

NEW PARENT'S HANDBOOK

All you need to know before
joining Hitchin Belles FC



THE HOME OF
**FEMALE
FOOTBALL**
IN NORTH HERTS



RESPECT

TheFA
**Charter
Standard
Club.**

CONTENTS

1 About the club

2 Club ethos

3 Training

4 Playing

5 What we expect

6 Resources

7 Who to contact

ABOUT THE CLUB



Hitchin Belles FC have become one of the largest all female football clubs in England with over 300 players across the age groups taking part in matches and training each week. We have earned a reputation for being a fair and friendly club and were delighted to be awarded the FA Charter Standard in 2010 with Charter Standard Development Club being awarded in 2021 in recognition of our high standards and road map to continue the growth of the female game.

We aim to provide a caring, family environment where girls can develop their skills and enjoy football free from pressure or fear of failure.

We will not tolerate poor behaviour, bad language or abuse in any form from coaches, players, parents or spectators.

The club actively supports the FA's Respect Campaign and through our proactive work in this field, were awarded the Herts FA's Charter Standard Club of the Year (Runner Up) in 2013 and 2018.

All of our teams are based at our home ground of The Priory School.

CLUB ETHOS

Football for all helping players develop their game

At Belles, we play competitive football but we measure our success by the enjoyment and progress of each player, not just the amount of trophies and medals!

We adopt an "Equal Playing Time" and 'All positions' philosophy at the non-competitive age groups to ensure every child benefits from the maximum time on the pitch and experience in all areas of it.

Players are encouraged to test themselves and we operate an age group over team focus meaning players will train and play with different teams regularly so they feel part of a wider age group structure. We expect all players and parents to 'buy in' to this approach when they join the club.

Football for all is at the heart of Belles with players placed into teams which best helps their development.

We only do 😊
positive.

TRAINING

Qualified coaches with the emphasis on player and team development

All summer training sessions take place at The Priory School on grass. To promote the age group focus teams within each age group will train at the same time and location.

All of our coaches are qualified to a minimum FA Level 1 and attend regular CPD events. Coaches have access to a wealth of resources with sessions designed to maximise 'ball rolling' time and create game realistic situations.



PLAYING

In the younger age groups, leagues are non-competitive with teams placed in groups which are rotated frequently to ensure matches are evenly contested. No results are allowed to be publicised for the non-competitive age groups.

At U12 teams enter a league structure with league tables and cup competitions

AGE GROUP	FORMAT
U8-U9	5-a-side
U10-U11	7-a-side
U12-U13	9-a-side
U14-Open age	11-a-side

All home matches are played at The Priory School. As a parent you may be asked to help set-up the pitches, referee, run the line or be a match day delegate!



The entrance to The Priory School on Bedford Road

WHAT WE EXPECT

Creating a positive environment so we can all enjoy the game

At Hitchin Belles FC we expect all coaches, managers, volunteers, parents and players to uphold the FA respect code of conduct.

When playing football, I will:

- ▶ Always play to the best of my ability and for the benefit of my team
- ▶ Play fairly – I won't cheat, dive, complain or waste time
- ▶ Respect my team-mates, the other team, the referee or my coach/manager
- ▶ Play by the rules, as directed by the referee
- ▶ Be gracious in victory and defeat – I will shake hands with the other team and referee before or at the end of the game
- ▶ Listen and respond to what my coach/team manager tells me
- ▶ Understand that a coach has to do what is best for the team and not one individual player
- ▶ Talk to someone I trust or the club welfare officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA I may:

- ▶ Be required to apologise to my team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- ▶ Receive a formal warning from the coach or the club committee
- ▶ Be dropped or substituted
- ▶ Be suspended from training
- ▶ Be required to leave the club In addition:
- ▶ My club, may make my parent or carer aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct
- ▶ The FA/County FA could impose a fine and suspension against my club

WHAT WE EXPECT

Parents and Spectators

We all bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help provide a positive environment in which children can learn and enjoy the game. Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for spectators at all times.

- ▶ Remember that children play for FUN
- ▶ Applaud effort and good play as well as success.
- ▶ Respect the Referee's decisions even when you don't agree with them
- ▶ Appreciate good play from whatever team it comes from
- ▶ Remain behind the touchline and within the Designated Spectators' Area (where provided)
- ▶ Let the coaches do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
- ▶ Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials
- ▶ Support positively. When players make a mistake, offer them encouragement not criticism
- ▶ Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA: I may be:

- ▶ Issued with a verbal warning from a club or league official
- ▶ Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- ▶ Required to meet with the club committee
- ▶ Obligated to undertake an FA education course
- ▶ Obligated to leave the match venue by the club
- ▶ Requested by the club not to attend future games
- ▶ Suspended or have my club membership removed
- ▶ Required to leave the club along with any dependents In addition: The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club

RESOURCES

All of Belles policies, documents and player resources can be found on our website at

www.hitchinbelles.com

We post regular updates on all of our social media accounts and send a regular newsletter out to all of our members.



WHO TO CONTACT

Club Chair – simon white
simonwhite@hitchinbelles.com

Club Secretary – Jason Slade
jasonslade@hitchinbelles.com

Child Welfare Officer – Lisa Tollervy
lisatollervy@hitchinbelles.com

Registrations Secretary – Sarah White
Sarahwhite@hitchinbelles.com

Treasurer – Greg Phillip
gregphillip@hitchinbelles.com

