



**Information for  
Parents/Guardians  
U9 Teams  
Season 2025/26 and onwards**

*Dear Parents/Guardians,*

*Welcome to Timperley Villa YFC. This guide is intended to assist you as your child moves into structured League football. If after reading this guide you still have queries or concerns, please speak to your team Manager or one of the Club Contacts listed at the start of this guide.*

### **Club Contact Details**

Chair Steve Sadler – 07764 810813

Secretary Andy Gorman – 07973 919823

Welfare Officer Paul Garner - 07834 964491

### **Timperley & District Junior Football League**

Our U9 teams compete in the T&DJFL mini-soccer (7-a-side) league. The T&D website can be found at [www.timperleyjuniorfootball.co.uk](http://www.timperleyjuniorfootball.co.uk).

Fixtures can be found by following the links on either the T&D website or on the Club website [www.timperleyvillaafc.co.uk](http://www.timperleyvillaafc.co.uk), to the FA 'Full-time' website <http://full-time.thefa.com>

For most of the season the U9 teams play Development games, for which scores are not displayed and points are not awarded. The League do collate the results however and fixture groups may be re-arranged a number of times during the course of the season to try and band teams of similar ability together in advance of the transition to U10. There will usually be a competitive Cup competition for the U9s after the February half-term, usually in 'Europa League' format and sometimes also a knockout Cup.

Games are generally played on a home/away basis on Saturday mornings, Sept – May. Games are generally played as two 25 minute periods.

### **FA 'Respect'**

As an FA Charter Standard Club, Timperley Villa fully supports the FA 'Respect' initiative. Please familiarise yourself with this by visiting the FA website at <http://www.thefa.com/Leagues/Respect> and by reading and following the FA Respect Code of Conduct for Spectators & Parents/Carers as printed at the end of this guide. Breaches of the code may result in action being taken by the Club, the County FA and /or The FA. This may include suspension or expulsion from the Club. Teams that are the subject of a proven misconduct charge from the County FA are liable to be excluded by the League from Cup competitions.

### **Child Welfare Issues**

If there are any matters you do not wish to discuss with your Manager, please speak to one of the Club Contacts listed above.

### **Your Assistance Is Vital**

Your assistance is vital to us providing quality football for your child. All our Managers/Coaches take on their role on a purely voluntary basis, giving their own time to take on a lot of responsibilities and duties that allow our teams to play matches. Your support and co-operation can make a big difference in easing the burden on the Managers.

Particular things that you can all do to help:

- Make sure your child is in the right place at the right time with the right kit. They cannot take part in matches or training unless wearing shin-pads. If they wear glasses to play in these must either be proprietary sports goggles or have polycarbonate lenses and plastic frames free of any sharp edges and be restrained by an elastic strap or similar. The final decision as to whether a set of glasses is safe to wear in any given match is that of the match Referee alone and we cannot challenge this. Please ensure they come to matches and training with suitable outer-clothing – waterproofs etc. If they have a medical device such as an asthma inhaler this must be with them at matches and training otherwise they cannot take part.
- **Communicate** with your Manager about player availability, absence due to holidays, sickness etc as early as possible.
- Assist your Manager on match day;
  - Parents helping to put-up/take down goals, barriers etc is essential to the Manager having time with the players pre-match.
  - Give lots of positive support and encouragement to both teams, especially in defeat;
    - We put player enjoyment, participation and development ahead of individual match results and winning.
    - Please never criticise or shout at coaches, players or the Referee; never encroach on the pitch; always remain behind the spectator barrier.
  - We often need at least 1 volunteer to act as Linesman during the match

### **Midweek Training**

At the start of the season training sessions (end of Aug and through Sept) will be held on Tuesday evenings, 6pm – 7pm at Beech Fields. During the winter months (October to March) training will move onto the outdoor floodlight MUGA facility at the front of Blessed Thomas Holford College, Urban Road, Altrincham; same day and time. (Please park at the front of the school. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON OAKFIELD STREET.**) Training during April & May moves back to Beech Fields.

Please always make sure your child:

- Has shin-pads with them (compulsory), comes with a drink (non-fizzy) and suitable (waterproof) clothing and suitable footwear (footwear for the MUGA is trainers/astro 'dimples', NOT any form of studs).
- Arrives and is collected on time and is not left by you until you are sure that your Manager/Coach is present; please escort your child to and from the training pitch rather than drop them off in the car park.

### **Home Games**

At St Hugh's School, Park Road, Timperley on a Sat morning, with a 9.30am or 11am kick-off. You should generally arrive no later than 30 minutes before ko, or earlier if you are helping with setting up goals etc. If arrangements are any different, your Manager will advise you.

