

# Evesham United Pan Disability Team



## Team Handbook

We ONLY  
do  
Positive.

# History



In September 2022, Alex Poole embarked on an inspiring journey to create the Evesham United Pan Disability Football Club, driven by a passion for inclusivity and a vision to make football accessible to individuals of all ages and abilities. Starting with just three adult players, the club's dedication and enthusiasm quickly transformed the club into a thriving community that now boasts over 30 players who gather weekly for training sessions.

The club's inclusive ethos extends across generations, with players ranging from 4 to 60 years old, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie on and off the field. The diverse age groups not only promote inter-generational connections but also provide a unique and enriching experience for everyone involved.

Evesham United Pan Disability Football Club became affiliated with the Worcestershire Football Association (Worcestershire FA), a testament to the club's commitment to maintaining high standards and professionalism. The affiliation solidifies their standing within the football community and opens up opportunities for players to engage in competitive matches and tournaments.

Beyond the local impact, Alex Poole (our Head coach) has taken on the role of Disability Ambassador for Worcestershire FA, demonstrating his dedication to supporting other football clubs in establishing their own disability football programs. Through this role, Alex actively collaborates with clubs across the region, sharing his experiences and expertise to encourage the growth of inclusive football initiatives.

Evesham United Pan Disability Football Club, has become a beacon of inclusivity and community engagement. The club not only provides a platform for individuals with diverse abilities to participate in the beautiful game but also sets an example for other communities to follow, fostering a culture where everyone, regardless of age or ability, can share the joy of playing football.



# Club Ethos



## Evesham United Pan Disability Team Core focuses:

We actively promote Diversity, Equality and Inclusion in our behaviour, practices and values.

Football is for everyone; it belongs to and should be enjoyed by anyone who wants to participate in it, whether as a player, official, staff member or spectator. We aim, therefore, to bring people together in a way that supports positive change, makes people feel valued and improves the lives and inclusive experience of our fans and wider community.

Through our local community with disabilities we aim:

-To increase the awareness, accessibility, engagement, and inclusivity within Evesham United Football club.

-To increase the representation of disabled players, colleagues and enhance our culture, through increased understanding of disability.

-To increase the number of disabled people taking part in football for fun and competition in schools, clubs and the community.

-To change the perceptions and social barriers for disabled people to play football.

-To create and sustain Pan disability football disability team/s that represent Evesham United FC across all ages.



Pan disability football is a format of football which is for recreational and competitive participants for a mixture of abilities. If you have an disability of long term health or impairment and like football then get in touch!

**FUN**

**INCLUSIVE**

**FLEXIBLE**



# Team formats



Youth disability football has dispensation to operate using a four-year age banding as opposed to the maximum two-year age banding within mainstream football. This is to ensure adequate player numbers to be able to establish disability teams and competitions across all areas of the country.

This means that an U16 competition could see players aged U13, U14, U15 and U16 playing together.

**Suggested age bands:**

<b>5-8</b>	<b>8-12</b>	<b>12-16</b>	<b>16+</b>
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# Training



We train on the 3G pitch at Evesham United On a Sunday morning from 9am to 10am for our 4-12 age groups. On Fridays 6-7pm our 12-15 and 16+ age groups.

In the heart of Evesham United Pan Disability Football Club, we passionately embrace the power of visuals to foster an inclusive and engaging environment for our players. Understanding the diverse range of abilities within our team, we recognise that visuals play a crucial role in breaking down communication barriers and creating an enriching experience for all.



Please use the QR code below to see a video of the 3G pitch facilities.



# Expectations



**Players code of conduct**

**FA Parents & Carers code of conduct**

**FA - Understanding the discipline process**

*We ONLY do Positive.*

Other visuals we use to support our players

**Football Communication Board**  **PAN DISABILITY TEAM**


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a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r  
 s t u v w x y z 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0



# Expectations



*We ONLY do Positive.*

## Challenge break boards

These visual boards are designed to support our players and coaches so we can encourage consistent positive behaviour from everyone involved.

