



# Leighton United Football Club

## PLAYING FEES POLICY

### Season 2024-25

1. For the **2024 - 25** football season the playing fees, as determined by the Management Committee will be:

<b>Format</b>	<b>League</b>	<b>Playing Fee</b>
<b>5 aside and 7 aside (boys and girls)</b>	Bedfordshire Mini Soccer League, Bedfordshire FA Girls League, Milton Keynes & District Development League	<b>£ 145</b>
<b>9 aside and 11 aside (boys and girls)</b>	Bedfordshire FA Girls League, Chiltern Youth Football League, Milton Keynes & District Development League	<b>£ 195</b>

2. Fees are benchmarked against other local clubs and are set at a level intended not to pose a significant obstacle to community participation. Feedback has indicated these fee levels still represent very good value for money.
3. After careful consideration our fees have risen by £10 per category.
4. Where a player has younger siblings playing at the club the younger ones are eligible for a sibling reduction of £30 each, but only if the siblings register as players before the start of the season. Siblings joining later in the season will not be eligible for the discount.
5. Players who represent two club teams will pay a full fee for one team and be entitled to a reduction of £30 on the fee for the other team.
6. A playing fee will not be charged for children of lead coaches who are named as the coach/manager for the team on the Football Association (FA) Whole Game System database, provided these coaches have at least an FA Level 1 (or equivalent) coaching qualification (not just the online FA Playmaker), have current FA safeguarding children, FA introduction to first aid in football and FA Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check credentials, attend twice yearly coach's meetings organised by the Head Coach (usually at the start and end of the season) and be fully aware and compliant with all club policies and procedures, including agreeing the Coach/Team Manager and Assistant Coach Code of Conduct.

Maximum of two discounts per team.

7. Playing fees will also not be charged for children of Management Committee members. This is in recognition of volunteering time spent running teams or serving as club officials.
8. The level of fees presumes that the main football season will start in early September and continue for eight months to the end of April, i.e. generally coinciding with normal league seasons.  
It is accepted that some teams may have scheduled fixtures outside this period.
9. **A no payment – no play policy is implemented** – confirmed on the player registration form completed by parents/carers. Fees must be paid either in full at the time of pre-season player registration, before the start of the league season or by two equal instalments, half pre-season and the remaining half by the following 30 September. Players will not become eligible to play until the first 50% is paid. There is no surcharge for staged payments.  
Any non-payment of full fees by the end of September or failure to agree an extended financial hardship plan will result in player registrations being pulled, with players unable to play until full payment is made or a plan agreed by the club (see item 11 below).
10. Players joining the club after the season start dates or part-way through the season will pay a calculated fee pro-rata to the point of the season when they join. Pro-rata fees are non-negotiable.
11. Extended stage payment plans will only be considered when financial hardship is proven. Claims for financial hardship, e.g. by provision of evidence to confirm receipt of state unemployment or social security benefits, will be adjudicated by Club Welfare Officers. When extended staged payment plans are agreed they must be paid up in full by 31 January of the following year at the very latest.
12. Payments can be made by cash, cheques (payable to Leighton United Football Club), bank transfer or by credit or debit cards. Those paying by credit card may be asked to also pay the relevant transaction fee. Payments must be traceable to the player's name and team.
13. No playing fee (or proportion thereof) will be reimbursed for players who voluntarily choose to leave the club part way through a season or who leave for disciplinary reasons at any time.
14. If a team is not able to fulfil its fixture programme for reasons outside of its control, then playing fees will be reimbursed on a pro-rata basis as determined by the Management Committee.
15. In the event of a player sustaining long term injury while representing the club or developing a long-term illness during a football season then the Management Committee has discretion to reimburse fees on a pro-rata basis.
16. The Management Committee are empowered to authorise other refunds in individual circumstances.

17. Players ending a season with outstanding playing fee debt will not be signed on for the next season until the debt has been cleared in full.
18. The annual playing fee contributes to (but not limited to) the following:
  - Provision of match day playing kit. (Sponsored training kit is the property of the team).
  - Provision of football equipment for training and match days – includes a stock of footballs for each team.
  - Cedars School training venue costs, hired on a club block booking basis. When it is exceptionally agreed that teams can train elsewhere, the venue cost will be a team responsibility.
  - All FA and league affiliation fees.
  - All match referee fees.
  - Pitch maintenance and end of season renovation work.
  - Ground maintenance – including roadway and car park.
  - Clubhouse management and maintenance.
  - Utility costs.
  - Club trophies and medals for the season.
  - Public liability insurance and other overheads.
19. The payment of playing fees is for opportunities for players to play football. They do not entitle those making payments to have any say in how the club is run (including no voting right at the annual general meeting or extra general meetings) or to any financial interest in the club.
20. The Management Committee shall have the authority to levy further fees as are reasonably necessary to fulfil the objects of the club.
21. The club currently does not charge for in-house Wildcats and Mini-Soccer sessions or for in-house trophy presentations.
22. Playing fees and this policy will be reviewed annually by the Management Committee.
23. All kit (clothing) and equipment supplied by the club remains the property of the club or team and should be returned upon leaving the club. Players are required to maintain the kit and equipment according to manufacturer instructions. Any damage (not due to normal use) or loss of kit and equipment must be replaced by the player (parents).