

Aquinas FC – Welcome!

Welcome to Aquinas Football Club!

Aquinas Football Club was established in 1969 as a cross community football club supporting the sporting needs of people of south Belfast and beyond.

We're delighted to have you join us as part of the team. Our club thrives on the dedication and passion of its coaches and volunteers, and we value your commitment to helping develop the talents and character of our players.

Our Mission and Values

At Aquinas FC, we aim to create a positive and inclusive environment that fosters both athletic skill and personal growth. We emphasize teamwork, respect, and community engagement, and we believe that every member, whether coach, volunteer, or player, contributes to this mission.

Key Policies

To ensure smooth operation and uphold the highest standards of safety and sportsmanship, we have a set of policies that all coaches and volunteers must be familiar with and adhere to. These policies are designed to protect everyone involved with the club and to maintain fairness, professionalism, and integrity across all activities. You will receive copies of these key documents, but here's a brief overview:

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy: Ensuring the safety and well-being of all players, particularly minors.

Code of Conduct for Coaches and Volunteers: Guidelines for maintaining a professional, respectful environment on and off the pitch.

Health and Safety Policy: Procedures for maintaining a safe environment during training, matches, and club activities.

Equality and Inclusion Policy: Our commitment to providing equal opportunities and fostering diversity within the club.

Please take time to read through these documents once provided, as they will inform your role and help guide your actions.

Roles and Responsibilities

Coaches

As a coach, you are responsible for the development of our players, both in terms of football skills and personal growth. Your key duties include:

Training Sessions: Planning and delivering engaging, safe, and effective training sessions that cater to players of different skill levels.

Match Day Management: Overseeing team selection, tactics, and player rotation, ensuring all players are given opportunities to participate.

Player Development: Fostering an encouraging atmosphere that supports players in improving their skills and understanding of the game.

Communication: Maintaining regular communication with players, parents, and club officials regarding schedules, player progress, and club events.

Adherence to Policies: Ensuring that all club policies, particularly safeguarding and health & safety, are followed during all club activities.

Volunteers

Volunteers play a vital role in supporting the smooth operation of the club. Whether assisting with administrative tasks, event organization, or helping on match days, your contribution is invaluable. Typical volunteer duties may include:

Match Day Support: Assisting with setting up pitches, managing equipment, and supporting coaches and referees.

Club Events: Helping to organize and run social events, fundraising activities, and community outreach programs.

Administrative Support: Assisting with club communications, managing memberships, and maintaining records.

Health and Safety Oversight: Supporting coaches to ensure that health and safety protocols are followed.

Support and Communication

We want to ensure that you feel supported in your role. Our committee members are always available to answer any questions or address concerns. We also encourage regular communication between coaches, volunteers, and parents to keep everyone informed and engaged.

Our teams use a variety of members to manage communications, with following available

- **WhatsApp** for instant coach communication, key updates and coaches sharing information
- **Emails** from Club – more formal communication, generally notification of events and key items throughout the year
- **Heja** or similar – management of attendance at training and matches

Thank you again for your dedication and passion. Together, we can provide a rewarding and enjoyable football experience for everyone involved with Aquinas FC

If you have any questions or require further information about your role, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Welcome aboard!

Sincerely,
Denis Kelly
Chairman
Aquinas Football Club