



## **Samford Rangers Football Club**

### **Director of Football**

### **TIPS - Talent Identification and Football Skill Improvement Tool**

Dear Parent/Guardian

Samford Rangers Football Club is here to not only provide football for all those who wish to play, but also to improve the football skills of our players.

As a tool to help us along this pathway we are introducing TIPS. The system is based upon that developed by Ajax Amsterdam, one of the most famous and successful youth football academies in Europe. However at the core of Samford Rangers is a recognition that many of our players are here purely for enjoyment. So, we have adapted the tool such that it is applicable not just to our elite players but also to our recreational players. This system will result in some player movements year on year and possibly in mid season. It is important for players' enhanced enjoyment that they play, as far as is practicably possible, with players of similar abilities. This may result in some players playing at a higher age group, by one year, than their age suggests. This will be minimised and only done with parental consent.

The system will also help our coaches deliver coaching applicable to our young children, which will improve their skill levels, understanding of the game and their overall enjoyment of this great game.

The key points of this process are:

- It is not carried out as a one-off grading. The scoring is a view of how the player has played throughout the season and in their training.
- The individual player's coach is an integral part of this grading process.
- The process will be overseen by the Director of Football, and members of the Junior Coaching Panel.
- Players and parents/guardians will be made aware of their child's grading and what it means. It is anticipated that improvement areas will be identified for next season.
- The process is transparent and rigorous, but purely football oriented.

This process is being implemented now and through to the end of the season. It is my expectation that all players from U9 – U16 will have been given their grading by end September.

As with all change this system will not please everybody, equally I am not expecting the process to be perfect from day one, modification is likely. Please read through the document on the website and if you wish to provide feedback, please do so via email or

in person. Please do not let issues fester. I am committed to improving the football talent at Samford Rangers, whilst ensuring we are recognised as a provider of excellent football opportunities for all.

Kind Regards

*Will Allan*

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