Football is for everyone and this visual is used as a supportive tool as football is an emotional game and that can be challenging and we want to be here to support players to manage their emotions the best way possible.

This is based on the Sin Bin ruling that is already established in the game so this should also support transition into the competitive game if they so wish.

## Other visuals we use to support our players



Challenge breaks give everyone a chance to adapt their behaviour and the time to reflect on what they are finding challenging.



## WHEN MIGHT YOU NEED A CHALLENGE BREAK?



Emotionally dysregulated



Using words or gestures that question or undermine the football decisions of coaches, referees or players



EXAMPLES OF NEEDING A CHALLENGE BREAK

- Shouting at the ref or coach
- Questioning ref's or coaches' abilities
- Slamming the ball into the ground
- Sarcastically clapping a decision

## HOW DOES THE CHALLENGE BREAK WORK?

Coaches will be always available to support and try to recognise potential barriers and triggers and proactively support players.



Verbal warning



Take a 5 minute break away to reset and reflect



If you continue you will be asked to leave

## WHAT WOULD THE CHALLENGE BREAK LOOK LIKE?

### COACHES

CALM stance and approach  
(Communicate, Assess, Listen, Make safe)  
Use 'change of face' with another adult to continue the de-escalation (Let me help you)  
Praise & check-ins:

- 'I can see you are feeling hot/angry/worried/upset...let me help you'
- 'Maybe we can...'
- 'Let's do ... together'



### PLAYERS

- Talk about how you are feeling
- Take yourself away to a calm space
- Kick a ball in your calm space
- Get a drink/snack
- Give yourself time to reflect

Coaches will be looking for you to be:

- using your calm voice
- slower in your breathing
- having a sense of stillness

**FOOTBALL IS FOR EVERYONE!**



# Who's who?



**Sam Pickering**  
Evesham United  
Club Secretary

**Email: [eufcevents@hotmail.com](mailto:eufcevents@hotmail.com)**

A football club secretary oversees administrative tasks like player registrations, fixture arrangements, and communication with stakeholders. They manage documentation, ensure regulatory compliance, and assist with financial matters. Their role is vital for the club's organisation and smooth operation, both on and off the field.



**Roger Lewis**  
Evesham United  
Welfare Officer

**Email: [rogerlewis130@gmail.com](mailto:rogerlewis130@gmail.com)**

The football welfare officer is responsible for safeguarding the well-being of players and staff. They implement safeguarding policies, provide support and guidance, handle concerns or incidents, and liaise with relevant authorities. Their role ensures a safe and supportive environment within the club.



**Colin Maskery**  
Evesham United  
Head of  
Development

**Email: [eufcdevelopment@icloud.com](mailto:eufcdevelopment@icloud.com)**

A football development officer focuses on enhancing the sport's growth and quality within a club or community. They organize training programs, recruit players and coaches, and coordinate with schools and local organizations to promote participation. Their efforts contribute to the overall improvement and expansion of football.





# Who's who?



**Alex Poole**  
Pan Disability  
Head Coach



**Wayne Cowell**  
Disability Adult  
Assistant Coach



**Laura Cherry**  
Disability  
Adult/U16s  
Supporting Coach



**Malcolm Harris**  
Disability  
Adult/U16s  
Supporting Coach



**Andy Dean**  
Disability Adult  
Supporting Coach



**John Brien**  
Disability  
U16s/U12s  
Lead/Supporting  
Coach



**Adam Booth**  
Disability U12s  
Lead Coach



**Rob Crookall**  
Disability U12s  
Assistant Coach



# Who's who?



**Martin Hall**  
Disability U8s  
Lead Coach



**Hana Wills**  
Disability U8s  
Lead Coach



## What is COMETS?

Comets is a recreational, pan-disability football programme for disabled boys and girls aged between 5 and 11. Pan-disability is the largest format of disability football, which sees players with a broad range of impairments and health conditions play together.

