CHORLEY SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Player Selection Policy Statement

The Chorley District Football Association is committed to a selection process that is fair, transparent and based solely on merit.

All eligible players will have an equal opportunity to be selected, regardless of their school, club affiliation, personal relationships or any other non-footballing factor.

Selectors must act in the best interests of Chorley District Football and make decisions based on agreed selection criteria, observed performance, potential and attitude.

Independence of Selectors

Selectors must:

- Make objective, impartial and evidence-based decisions.
- Assess players using the agreed selection criteria.
- Declare any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest.
- Avoid favouring players because of club affiliation, school or personal connections.
- Ensure that no player is advantaged or disadvantaged by the team, club, league or coach they play for.

Management of Conflicts of Interest

Selectors involved with local clubs bring valuable knowledge and experience to the process. However, all selection decisions must be made independently and in the interests of Chorley District Football.

Any selector with a significant connection to a player, team or club being considered must declare this to the District Secretary (Gary Donoghue) and the Managing Director of Chorley SSP and Chair of Chorley School Football (Gemma Stokes).

Where a conflict of interest exists, or could reasonably be perceived to exist, the selector may be asked to withdraw from discussions or selection decisions.

Selection Decisions

Selection decisions will be based on the agreed criteria outlined in Appendix 1, including:

- Technical ability.
- Tactical understanding.
- Physical capability and potential.
- Attitude, commitment and sportsmanship.
- Performance during trials, matches and assessment opportunities.
- The balance and needs of the squad.

Selection decisions will not be influenced by:

- Club membership or reputation.
- School attended.
- Personal relationships.
- Previous selection history.
- Pressure from clubs, coaches, parents, players or officials.

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Commitment to Fair Opportunity

Chorley District Football is committed to providing all eligible players with a fair opportunity to demonstrate their ability.

The selection process is designed to identify the players best suited to represent the District while ensuring confidence among players, parents, schools and clubs that decisions are made fairly, consistently and transparently.

All selected players should be chosen on merit and have earned their place through the selection process.

Appendix 1

Agreed Selection Criteria and Standards

Players will be assessed against the following criteria. Selectors will consider both current performance and future potential, recognising that players develop at different rates.

1. Technical Ability

The player's ability to perform the core skills required at district level, including:

- First touch and ball control
- Passing and receiving
- Dribbling and ball carrying
- Shooting and finishing
- Tackling and defending
- Crossing and delivery
- Ability to execute skills under pressure

Expected standard: Demonstrates consistent technical ability appropriate for district-level football.

2. Tactical Understanding

The player's understanding of the game and ability to make effective decisions in different situations, including:

- Positioning and movement
- Awareness of space
- Decision-making on and off the ball
- Following tactical instructions
- Understanding attacking and defensive principles
- Adapting to different formations and systems

Expected standard: Demonstrates a strong understanding of their role and contributes effectively to team performance.

3. Physical Attributes

The player's ability to meet the physical demands of district-level football, including:

- Speed and acceleration
- Agility and balance
- Strength and physical resilience
- Endurance and work rate
- Coordination and athleticism

Expected standard: Can compete effectively at district level and meet the physical demands of representative football for their age group. *Selectors will consider both current performance and future potential, recognising that players develop physically at different rates.*

4. Mental Attributes

The player's attitude, mindset and approach to learning and competition, including:

- Resilience when facing challenges
- Confidence and self-belief
- Concentration and focus
- Composure under pressure
- Commitment and determination
- Willingness to learn and improve

Expected standard: Consistently demonstrates the mindset and behaviours required to compete and develop at district level.

5. Teamwork and Character

The player's ability to contribute positively to the team environment, including:

- Communication
- Respect for teammates, opponents and officials
- Sportsmanship
- Coachability and willingness to accept feedback
- Leadership qualities, where appropriate
- Reliability and commitment

Expected standard: Demonstrates behaviours consistent with the values of Chorley District Football and represents the District positively on and off the pitch.

Dated: September 2025