Car parking is not available at St Hugh's. If travelling by car please park in the vicinity and walk in via the red pedestrian gates accessed off Park Road and bear right around the school building to the field at the rear. If parking on the surrounding residential roads, please park with consideration for our neighbours. Dogs (other than assistance dogs) are not allowed on the school grounds. Smoking (including e-cigs/vaping) is also not allowed on school grounds.

## **Away Games**

Your Manager should advise you during the week prior about the venue and time of arrival for the match that coming Saturday. If you have not heard from them by the Thursday, please contact them to verify details. Away game kick-off times generally vary between 9.00am and 11.45am depending upon the team we are playing.

## **Player Availability for Matches**

Please give your Manager maximum notice of unavailability due to holidays etc. If we know we have a large number of players going to be absent (e.g. at half-term), we can request (up to four times in a season) a postponement, provided we give at least 3 weeks' notice. If a player becomes unavailable due to sickness etc, please let your Manager know as soon as possible. Once you hear from your Manager confirming time/venue for the coming Saturday, please reply to confirm receipt and availability. If we do not fulfil a scheduled fixture the Club will be fined by the League.

## **Match Cancellations**

Your Manager will advise you as soon as they can should a match be cancelled e.g. due to weather. Please always assume a match is on until you hear otherwise.

## **Spectating**

It is great for the players if parents/friends can be at the matches to support them. Having parents around is also a great assistance for the Manager who has a multitude of things to be doing on a match day.

Please always support in a positive way and refrain from any criticism of the players, Referee or opposition. Please also leave the Manager to 'coach' the players during the game.

Please always spectate from along the touchline, never from behind the goal. A 'spectator barrier' will be erected along one touchline, please always remain behind it. Please **never** encroach on the pitch during the match. Leave the manager/referee to deal with injuries etc unless you are specifically asked to come onto the pitch. You are responsible for the behaviour of any relatives or friends that attend matches.

## **Substitutes and Player Rotation**

Our policy at this age group is to ensure that all players get to play in every match, for at least (roughly) 35 minutes of each 50-minute game, depending however upon squad size. Please do not be concerned if your child starts a match as a substitute; they will always get to play.

At this age it is beneficial for players to experience playing in a variety of positions on the pitch. Do not be concerned if your child is asked to play in other than their 'usual' position - please encourage them to be prepared to take on an unfamiliar role, including playing in goal at some point of the season.

## **Referees**

The League will generally provide Referees for the games. At U9 these will often be new, young Referees learning their trade. Encouraging new young Referees to come into the League is vital to all of us in being able to offer children proper matches to play in. The biggest reason Referees leave the game is the amount of abuse they receive during matches and the pressure placed on them by supporters and managers. Please give the Referee your full support, even if some of their decisions you may not agree with; young Referees have to make mistakes to be able to learn and develop just like young players. If the League is not able to provide a Referee for a game, the home team has to provide one. It is never a good idea for the Manager to act as Referee and so

we would need a volunteer from the parents to act as Referee. You do not need to be qualified in any way. Provided you act in good faith, you will have the full backing of the FA in everything you do as Referee.

### **A brief summary of rules:**

Roll-on roll-off substitutions    No offside    Back passes not allowed    2 x 25mins  
The goalkeeper cannot kick out of their hands and cannot 'drop-kick'    7-a-side  
Opposition must retreat to half-way line for goal-kicks    No deliberate heading allowed  
Kick/dribble-in rather than throw-ins

### **Communications**

- Please ensure your Manager has your up-to-date mobile number and you have theirs.
- Please ensure that the Club also has your up-to-date e-mail address.

### **In the future – U11 and U13 teams**

At U11 (Year 6), the teams, as they will have been at U9/U10, may combine down into a reduced number of new teams, to move into 9-a-side football. There may then be a further combination at U13 (Year 8) to move to full 11-a-side football with two new teams. This is dictated both by squad numbers and availability of pitches and training facilities and is a matter of Club policy. From U12 onwards games are played on Sun (am or pm). Training nights at U9, U10 and U11 will generally be Tue, but for U12 and upwards training will move to other nights of the week.

### **FA RESPECT CODE OF CONDUCT – Spectators and Parents/Carers**

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game. This club is supporting The FA's Respect programme to ensure football can be enjoyed by everyone in a safe and positive environment. Please play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for spectators and parents/carers stipulates that at all times.

- Remain outside the field of play and behind the Designated Spectator Area barrier.
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behavior.
- Always respect the match officials' decisions.
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success.
- Remember that children play for FUN.
- Let the coaches do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do.
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition and match officials.
- Never criticise a player for making a mistake - mistakes are part of learning.

**Breaches of the code may result in action being taken by the Club, the County FA and /or The FA. This may include suspension or expulsion from the Club.** Note - Should a parent or player be suspended or expelled for disciplinary reasons, no refund of subscriptions will be made. Teams that are the subject of a proven misconduct charge from the County FA are liable to be excluded by the League from Cup competitions.