



Maccabi London Lions FC

Youth Squad Selection Policy 2017-18

Roman House
13 High Street, Elstree,
Herts WD6 3EP

Tel: 0203 818 0801 email: info@londonlions.com



A major challenge for each age group is to organise players into team squads. It's important that both managers and parents are aware of Maccabi London Lions' guidelines. When joining the Club, players and parents "buy in" to this approach.

As a Club we follow some clearly defined principles on the structure of teams and the development of players. These principles are driven by our Charter and Community Club status, and are an integral part of the Football Development Plan that we have to submit to the Herts FA each year. Our success in following these principles and guidelines is a key factor in how we are viewed by the Herts FA and, in particular, by the Football Foundation in our application for grants to improve the facilities here at Rowley Lane.

The basic principles are:

- Squads are graded on an ability basis, from Under 8's upwards. We attempt to match players with other players of similar ability.
- Player movement up or down can take place at the beginning of the season and if necessary, during the season, to balance the squads or to move a player into a squad which better matches his or her ability and development.

No of teams and squad size 2017-18

The maximum number of teams in each age group (due to space limitations with playing and training facilities) and the recommended size of squads will be as follows:

Under 7's and 8's (5-a-side) – max of 6 teams per age group with a maximum of 8 boys in each squad

Under 9's and 10's (7 a side) – max of 5 teams per age group with a min of 9 and a max of 11 boys per squad.

Under 11's and U12's, (9 a side) max of 4 teams per age group with a min of 11 and max of 13 boys per squad.

From U13 upwards, max of 2 teams per age group with a min of 15 and maximum of 17 boys per squad.

For each match, it is recommended that the manager should select no more than the following numbers to attend a particular game as this reduces disruption and helps ensure that children do not get cold on the sidelines, however this is only a guideline and not set in stone, and the manager will have to introduce a rotation of "rested" players if everyone is available. 5-a-side, - 7 players, 7-a-side – 9 players, 9-a-side – 11 players, 11-a-side – 13/14 players

Squad structure

Squads will be selected on ability, attitude and development, and the club will try and structure the squads so that boys are matched with boys of similar ability. Parents can express a preference for their child to play at a lower level, but not at a higher level. So, the parent of a boy of White (A) team standard can opt for their child to play for the Blue (B) team. However, a request to move down to a lower level is at the discretion of the Selection Committee, and may not take place if this causes significant disruption to the balance of the squads across the age group.

The rapid nature of development in the younger age groups may change significantly next season - Squad selection for the following season will be undertaken in consultation with all age group managers, and coaches, together with Selection Committee. Our focus at all times is for players to enjoy their football and play at their level.

The recommended squad structure is: White – A team, Blue – B team, Green – C team, Yellow – D Team, Purple – E Team

Playing Time



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Up to and including Under 12's, the club has a philosophy of "Reasonable Playing Time", which is left to the manager's discretion. However, **"Reasonable Playing Time" applies over the season, not to one match.** There will be occasions when "Reasonable Playing Time" is inappropriate and managers should abide with the spirit of this rule rather than without exception, and parents have to accept this.

From Under 13s upwards, team selection will be based on ability and form (not just on a Sunday but also at training), commitment to training and having a good attitude. Unless there is a very good reason for a boy not to be at training (eg injury/illness/school activity), then as long as the circumstances allow, any boy not at training will not start the game the following Sunday. Managers/Coaches will endeavour to give all players in their squad as much playing time as possible however substitutions can be made according to tactics and strategy, with it not being mandatory for all substitutes to be played for key matches. However the non-playing of substitutes should be in the minority of cases and no player should be regularly left on the bench.

Playing positions - please accept that no player has an automatic right to play the position he/she wants. Remember, football is a team game.

"When they play matches, we impress upon the players three objectives.

Firstly, we must be the more sporting team, committing fewer fouls and being less aggressive.

Then we must try to win by playing very well, more creatively than the opposition, with attacking football.

Finally, we want to win. But we don't want to win without the first two aims being fulfilled."

Albert Capellas, Senior Youth Co-ordinator, FC Barcelona's 'La Cantera' Youth Academy