



**JUNIOR PLAYER
REGISTRATION
INFORMATION
2025/26**

WELCOME

Welcome to South Molton Football Club.

We hope you and your family enjoy being part of the South Molton AFC community.

The FA have several mandatory requirements which are essential before players can be registered to play in any league. These are as follows:

- Players must be registered with the Devon FA Membership Scheme
 - The club will register all players for this Scheme, but this can only be done once the membership form is completed with payment made.
- Players must have a profile photo uploaded to the club portal (the FA's Information System which is used by all leagues for game and player management)
 - Upload your child's photo as part of the online application process
- A parent link must be set up for every youth player on the club portal
 - The club will do this from the parent's email address and date of birth supplied on the membership form
 - This will then create a FAN (Football Association Number) for the parent and enable us to link the parent to the child on the club portal

In order to register players with the leagues before the start of the season, please complete the online membership form through the 'Team Fee Pay' app. The link will be sent to you once your child is offered a space.

Membership registration should only be submitted upon receipt of an invite and link from either the age group's team manager or the club's membership secretary.

If your child is interested in joining, please email membership@southmoltonafc.co.uk stating details of the player – Full name, date of birth, school year alongside a contact name and number.

Payment of membership fees must be made when signing up.

TEAM FEE PAY, TEAMER & FACEBOOK

Team Fee pay is our online membership app where registration and membership payments are managed.

Teamer is the club's main form of communication. All training and match details as well as social events are communicated here.

If you're not already set up, we will use the email address that you provide on your child's membership form to set you up on Teamer. You will receive an invitation with instructions on how to accept. Once you're set up you will need to download the Teamer app and then you'll be ready to go. You can also access Teamer using an internet browser. We can add more than one email address to a player so that both parents / guardians can have access if you wish. Please message your age group's coach with the other name and separate email address.

CLUB WEBSITE

Everything you need to know about South Molton Football Club can be found here on our website at www.southmoltonafc.co.uk. This includes details of our ground, training sessions, committee members, club documents and the FA's Respect code of conduct.

RESPECT & CODE OF CONDUCT

It goes without saying that players must always show respect to their teammates, coaches, match officials, other spectators, the opposition, the opposition's coaches and the facilities provided. These rules also apply to parents and spectators – it is never acceptable for an adult to undermine a player, coach or match official from the sideline and it is against FA rules for parents / guardians to enter the playing area unless permitted to do so by match officials – please let the referee and coaches deal with any issues that arise.

There have been incidents where clubs have been fined for the behaviour of player's parents. Please note that any such fines will be passed on to the parents or spectators.

SMAFC wishes to uphold a reputation of being a respectful club in terms of behaviour on and off the pitch and our players and young spectators will follow the examples set by the adults around them – so let's make sure that the examples we set are good ones.

Please take the time to read the information and watch the Respect videos on the website with your child and read the Codes of Conduct for players and supporters. By signing and submitting your membership form, you are confirming that you and your child have read and will act in accordance with the codes of conduct and follow the principles of Respect.

Our documents page can be found by clicking this link [here](#), whilst our respect page can be found [here](#). Both links will take you to the relevant pages on our website.

SAFEGUARDING & WELFARE

Every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in football; thus, every club is required to endorse and adhere to the Football Association's safeguarding children policy. The club's welfare officer is Sarah Seatherton (sarahseatherton@gmail.com) and our FA safeguarding children policy is available on our [Documents](#) page. Any concerns regarding child welfare should be directed to the child welfare officer in the first instance.

We strongly advise that all players are escorted to and from their football sessions. We would not expect any primary school age child to be arriving or leaving without an adult. The club are only responsible for your child during the allotted session time, therefore, all players remain parental responsibility before and after any training session or match.

Please do not leave your child until the coach has arrived and collect them on time at the end of the session. (For Mini Kickers / U8's, please see the separate document as there is additional information for this age group which can be found on our [Documents](#) page)

Please note, parents / carers of Mini Kicker players must be in attendance for the duration of the training sessions.

We will follow the FA's missing child protocol in the unlikely event that a child is unaccounted for during training.

You can find our children safeguarding policy [here](#).

PHOTOGRAPHY & SOCIAL MEDIA

We request that you do not take photos during training and matches and upload them to social media. This is to allow for the best possible footballing experience for the children. There may be children and adults that have not given consent for their images being used and shared.

We are aware that most players will have camera phones.

Taking photos or videos in any of our changing rooms or toilets is strictly prohibited.

SAFETY EYEWEAR IN FOOTBALL

For the safety of the player and other participants, children and adults that wear glasses for everyday activities need to wear specialised safety eyewear (Sport Goggles or Sport Glasses) secured with a sports strap, during football matches and practice. Referees and coaches can stop a player from playing or training if they are wearing glasses. This is inclusive of all age groups. Sports goggles are the recommended sports safety eyewear if contact lenses cannot be worn.

For more information, including a discount scheme from Specsavers, please contact Sarah Seatherton (sarahseatherton@gmail.com).

ILLNESS

Players should not be at training if they are unwell. To ensure the welfare of all children in our club, if your child becomes unwell during a session, you will be asked to take them home as soon as possible.

If your child has suffered from diarrhoea or vomiting, they must be kept away from the club for a minimum of 48 hours from the last episode. If your child has a fever, they must be kept away from club sessions for a minimum of 24 hours or until their fever has returned to normal.

The club reserve the right to refuse access to the session to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the session leader.

