotation might change with each corner or after a set number of corners, depending on the coach's approach.

## Where We Play

Match days for teams from U7 upwards are usually held on Saturday mornings; at either our home venue of Ruskin Drive Sports Village or at an away venue which will be communicated to you by your team's manager/coach on a weekly basis.

Training times and dates vary depending on team and age group, these will be confirmed to you by your manager/coach and we encourage parents and guardians to stay and watch their children train and play.



## Leagues

Most of our teams play in the Warrington Junior League, which includes over 75 clubs and 800 teams within a 15-mile radius of Market Gate in Warrington. While U7 to U11 games are non-competitive (no league tables), scores are recorded. U12 and above are competitive, and the league monitors and adjusts teams' levels to ensure fair competition. Fixtures are available from mid-August, with the season starting in early September running until May.



## Player Registration

Before your child joins the club, we require some essential information: names, addresses, date of birth, contact numbers, and any medical conditions. Registration is done online, your Team Manager will share details of how to complete.

## Subs

We aim to keep subs affordable, charging £25 per month for a 12-month period. A sibling discount of £5 per child is available for families with more than one child in the Junior section. Subs are collected by your team's designated collector, please ensure subs are provided to your team's designated collector in a timely manner. If you have any questions, please address them through your team's collector.

## Financial Assistance

We offer a Financial Assistance Fund for a limited number of players, which aims to provide financial support to players who may otherwise be unable to participate in our club's activities. A confidential application can be made via your child's Coach or a member of the Junior Committee. Please contact them for further details and eligibility criteria.

## Safeguarding

Pilkington FC Juniors acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment, be allowed to develop at their own rate and be protected from poor practice and abuse. This is the responsibility of **every** adult involved in our club.

**Rachel Jones** is the Welfare Officer for the Juniors Section of the Club and **Nicola Woods** supports her as Assistant Welfare Officer. As well as both being parents of players in the club, Rachel and Nicola bring with them a wealth of experience from working within the voluntary, HR and education sectors.

As Club Welfare Officers, Rachel and Nicola work with the County FA Welfare Officer to promote good practice, follow up on any concerns from players, parents or club officials, ensure club officials have the relevant recruitment checks and training and that the FA's Respect rules are being consistently adhered to.

If you have any concerns at all, whether you are a player, parent, manager or friend, please do not hesitate to contact them at [welfare@pilkingtonfcjuniors.co.uk](mailto:welfare@pilkingtonfcjuniors.co.uk)

**You can also report any accidents, incidents or concerns via our online reporting form – [Pilkington Junior FC Incident reporting form](#)**



## Reporting a Concern

Members safety and wellbeing is our number one priority and the club is committed to taking preventative and swift action to ensure this.

If you have concerns about a child or children, there are **five** ways to report a concern:

1. To one of our Club Welfare Officers, Rachel Jones or Nicola Woods, [welfare@pikingtonfcjuniors.co.uk](mailto:welfare@pikingtonfcjuniors.co.uk)
2. To the Liverpool County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer: [safeguarding@liverpoolfa.com](mailto:safeguarding@liverpoolfa.com) or 0151 523 4488 (204)
3. To the FA Safeguarding Team: [Safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com) or 0800 169 1863
4. If it is an emergency because a child or children are at immediate risk: Call the Police (999) or Children's Social Care (01744 676767 Option 2, or, Out of Hours 0345 050 0148)
5. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague's conduct towards a child or young person can also use whistleblowing by calling 0800 169 1863 and asking for The FA's safeguarding team, or via email to [Safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com)

### UNDER 18?

Childline offers free, confidential advice and support whatever your worry, whenever you need help - 0800 1111

**Please remember that if you are in immediate danger, ALWAYS call 999**

There is also the opportunity for you as the parent or carer to complete a safeguarding course that is free of charge via the FA website. If you would like further information, please contact [welfare@pikingtonfcjuniors.co.uk](mailto:welfare@pikingtonfcjuniors.co.uk)

