Overton Youth Football Club: Hereby known as OYFC

OYFC is a family-focused, inclusive club providing grassroots football for children aged 6 -18 in a fun and friendly environment.

The OYFC Executive Committee is dedicated to making football accessible to all, regardless of physical ability, social or financial circumstances.

We understand that from time to time families, households and individuals may suffer financial difficulty and that financial hardship can present challenges for family, for example with the participation of sporting activities and the payment of fees for sports clubs. Where possible we wish to provide support so that no player is turned away or leave our Club due solely to cost or affordability.

We work hard to manage the operational running costs of the Club and our income is generated through the collection of registration fees and, for this reason, we may not be able to offer assistance to every person or family who applies for it.

# PURPOSE

The purpose of the Financial Assistance Policy is to prevent the need for any family deciding to stop their child / children playing for OYFC due to their inability to pay their registration fees.

OYFC will provide short term financial support to those experiencing financial hardship to ensure all children can participate equally in the Club.

# Eligibility

The decision relating to the provision of financial assistance will be based on a number of factors, including:

* Parents / guardians / children will normally have been members of OYFC for a period of more than six months.
* There has been a specific change of circumstance that inhibits their ability to pay their fees.

# Application Process

Applications can be made by a family to the following club officials:

* The manager for the football team that the child / children play for,

or directly to

* The Club Welfare Officer. rebeccajwebster4@gmail.com

Applicants should provide the following information:

* Parent/guardian name
* Player name(s)
* Year group & team(s) for coming season
* An explanation of what support is required and to what value
* An explanation of the circumstances leading to the request for financial support
* Proposal to the club (monthly payment plan etc)
* Any other pertinent information

On receipt of an application, the executive committee will review the information in accordance with the criteria. The decision as to whether financial assistance is provided will be made by the executive committee.

There is no right of appeal against decisions made.

# Period of Financial Assistance

The fund is intended to provide short term financial support to parents / guardians. As such, the initial award of financial assistance will be for a period of three months.

The facility exists to extend such assistance for up to a year if circumstance that inhibits their ability to pay their fees remains.

Only in special circumstance will financial assistance be provided for longer than one year. In such a scenario, this will be considered by the executive committee.

Receipt of assistance in one season is not a guarantee that financial assistance will be granted in a further season.

# Confidentiality

Any application made through this fund will remain confidential and the club will not disclose the details of anyone who has made an application through the fund.

The identify of any application will be known by the team manager and/or the Club Welfare Officer. The Secretary and the Treasurer will also be aware due to the requirements of the registration process. Any concerns regarding confidentiality must be directed to the Club Welfare Officer in the first instance.

The Club Welfare Officer will coordinate the review of the request by the Executive Committee and communicate the decision to the applicant.

All requests will be dealt with in the strictest confidence and considered carefully.

Date 09/08/2022

Policy approved at OYFC Committee meeting August 2022.