

Gartcairn Football Academy

Enclosure D – Squad Structure and Conflict of Interest Procedure

Adopted in General Meeting on 4 October 2026. Review: annually at the start of each season.

Purpose: to protect players from actual or perceived favouritism, and to protect coaches from unfounded accusations of it, where a coach's own child plays in a squad they coach, or where a team is sponsored by a player's parent or relative.

1. Coaches declare annually (at registration) any squad in which their own child, or the child of a close relative, plays. The Club Secretary keeps a register of these declarations.
2. Where a coach's child plays in their squad, a second coach must be involved in selection and substitution decisions that directly concern the coach's own child or a player competing for the same position.
3. Proposals to create a new team or age-group squad must be made in writing to the Committee with a football rationale, and approved by the Committee before the team is formed or entered into any league.
4. Sponsorship of a team by a parent or relative of a player must have no bearing on selection.
5. Any player or parent/carer who believes favouritism is affecting selection may raise it with a CWPO, who will look into it and respond. Raising such a concern will never be held against a player.

Queries about this document should be directed to the Club Secretary or a Club Wellbeing and Protection Officer (CWPO).