

SEYMOUR VILLA F.C.



OFFICIAL HANDBOOK 2023/2024

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INFORMATION

Seymour Villa was founded in 2001 in memory of a promising young footballer called Danny Wandangu who was murdered on South Penge Park estate in 2000. Two weeks after his death Danny was due to go to Aston Villa for trials. His coach, Martin King decided to start a football club in his memory.

In the summer of 2001, we advertised around Penge and Anerley and our first trials were held in Betts Park and people volunteered to help us.

In our 1st season Seymour villa had 4 teams - we now have 8 teams; U9's, U10's, U11's (x2), U12's, U13's, U14's and the U16's competing in the Tandridge League.

Seymour Villa is affiliated to the London FA. A manager runs each team with the help of a coach and some teams have parents helping run training and match days. All teams train once a week on Saturday's and play our games on Sunday's between 9:30am and 3pm.

We rely completely on volunteers; most of these are from the families of children and youths who play for us, these volunteers form our committee; they are also our managers, coaches and general helpers. Without these volunteers the club could not function.

All our managers, coaches, committee and volunteers have been DBS checked by the London FA. Our managers and coaches either have or will be completing the Level One coaching course.

As a voluntary youth organization our aim is to facilitate youth development. Our intention is to provide recreational and competitive football to children and youths of varying abilities in an enjoyable and structured environment.

As a principle, teams will be selected on merit rather than a rotation system. This does mean that all players will get a regular game. Selection remains entirely at the discretion of each team manager.

Every year we hold trials in June or July. When recruiting new players, we try to keep the nucleus of the existing sides to give continuity and a sense of belonging to the club. Some of our players have been with us right from the start.

We are always on the lookout for new players. (Enthusiasm required.)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

We charge an annual subscription fee of £200.

The club must receive the yearly subscription by the 31st August. Payment can be by cheque, BACS, through the website or onsite with our card reader. If paying by cheque, they should be made out to Seymour Villa FC with the child's name on the back. Please give any cheques directly to Gary Johnson - Chairman.

If anyone has difficulty paying their yearly subscription, please let the Chairman know so that the matter can be treated in the strictest confidence.

Subscriptions are subject to change every to season.

We welcome any assistance you feel you could offer the club, however great or small.

We look forward to many more successful seasons.

TRAINING AND MATCHES

- Parents should stay at training and matches if their child is under 13 years of age.
- Lateness will not be tolerated for training or matches.
- Please always wear your shin pads during matches and training.
- If unable to attend training or matches, you must phone your manager beforehand.
- During matches, no spectators are to be stood behind a goal.
- No jewellery to be worn at any time.
- No fizzy drinks or chewing gum at training or matches.
- **All kits remain the property of Seymour Villa FC** and should only be worn at matches and functions. These must be returned when your player leaves the club.

RESPECTING MATCH OFFICIALS

The 2023/24 season saw a great deal of press and social media coverage describing the shocking scale of abuse received by grassroots referees. A wide-ranging BBC questionnaire found that 98% of referees who replied, had experienced verbal abuse and almost one third had experienced physical abuse. These statistics are both worrying and unacceptable. These people are people and deserve to be treated as such. Anyone acting as a referee, be they be a parent, a volunteer or whoever, has the full powers and authority of any qualified Referee and have the write to report all incidents of abuse or misconduct.

In response the FA have been imposing increasing penalties on Clubs who cannot control their members or supporters. Some very heavy fines are now being applied to Clubs in cases of abuse to a Referee.

Thankfully we are considered a polite and courteous club on the whole but sometimes this reputation can be tested. We will not loose our passion for the game but equally we want all those involved in every match to walk away feeling positive (even if the scoreline isn't).

Therefore, all players, volunteers and spectators present at matches are expected to ensure they make every effort to prevent forms of abuse against match officials. Obviously, this includes not doing anything which would be considered abuse yourself but also calling out when you see it happen. Often by merely realising that someone has lost the support of the crowd any aggression is diffused very quickly and doesn't need to escalate – the official feels supported and further action is not required, however if the official feels it necessary then they are fully obliged to report it to the league and the LondonFA who oversee our matches.

