



# Club Chairman's Statement

## Coaching in the Foundation Phase

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Dear Coaches,

As a Foundation Phase coach, your sessions are a player's 'first steps' in football.

The Foundation Phase England DNA recognises that there's more to your team's development than their technical skills. If you want to support the 'big picture', it's important to take a **holistic approach** and address all areas of The FA 4 Corner Model: social, psychological, physical and technical/tactical.

If we restrict time on the pitch because we focus on the result, or worry about the players making mistakes, we're missing the point. Every player is an equal member of the team, even though they may be operating at different levels.

Equal playing time in the Foundation Phase is important and should certainly be a consideration during your matchday management. Think about their development long-term, instead of short-term results.

Squads within the Deanshanger Colts Football Club will not divide teams based on ability until they are playing at U10's Football and in consultation with the Head of Football Development and approved by the Clubs Committee.

The Club fully understands the pressures put on coaches by parents to deliver results for their children but we at Deanshanger believe in allowing children to develop in a safe environment without the pressure of winning games.

During the early years of the Foundation Phase and whilst playing the 5v5 format teams will consist of 10 players, with a minimum of 1 Coach

Should a team have more than 10 players then a second coach will be required to assist and so on per ten players. The club recommends that on match day each coach should take 8 players to a match, this will allow the management of game time to be as even and fair as possible. Additional coaches will be required from within the parent's group to allow the children to develop. The Clubs Head of Football Development can support coaches in securing further help.

It is key that Coaches communicate with parents and the club can help by supporting in a "start of season" briefing. This will allow the parents to understand the format in which the children will be training and playing each week.

It's important to remember that:

- time on the pitch is a vital part of player development
- equal playing time in the Foundation Phase is important
- every player is an equal member of the team
- you need to deal sensitively with each player and the experience they get on matchday
- it's about their development, not your result.

**Remember the words of Pete Sturges, FA lead for the Foundation Phase:**

**"Players are only young once, so we owe it to them to get this right".**

Yours Faithfully,



Marc Pether  
Chairman  
DCFC.