



Llangoed Football Club U12s / Clwb Pel Droed Llangoed U12s

c/o Richard Gregson
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Dear Parent/Guardian,

One or two parents have recently expressed their concern with the amount of competitive game time their child is receiving. I would like to attempt to address these concerns and explain the reasoning behind the decisions made concerning who plays, for how long and when/if they are substituted.

In most team sports there is an inherent conflict between the greater number of players needed to conduct productive practices and the smaller number required to field the most competitive player rotation in a game. To optimize a team's chance to succeed, coaches (and many parents) understand the above reality and why playing time will likely be unequal in a more competitive setting.

In most youth sports teams, there is usually a mix of players who are at different stages in their development (age, skill, experience etc.). For those who are slightly younger, inexperienced, or less skilled, they may initially benefit from smaller roles that don't overwhelm them. As they get older and improve, their playing time will increase and possibly exceed that of their teammates.

The decision as to whether a child plays a full game or is substituted lies with the coach and will vary according to many factors. These will include the usual considerations such as the player's attributes and preferred position, how the match is going, the size and skill of the opposing team and the current score. Other factors will apply such as how well the player has played previously, the effort the player has put in at training, their willingness to listen to the coach and general temperament. It is not our intention to make any player unhappy with how they are utilised within the squad but we would hope that all players would realise that the coaches' main focus is on improving the team as a whole.

Most team sports require a certain level of competence in key positions. Without a minimum level of performance in these positions, the play can disintegrate resulting in no fun for many of the other players. Our training sessions are designed to help players improve and the more competent a player becomes, the more confident they will feel and the more fun they will have. Several of our more experienced players have undergone an initial season of limited competitive game time as they became used to the demands of playing as part of a team and emerged as better, more confident players. So long as they keep giving maximum effort in training, use the time during matches when they are not playing to observe the movement and positioning of the players in their positions (on both sides). I promise you that they will get their chance.

We will also be organising a number of friendly matches for free weeks in which the players who do not get as much game time will be given the opportunity to get more experience and put what they have learned in training into practice. I would like to finish by saying that every single member of the team is valued and has the potential to become a very good player given time and encouragement.

Yours sincerely

Russell Evans
Manager

Stevie Williams
Assistant Coach

David Graves
Assistant Coach