Any instance of abuse reported to the club will be investigated fully and sanctions may include match bans temporary or permanent exclusion from the club. In circumstances where this involves a player then the subscription fees will not be eligible for refund.

“WHAT DOES A MANAGER EXPECT FROM ME?”

- Players are to respect all staff. Constant backchat will result in suspension and if continued, expulsion from the club.
- You should be proud to be a part of Seymour Villa FC and respect all boys or girls lucky enough to wear the shirt. Wear it with pride and conduct yourself in a way so as not to bring shame on the club
- All players are expected to come to their weekly training session.
- We cannot improve you as a player or the team if you do not turn up. If you are unable to attend, you must inform your manager by 9pm the day before training. Failure to do so may affect your selection in the team for Sunday’s match.
- If you find that on a Sunday morning you are unable to attend, you must let your manager know ASAP. Remember, you will not be in trouble for not coming, but you will be in trouble if you fail to let your manager know.
- All players are expected to be on time for your match, to give you enough time to warm up properly. This is normally between 30-45 minutes before kick-off, depending on your respective manager.
- When playing matches, we encourage parents/carers to help with transport to and from the match. It is unfair to rely on another parent to take your child to nearly every game, as this has been a problem in the past. We do expect to see parents at most matches to support your child.
- The manager cannot be expected to effectively coach or look after the welfare of the players by themselves. We do not have the resources to be able to allocate enough DBS checked volunteers to look after a group of up to 20 children in any team. We would therefore expect that there is a sizable number of parents at all training and matches. There will be occasions where a parent cannot be present, however this should not be the norm. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that other parents present are willing and able to assume responsibility. The parent of the child must also ensure that any such temporary arrangement ensures that parties can be contacted in an emergency or if the current event is cut short.

CODES OF CONDUCT

PLAYERS CODE:

- Play for the fun of it, not just to please your parents/carers or coach.
- Play by the laws of the game and play to the whistle.
- Never argue with the referee or linesman's decision.
- Control your temper. Use your energy for playing better football.
- Play well for yourself and the team. Your team's performance will benefit from this and so will you.
- Be a good sport. Recognise all good play, whether it's by your own team or by your opponents.
- Treat all players as you wish to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of any player.
- Remember that the rules of the game are to have fun, meet friends, improve your skills and feel good. No one likes a show off.
- Co-operate with your team members.
- Learn the laws of the game. It will make you a better footballer.

PARENTS/SPECTATORS CODE:

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in any sporting activity.
- Remember children play for their own enjoyment, not yours.
- Teach your child that being honest is more important than victory.
- Children learn by example. Applaud good play by both teams.
- Do not argue with a referee's final decision. He is only human and can make mistakes.
- Recognise the importance of all coaches as they give up their free time, unpaid, to provide football for your child.
- Get a better understanding of the game to know what you are watching and commentating on.
- Be on your best behavior. Do not use profane language or harass, physically or verbally, players, manager, coaches, or officials.
- Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during the game.

This is not the World Cup

They are children - We are volunteers - The opposition are our guests.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

- The child's welfare is and must always be of paramount.
- To promote ethics and high standards throughout our club.
- All children and young people have a right to be protected from any sort of abuse, regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, or religious beliefs,
- Every child who plays football should be able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from any sort of abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved with our club.
- Any allegation of abuse will be taken seriously, and a meeting called between our Welfare Officers and those involved.

All of our managers, coaches and some of our committee and parents have attended the FA Child Protection course.

If there are any welfare concerns within the club then please contact us at safeguarding@seymourvillaafc.co.uk. We also have a number which can be used (call, text, WhatsApp) to report safeguarding concerns.

07380 309846

All conversations in strictest confidence.