All club documents relating to Safeguarding and Welfare can be found in the club documents section on our website <https://www.pikingtonfcjuniors.co.uk/documents/>

**MAKE  
FOOTBALL SAFE.  
WE ALL HAVE A  
PART TO PLAY.**



For ALL  
In partnership with  
**NSPCC**



Supported by  
**Premier  
League**



## How can you help?

### Allow the Coach to coach

We know that everyone wants the team to do well during their football game, we ask that you please keep the words on the sidelines positive and encouraging. We also request that you leave the coaching to the team's coach(es). We understand that you may be tempted to direct the team if you see something but please bear in mind that the coaches have a plan, and it can be very confusing for the children if they are getting conflicted information from different sources.

### Our Codes of Conduct

As a parent/guardian of a child at our club you play an important role in promoting a positive playing environment, as well as helping to facilitate the opportunity for your child to play football.

This includes ensuring your child arrives for training and matches on time and in the right kit. Playing kit will be provided but all players will need the correct boots, shin pads, a drink and a jacket (weather dependent).

Training sessions and matches are often planned at least a week in advance, if your child cannot attend for whatever reason we ask that you let the coach(es) know in good time. This is especially important when it comes to matches as we need to let the opposition/league know if we cannot fulfil the fixtures as fines are incurred.

All our children sign up to the [Pilkinton Juniors Code of Conduct](#), as parents/carers it's important that you encourage your child to follow the code of conduct and display acceptable standards of behaviour towards teammates, opposition and the facilities whilst at Ruskin Sports Village and when representing Pilkington Juniors FC.

We actively encourage open and transparent communication between the coach(es) and parents, please remember however that all our coaches are volunteers who give up their time to enable your child to play football.

During all training sessions and matches only coach(es)/managers and volunteers who have obtained a FA recognised DBS are permitted on to the pitch, all parents/carers should remain behind the viewing barriers to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our children. All parents/guardians are required to agree to the FA Code of Conduct (below) as part of the annual Player Registration process, and we encourage parents/guardians to share with other spectators.

### [FA Grassroots Code for Adults in Youth Football](#)



# I RESPECT THE STANDARD

## THE GRASSROOTS CODE FOR ADULTS IN YOUTH FOOTBALL

### ENJOY THE GAME

**We're here to enjoy ourselves...win, lose or draw.**

**To help make football more enjoyable for all I should:**

- Come to training and matches with a positive attitude and put the well-being of children first.
- Recognise examples of respect, effort and good play, as well as achievement.
- Appreciate grassroots football should be about children playing and having fun, not solely about results.

### GIVE RESPECT

**We always treat others as we'd like to be treated. To give respect at football I must:**

- Always use respectful and positive language and actions.
- Not argue with the referee, coach, and officials, and accept their decisions.
- Avoid coaching from the sidelines as a spectator, recognising this is likely to cause uncertainty and confusion across the team.
- Encourage children to show fair play by shaking hands with opponents and being kind, whether we win or lose.
- Stay in designated spectator or technical areas.
- Tidy up after myself and take care of the facilities we use.

### BE INCLUSIVE

**We embrace our differences, football is a game for everyone.**

**To be inclusive at football I must:**

- Show zero tolerance for discrimination of any kind.
- Report anything that concerns me via the relevant channel.
- Treat people based on their character, and nothing else.
- Accept that we all bring our own personal perspectives to the game.
- Not exclude anyone because of background or personal characteristics.
- Strive to give fair playing time to all children.

### WORK TOGETHER

**We're a team, on and off the pitch. To help us bond as a team I should:**

- Remember we are 'one team' helping young people enjoy football.
- Encourage players and celebrate their effort.
- Avoid criticising players if they make a mistake.
- Discourage cheating, complaining and time wasting from everyone.
- Accept that my child may not always be able to play in their favourite position, or may need to make a break to give someone else playing time.