Comets offers a new, flexible and inclusive way of playing, one that's all about playfulness, friendships and having fun. More than anything, Comets is football that breaks the old rules and replaces them with a brand new one: **JUST BE YOU.**



**Hana Wills**  
Comets  
Assistant Coach



**Alex Poole**  
Comets  
Lead Coach



**Martin Hall**  
Comets  
Assistant Coach



# Supporting Your Child



Parents are integral to the success of our pan-disability football program. Your support and involvement are essential to creating a positive environment for all participants. This section outlines how parents can contribute to the program and what we expect from them.

- **Attendance:** Encourage regular attendance at training sessions and matches. Consistency helps players build skills, confidence, and friendships.
- **Encouragement:** Provide positive reinforcement to your child. Celebrate their achievements, regardless of how big or small.
- **Communication:** Stay in touch with coaches and support staff to understand your child's progress and address any concerns.

## Parents Engagement with the Club

- **Participation:** Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend training sessions and matches. This fosters a sense of community and encourages the players.
- **Volunteering:** We encourage parents to volunteer for various roles within the program, such as:
  - Assisting coaches during training sessions
  - Supporting transportation needs for away games or events
  - Organising social activities for players and families

## Parents Feedback and Communication

- **Open Communication:** We value feedback from parents. If you have suggestions or concerns, please share them with the coaching staff or our Disability Head Coach .
- **Surveys and Meetings:** We send out feedback forms out every three months to gather feedback from our parents as experts of our players. Your input helps us improve the program when we hold our committee meetings. If you would like to be apart of the committee then please email [eufcdisability@gmail.com](mailto:eufcdisability@gmail.com) with your request. We meet at least three times a year with the clubs plans going forward each season.
- **Emergency and supportive Information:**
  - Please ensure that your contact information is up-to-date. In case of emergencies, we need to be able to reach you quickly.
  - Please complete and return your child player passport to support your child and for our coaches to best support child as a football player.



# Who is in the Committee?



We meet at least three times a year with the clubs plans going forward each season. This is then shared with the main club committee which the chair goes to. Currently we have on the committee are:



**Alex Poole**  
Chair



**Wayne Cowell**  
Vice chair



**Laura Cherry**  
Committee  
Secretary



**Adam Willet**  
Representing the  
16+ Adult Team -  
Club Captain



**Shane Willet**  
Representing the  
parents for the  
Adult Team



Representing the  
U15s - Seat  
unoccupied



Representing the  
U12s - Seat  
unoccupied



**Andrew Lawes**  
Representing the  
U8s



# Supporting Your Child




Each week our we create videos of our planned sessions with the aim to increase confidence and lower anxiety into our training sessions so the players and parents know what to expect. These videos are aimed to be sent our 48 hours before the session.

**Player passports:** As our club continues to grow, we're committed to providing the best possible experience for every player. To help us better understand and meet your child's needs, we kindly ask you to fill out the Player Passport.

This form gives you a chance to share any information that might be important for us to know about your child, such as medical conditions, preferred communication methods, accessibility needs, or anything else that can help us ensure they have a safe and enjoyable time at our club.

Please let our head coach know of any updates or changes during the season. As a club we will ask at the beginning of each season for parents to update this information.

**Data Protection** – EUFC will hold your data for a period of twelve months. This data is for use by EUFC only and will not be given to any third parties.

 Insert picture here

Full Name Here

What makes me happy...

What people like and admire about me...

How I want to be supported....



# Appendix



**Players code of conduct**

**FA Parents & Carers code of conduct**

**FA - Understanding the disipline process**

**Three Counties Ability Counts League (Adult)**

**Gloucestershire FA Ability Counts League (Adult & Youth)**

**Worcestershire FA Disability Football**



# Appendix



[Challenge Breaks PDF](#)

[Meeting new people social story](#)

[Thunderstorms social story](#)

[Tackling Social Story](#)

[Directions to the club video link](#)