For any safeguarding issues please contact the club or alternatively call Childline on 0800 1111 or go to the childline.org.uk for advice and support. For concerns where a child is in imminent danger, please contact the police

ANTI-BULLYING CODE

- Every player at Seymour Villa FC has the right to learn and enjoy their time with the club.
- The aim of Seymour Villa is to learn mutual respect and understanding. We will not tolerate any actions or remarks even if they were not intended to hurt.
- Any intentional action or comment, which is hurtful, threatening or frightening, will be defined as bullying.
- Bullying at Seymour Villa FC will be dealt with very seriously.
- Bullying is far too serious for you not to report it. Every player at Seymour Villa has the responsibility to report bullying if they know it is going on.
- These rules apply to all Committee members, coaches, players, parents, spectators or anyone else connected with the club. We also reserve the right to apply this to those previous players who still have links to the club or its current players.
- Discipline can include but is not limited to match bans temporary or permanent exclusion from the club. In these circumstances the subscription fees will not be eligible for refund.

THIS IS A ZERO TOLERANCE CLUB ANY PARENT OR SPECTATOR ABUSING OTHERS (INCLUDING ONLINE OR ON SOCIAL MEDIA) WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE CLUB!

GROUNDS & TRAINING/MATCH INFO

Our main grounds are at Alexandra Recreation Ground. We try to play all of our matches at this ground. When winter arrives and with it comes the rain, we try to give the pitches at Alexandra a helping hand by not training on them on Saturdays. We therefore move to Cator Park. This move is decided by the managers so keep an eye on the group Whatsapp for your team. Again, this is a reason to not “drop and run” without seeing that your team is actually at the ground.

Please ensure every player has the following at all training session and matches:

- Suitable clothing for the weather – layers in the winter and a coat which can be kept dry.
- Suitable footwear. Boots can be expensive but properly supporting the foot will mean there is less chance of you spending a Saturday night in A&E.
- Water – at least 500ml but in the summer this will need to be more – in a clearly recognisable water bottle
- Shin pads – again – until you have wound up with studs in your shin you will not appreciate the pain...

VOLUNTEERING AND TRAINING COURSES

As we are club made entirely through volunteers, we are always grateful to anyone wishing to take on a role.

There are a wide range of roles within the club which means everything can bring something to the Club. Maybe something you do in your professional life can be helpful to the Club and the young people we support.

If you think you would like to help then please get in touch with your Manager, Gary the Chairman or Julian the Vice Chair.

We are always looking for:

DBS Enhanced – Each team needs at least 2 people in addition to the coach who are DBS checked. This means that we can ensure if the coach needs support they can call on these people to ensure that our safeguarding commitments are met. The costs and organisation are all looked after by the club.

Managers – DBS checked people can also be managers. This might suit those who maybe don't have a vast knowledge of the game and might find coaching a daunting prospect but by being a manager you can lighten the load for the coach in the team by taking on some of the more organisational roles

Coaching – There are several courses offered by the FA. The costs of these courses are covered by the club. Those who have done it previously find it very rewarding.

Refereeing – If you know better then we dare you to prove it! Again, the courses are arranged and costs are looked after by the club. This can be a great source of some spare cash to our older players as anyone over 14 can apply.

Committee – we welcome people to join us in making this club the best it can be. There are various roles including safeguarding, finance, logistics, web team and registrations secretary roles. Many of these roles are perfect for parents who want to give support but maybe are not able to always be physically present every weekend.

Committee Members

Lifetime President

Martin King

Chairman

Gary Johnson
07553 930618

Assistant Chair Person

Julian Modeste
07561 486884

Club Secretary

Gez Stanley
+44 7590 468239

Registration Secretaries

Gary Johnson
Simon Wait

Treasurer

Naomi Gray-Durant
07957 474206

Club Welfare Officers

Lead - TBC

Technical - Simon Wait

07958368250

safeguarding@seymourvillafc.co.uk

Dedicated SVFC number: 07380 309846

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Cyber Officer

Simon Wait

Managers & Coaches

U9's	Ricki Jones	
U10's	TBC	
U11's	Nino Starace	Craig Orr
U12's	Tim Wakefield	Jon Lantsbury
U13's	Ben Goodall	Peter Fitzgerald
U14's	Julian Modeste	Toby Borger
U16's	Tom Proxa	