



Youth Phase Statement

Greenisland FC is recognised as a club who provide opportunities for young players to develop holistically on and off the pitch, developing the player and the person, at what ever level they play.

Many of Greenisland's former players have gained Representative Honours at Schoolboy Level, have been signed on Scholarships by English Professional Clubs or even gone on to make a Full-Time Career out of football.

Lots of Greenisland players play for NI based Semi-Professional / Professional Clubs.

For those who do not reach professional ranks, we strive to encourage a long term involvement in the game at an amateur level at Greenisland FC or other local clubs.

For all players, Greenisland FC aim provide bespoke curriculum and training methods, based on the latest sports science as used by many professional set-ups. We believe our Youth Phase to be second to none in the country in terms of developing players.

However whilst it is important for players to learn to compete and for teams to be competitive, winning trophies at Youth Level should not be the primary driver for our Club. Playing for the best *"all conquering u14 team"* for example in 2021/22 season is quickly forgotten and frankly irrelevant in the long term.

And it is to the long term that Greenisland FC , players and parents should focus !

The current structure in Northern Ireland Football means that at Under 16, some Greenisland players move to NI Football League (NIFL) Clubs, whilst others chose to stay and continue playing for Greenisland FC at National League Level and beyond.

Greenisland FC can facilitate a clear pathway to our NIFL partner Club Crusaders or potentially to any one of five other local NIFL Clubs, with whom we have good contacts.

Please remember NIFL Clubs in total select around 100 x Under 16 players each year and despite the "fake news" to the contrary, are very keen to recruit Greenisland players for their Under 16 teams.

Once at NIFL Clubs, players can progress to U18 and Reserve Team, with approximately 1-2% eventually playing regular first team. However, many do not progress and a large number stop playing sport altogether. As our Senior Team progresses through the NI Football Pyramid we offer opportunities for such players to return to Greenisland FC and continue their involvement in amateur football.

Due to the on-going successes of Greenisland FC's player development pathway, our visions for the future and our bespoke training methods and curriculum, there is significant demand for limited places within all sections of our club.

At the Youth Phase, there is a competitive yet supportive sports environment, as players get older and progress while competing in National and other Local Leagues and our pathway involves a selection-based approach, in terms of player identification, match day inclusion in squads and game time within matches.

Prior to granting your consent to your son/daughter signing for Greenisland FC, please take time for both of you to read the **Parental Agreement - Youth Phase** below.

You should only agree to this agreement, if both you are content with it, and agree to commit to maximising the opportunity at Greenisland over the next number of years.

Parental Agreement - Youth Phase (U12 - U18)

As a Parent / Guardian at Greenisland I agree to make my child's experience more enjoyable by following these following guidelines:

- ❖ Encourage rather than Criticise - your child and other children.
- ❖ Respect the Opposition and Match Officials.
- ❖ Recognise designated spectator areas and do not engage in insulting or bad language.
- ❖ Coaches give up their time freely for the benefit of all members of the team, please respect Coaches and the decisions they make.

I am aware that the Greenisland FC pathway involves a selection-based approach, in terms of season and match day squads and game time during matches.

By taking up the opportunity for my son/daughter to participate in the Greenisland FC pathway, I also accept that Greenisland FC coaching staff may select seasonal and match day squads based on several factors, including but not limited to current form, behaviour, attitude, and attendance at training.

Training includes scheduled pitch sessions, strength and conditioning sessions, plus other sessions deemed appropriate to continue the development of players and teams.