

# Wolverhampton Schools' FA

## Selection Statement



Players eligible for trials and subsequent selection **must** attend a Wolverhampton school within the ConnectEd Partnership. A full list of eligible schools can be found [here](#) or on the ConnectEd Partnership website: <https://www.connectedpartnership.com/member-schools-2022-2023/>

### GENERAL

The selection of each squad is the responsibility of the management team appointed annually by Wolverhampton Schools' Football Association (WSFA), together with other WSFA officials where appropriate. The selection criteria for a squad for the season as a whole, or for any match are 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 (including attendance at training sessions) 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 managers'/selectors' judgement and the WSFA is unable to discuss individual cases.

Once a team or squad is selected, attendance at training is expected. If players cannot attend, the WSFA must be notified before the training session. If continual absence from training occurs, consultation will take place between player, parents and the WSFA as to their commitment to the team. All team members and their parent/carer are required to attend an information session at a nominated place and date and comply with the directives issued prior to squad membership being confirmed.

At Under 13 level and below, players can expect ample and fair time in representative matches - this applies over the season, not to each individual match.

At Under 14 and above in Inter-District 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 WSFA operates with the following squad sizes:

- U10 & U11 – Matches are 7v7 or 9v9 (depending upon the competition)
- U12 – Matches are 9v9.
  - Squads will therefore be proportionate to the team size, with some players on a standby basis.
- U13+ - Matches are 11v11 and squad sizes will normally be up to 18 players.
- Some squads will be changed throughout the season with new players being introduced as they are nominated by schools.

When an entire squad is available or competition rules restrict the numbers that can be selected, certain players may be 'rested'. Every effort will be made not to "rest" players for consecutive matches unless injured or not available. Selection for matches in knock-out competitions will be made on the 'best team' basis.

### TRIALS PROCESS

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

- Players should be nominated by their schools/districts on the official nomination form.
- Players should attend a school which is within the Wolverhampton "district" as defined by the English Schools' FA.
- Schools within the WSFA district also need to affiliate to WSFA through their membership of the ConnectEd Partnership.
- 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 WSFA shall administer the selection process.

- A minimum of two managers/selectors are to be at each trial.
- The management team and other WSFA officials shall be the main selectors. Other selectors may be invited by the WSFA 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 18 players plus reserves 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 Child Welfare Officer in the first instance.

**Child Welfare Officer:** Mr. Nick Loftus

[nickloftus30@icloud.com](mailto:nickloftus30@icloud.com)

07788 458465