TRAINING SEASON

Training is in term time only and usually starts in September through to the end of the football season in May. Some managers may start training sooner and some may finish slightly later, this is down to the discretion of each manager.

To allow for pitch maintenance and preparation for the new season, all age groups will finish training by the end of May.

Please remember that all our coaches are volunteers (many coach more than one age group). The involvement in running each age group is a very time-consuming commitment, which does impact on their own time.

The season starts at the club's pitch until the clocks go back in the winter. Training then moves to the astro turf (or old sports hall) at South Molton Community College, just down the road from the club. When the clocks go forward, training returns to the pitch.

On rare occasions, training or matches may need to be cancelled or postponed due to adverse weather conditions or illness. Any such cancellations will be communicated through the 'Teamer' app.

Please respond to Teamer invites to communicate your attendance. Training venues and times are subject to change. As we must adhere to strict adult / child ratios, there are waiting lists for some teams.

You can find out what times our age groups train [here](#).

MEMBERSHIP & PAYMENTS

South Molton Football Club is run 100% by volunteers who put in their time, free of charge, so all our children can play the game they love. The continuation of the club is dependent on incoming revenue.

Membership payment can be made in full at the start of the season or through monthly payments. This can be set up on the Team Fee Pay app when signing up for the season.

Membership fees help to cover the cost of training the coaches, DBS checks, astro turf hire fees, league fees, ground maintenance, insurances, mandatory annual subscription to the Devon FA Membership Scheme for all players and general equipment such as balls, bibs, etc.

Additional revenue is required over and above the membership fees through activities such as fundraising events, sponsorship, advertising boards and through our very successful Tea Hut.

Families with more than one subscribing player will pay the full membership fee for the first child and then be entitled to a discounted subscription for the second child. Subsequent siblings will be free.

Please remember that members are only registered once payment is received.

If your child decides to no longer continue at the club, please let your coach know or email membership@southmoltonafc.co.uk so that we can offer another child the opportunity to join as we currently have waiting lists for the majority of our age groups.

CONCESSIONS

South Molton Football Club is keen for all young players to have the opportunity to play football and concessionary membership will be considered in circumstances of hardship.

Please be assured that all requests will be treated in complete confidence by a small subcommittee. If any parent / guardian feels that they would like to discuss this, please contact membership@southmoltonafc.co.uk before a payment is due.

In circumstances of non-payment of membership fees by the due dates where there has been no contact to discuss concessionary membership, players will not be able to continue training with the club or to play in matches.

CLUB PHILOSOPHY

Mini Kickers – U10's:

Format: friendly 5 or 7 a-side round robin tournaments

SMAFC philosophy: These are the formative years and all about fun and enjoyment. We encourage our coaches to use mixed ability teams to ensure that all players get equal game time on the pitch with rotation of positions to enhance player development. Players will be chosen on a 'first come, first served basis'. Players that miss out on a place will be asked first for the next fixture. If a coach decides to enter a team for a tournament, organised outside of the usual run of matches, then they can choose their own squad and are not required to offer to all players.

U11's – U13's:

Format: 9 a-side matches played on bigger pitches and eventually leading to a league format

SMAFC philosophy: Whilst the priority is still on enjoyment rather than a win at all costs, the coaches have the flexibility to select their teams and decide on positions of players and game time on the pitch, although it is recognised that all players should have an opportunity to play football. This can happen in several ways with additional friendly games being arranged with opposing teams or a manager trying to utilise the squad members to provide playing opportunities. It is at the manager's discretion as to who they select, and the positions players play in. Players are still developing physically and mentally, and consideration is given to this, but it is the coaches who pick the team and respect must be given to their choices.

U14's – Senior:

Format: 11 a-side on a full-size pitch

SMAFC philosophy: The priority is still on enjoyment rather than a win at all costs. Again, the coaches have the flexibility to select their teams and decide on playing time and positions and it is recognised that all players should have the opportunity to play football. As above, this can happen in several ways

with additional friendly games being arranged with opposing teams or a manager trying to utilise the squad members to provide playing opportunities. It is at the manager's discretion as to who they select, and the positions players play in. Players are still developing physically and mentally, and consideration is given to this, but it is the coaches who pick the team and respect must be given to their choices.

Please be aware that there are restrictions on how much game time that an under 18 is allowed to participate in during the day or competition. This will be monitored by the coach.

Style of Play:

South Molton Football Club encourages our teams to play passing football along the ground and out from the back. We believe this is a more enjoyable way to both play and develop players as individuals. All players should be told to play within the laws of the game and to always respect the referee's decision.

SELECTION FOR MATCHES

Selection for matches can be a contentious issue, and not all players will be able to play every match. It is the coach's decision who is picked. The membership money is paid towards the day to day running of the club and towards the astro pitch fees. It is not paid to play in matches.

As players get older, teams will start to play in a more competitive environment. From U7's to U10's they will play in friendly games, and they should all have equal opportunity to play. If a team coach decides to enter a competitive tournament, then they may choose to play more able players, but this is at the coaches' discretion.

SUBS

Subs will be collected at each match. The amount will be dependent on age group. These will be used to pay for referees and any extra expenses that the team may obtain. In addition, fees may be collected for additional tournaments organised outside of the Devon FA league and cup games.

KITS

Kit will only be distributed to players once membership forms and payments have been made. All kit and equipment remain the property of South Molton Football Club. If a player leaves the club, it is expected that any kit is returned to a coach or committee member.

PRIVACY POLICY

You can find our club's privacy policy on our website [here](#).