### **We all have a role in safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults.**

#### **To keep everyone safe I must:**

- Accept it is my responsibility to know if my role in football places me in a position of trust.
- Speak to my Club or League Designated Safeguarding Officer if I am unsure whether I am in a position of trust.
- Understand appropriate boundaries must be in place, both online and during face-to-face activity.
- Let a Club Official know if I see anything that looks unsafe.
- Be aware of who the first aiders are, and where the nearest Automatic External Defibrillator is located.
- Keep appropriate boundaries by:
  - Always putting the well-being of children first.
  - Being friendly but professional.
  - Encouraging children to review their own progress.
  - Raising concerns about a child to the Club Welfare Officer if they display behaviour not usual to them or which causes concern.
- Follow the 'Physical contact and young people: Guidance for grassroots football' guidelines. If my role requires physical contact with a child, I will:
  - Ask the child's permission and explain the type of, and reason for the physical contact.
  - Keep physical contact to skill development, first aid, harm prevention or celebration of success or comfort in times of distress.
  - Ensure another responsible adult is present for the duration.
  - Remember physical touch should be culturally sensitive to a child.
  - Not participate in training, warm up or cool down sessions with children (including myself) to protect them from accidental physical harm.

**IF I DON'T  
live up  
to the  
Standard**

#### **I understand that my club, League, County FA or The FA may take action, that could include:**

- Giving me a verbal warning.
- Asking me to meet with the Club, League or CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer.
- Asking me to meet with the Club Committee.
- Asking that I complete an FA education course.
- Asking that I leave the match venue.
- Requesting that I do not attend future games.
- Suspending me or removing my Club membership.
- Fining me.
- Fining and/or suspending my Club.

#### **About Referees, Assistant Referees and Match Officials:**

The FA believes that all Match Officials should be able to officiate free from the threat of violence or intimidation. Any threatening behaviour or physical contact on a Match Official will result in a lengthy exclusion from football and possibly a criminal prosecution.

**SIGNED:**

**DATE:**



**LOVE FOOTBALL.  
PROTECT THE GAME.**





## Teamwear

The Junior Section has a two-year agreement with Kappa to supply Club teamwear, running from Summer 2023 to Summer 2025. That aligns with Shirt Sponsorship agreements with 'Pilkington Automotive' and 'Just Financial Group' to fund the provision of Home and Away Playing Shirts for all players during that period.



A new agreement will come into force for the 2025/26 season which may involve a change of supplier and an overhaul of how we attract sponsors to the section. That process will begin in the New Year. It is important that everyone is aware that any kits that are currently in circulation, or indeed, any kits or teamwear that are newly purchased, will only have one season of 'use' before any new agreement kicks in.

New player/arrivals to the Club are expected to pay £30.00 to receive full home and away playing kits. The spirit of this arrangement is that the £30.00 pays for the shorts and socks of both strips.

The playing shirts are provided under the shirt sponsorship agreements referenced above.

If a player leaves the club, we expect the two playing shirts to be returned in useable condition.

If a player leaves the club and returns the shorts and socks in near perfect condition, the Club will consider returning the original £30.00 payment as a measure of goodwill.

Teamwear items such as raincoats, zip tops, polo shirts, base layers etc are available. Your coach will have the details of the Clubs' contact at Kappa Teamsports to place orders on your behalf from an approved list of items and colours (at the discounted prices that we have negotiated). Our Junior teams often source their own additional sponsorship/ carry out fundraising for these items, all potential sponsorships should be submitted to the Committee prior to progressing to ensure there is no conflict with current sponsorship agreements.

Only Club Approved Kappa Teamwear will be accepted during official Pilkington playing and training sessions.

If individual teams have sponsorship offers from local companies (to purchase raincoats, zip tops etc), then any such offer needs to be approved by the Committee before funds are accepted and teamwear purchased. Any such enquiries should be directed through each respective team coach.



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**Juniors**

For further information please check out the  
Pilkington FC Juniors webpage at  
[www.pilkingtongfcjuniors.co.uk](http://www.pilkingtongfcjuniors.co.uk)

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