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Advanced Team Commitment Required at Camden Falcons

The Advanced Team pathway requires a commitment from both players and parents/guardians.

For the 2027 season, the Club will introduce an Advanced Team Opt-In Policy for the U11 and U12 age groups. This team will operate separately from the intermediate and beginner U11 and U12 teams. The grading of players responds to feedback that some players in these age groups are ready for a higher-intensity development environment, while ensuring grading is not imposed on players who prefer to remain in a non-graded team.

Parents and guardians of players in these age groups should understand the process outlined in the Camden Falcons Football Club Grading Policy, Version 3.0 – August 2026, and consider each player's ability, experience, and willingness to participate in a more competitive football environment.

Players selected for the team will be expected to:

- Attend two training sessions per week, except when unwell or absent for a reasonable cause.
- Participate in pre-season training, which may commence before the competition season.
- Demonstrate a consistent commitment to training and team development.

Player Assessment and Selection

The Camden Falcons Grading Committee will assess players across selected skill areas to determine their suitability for the Advanced Team and to form a team capable of competing effectively at the intended level.

The Club may conduct multiple assessment sessions as part of the selection process.

To reduce pressure around the selection day, parents/guardians may choose to receive their child's selection outcome by email or text message. The Club will aim to communicate the outcome to each family as soon as practicable.

Potential Questions and answers

1. How do I know whether my child should opt in for the Advanced Team?

The Advanced Team is intended for players who are ready for a higher level of training intensity and competition.

If a player has less than three years of playing experience and has not participated in academy-level training, families may wish to consider allowing the player additional time to develop before opting into the grading process.

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Ultimately, the decision to opt in should be based on the player's ability, experience, interest and willingness to commit to the requirements of the Advanced Team.

2. Can players from last year's team stay together?

The purpose of the grading process is to form an Advanced Team based on the players' current abilities and suitability for the intended level of competition.

The Club intends to establish one Advanced Team in each age group. Players who are not selected for the Advanced Team, or who choose not to participate in the grading process, may still be placed in their preferred team where possible, including Intermediate and beginner teams, subject to team preferences, registration numbers, capacity and the applicable MFA grading levels/classifications.

3. What commitment is expected from players and parents/guardians?

Players selected for the Advanced Team are expected to attend training twice per week, unless they are unwell or have a reasonable reason for being absent.

Consistent attendance is important for individual development, team cohesion and preparation. Weekly training attendance may also be considered when determining weekend team selections.

Parents/guardians are expected to support their child in meeting these commitments, including attendance at pre-season training.

4. How will parents/guardians be advised of the selection outcome?

To reduce pressure on players and families on selection day, parents/guardians may choose to receive their child's outcome by email or text message.

Once notified, parents/guardians will be required to respond within 12 hours to confirm whether their child accepts the position.

Players trialling for the Advanced Team are expected to be ready to commit to the team if selected. This process is intended to ensure that the Club can finalise the team promptly and provide certainty for all players and families involved.