



STREAMING

WHAT, WHY, WHEN, HOW



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OUR MISSION

Claygate Royals welcomes all children regardless of their ability, background, experience or confidence with a ball. We promote football in the community by providing boys and girls of all ages with a safe and secure environment in which to enjoy playing and provide maximum opportunities to develop their football, personal, social, educational and physical skills - all to their full potential.

Streaming players is fundamental to delivering Our Mission and a cornerstone of the club's footballing philosophy to provide ability-based coaching from foundation to senior football.

WHAT IS STREAMING?

Streaming is a process that facilitates the movement of players within an age group's teams*, in-line with their current level of ability and speed of development.

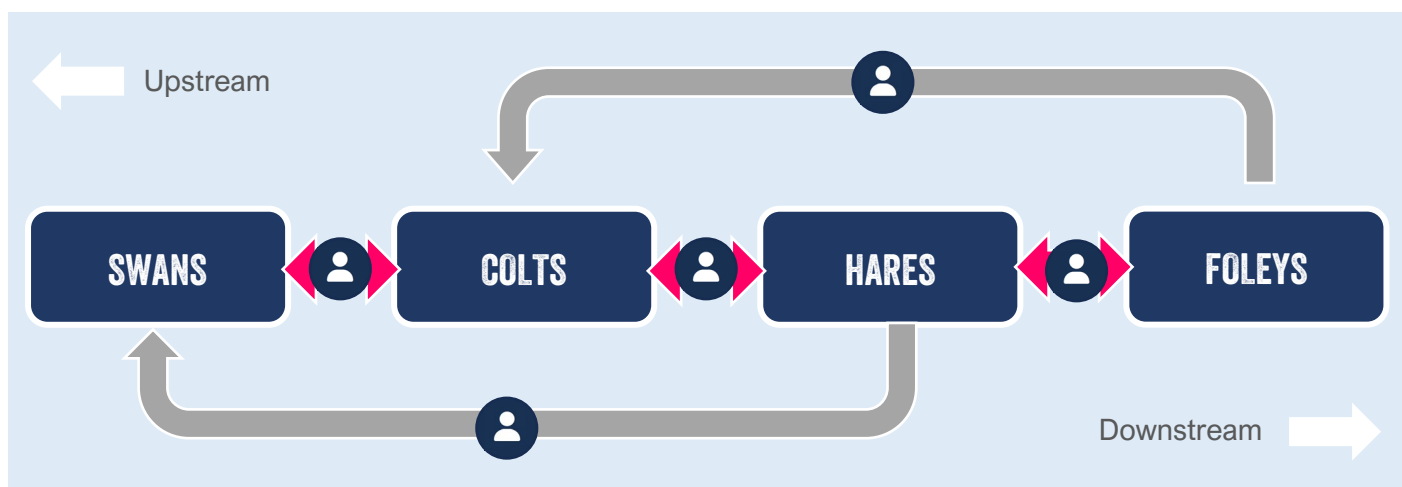
All player streaming decisions include all aspects of the FA's *Four Corner Long Term Player Development Model*:



As players' ability and development within age groups varies considerably as they grow and mature, it is essential that Claygate Royals set the foundation for players to move and play in teams consistent with their development needs.

** In special circumstances streaming may involve players playing in the year group above their age to fulfil their development needs.*

EXAMPLE STREAM



Player movements typically take place between adjacent teams. Some players can “jump” teams but this typically happens in the U7 – U10 age groups as new teams are created.

During the streaming process, minimising its impact on players is a key component. However, it is extremely important to acknowledge that streaming can sometimes be contentious - this is usually due to a poor understanding of why it happens.

WHY WE STREAM

1

INSPIRE

Every player has varying levels of **potential** and at different stage in their unique development journey.

2

DEVELOP

It is the responsibility of Claygate Royals to ensure all our players are offered the best chance of **developing** and **progressing**.

3

TEAM

To create balanced teams that **engages** players (& parents) and **drives** enjoyment.



Streaming simply enables all children to become the best player they can by:

- Driving their development and are so challenged at the right level.
- Giving them the opportunity to reach their greatest potential.
- Providing players with equal opportunities to develop.
- Increasing confidence and enjoyment of playing.
- Preventing disappointment, disillusionment and leaving the game.
- Keeping them playing football for longer and into their adult life.

At the practical level it means:

- Players will have more touches of the ball when playing in a team of similar ability.
- Supports our equal playing time philosophy (until competitive football begins at U12s).
- Enables coaches to better identify areas for individual growth and team development; driving focus for training and matches.

It's **very important** to note we don't stream at Claygate Royals to win trophies, but our teams are more likely to be successful in competitions regardless of age, level, league or division. We stream because we believe that it **benefits all players** - so that they may experience success and develop to realise their potential.

There is well documented evidence showing a failure to stream players results in players (and coaches) leaving grass roots clubs as they seek different development challenges and opportunities.

STREAMING FOR PARENTS

As you've hopefully gathered, streaming is for the direct benefit of the players and not parents (sorry). The decision to transition players between teams is always in the interest of the player's long-term development.

BUT... sometimes as parents we often let our interpretation of things cloud our judgement as to how our child might perceive things. When we talk about streaming or ability-based coaching in football, quite often the children understand it (and get more from it) but parents hear something different – 'A v B', 'Good v Bad', 'Privileged v non-privileged'.

For parents it's important to look beyond this and understand that children do progress at different levels and rates - they will get to meet their potential in the end if we let them and support them - if we try to force them to play at a level beyond current ability, they will lose



heart (& confidence) and if players aren't challenged appropriately (whatever level they are at) their development will suffer.

Players moving down stream **should never be seen** as a demotion or being “dropped” by parents and must understand that development of the player is the only reason.

It should be regarded as normal and positive for players to move in either direction between teams.

Parent and coaches need to instil in our players the understanding that we are not three or more teams in an age group but rather we are all Claygate Royals players who may not always play together.

One of the biggest issues faced with streaming in the younger age groups is the separation of players from friends. We understand this (and may run mixed training sessions) but rely on coaches and the support of parents to help their child overcome this challenge.



WHEN DOES STREAMING HAPPEN?

Streaming occurs mainly at the end of each season. In exceptional circumstances player movements can happen mid-season.

A. AT FORMAT TRANSITIONS

Claygate Royals believes that streaming takes place for boys and girls at these key milestones that mark the progression and transition of players from 5 aside through to 11 aside games:

7	BOYS	▶ END OF THE <u>U8</u> SEASON WHEN TEAMS MOVE TO 7 ASIDE
	GIRLS	▶ END OF THE <u>U9</u> SEASON WHEN TEAMS MOVE TO 7 ASIDE
9	BOYS	▶ END OF THE <u>U10</u> SEASON WHEN TEAMS MOVE TO 9 ASIDE
	GIRLS	▶ END OF THE <u>U11</u> SEASON WHEN TEAMS MOVE TO 9 ASIDE
11	BOYS	▶ END OF THE <u>U12</u> SEASON WHEN TEAMS MOVE TO 11 ASIDE
	GIRLS	▶ END OF THE <u>U13</u> SEASON WHEN TEAMS MOVE TO 11 ASIDE

Streaming should be concluded and communicated by the **end of May**, which helps with divisional placing in the leagues.

We don't expect to create mass upheaval at these key intervals as streaming starts very early on in our player journey – meaning many players, but clearly not all, will already be playing at the right team/level.

Note:

At the above key intervals we expect to attract new players to supplement increased squad sizes and to fill any 'gaps' - where we have a lack of suitable players or we have specific positional requirements. We may hold trials to facilitate this but these are for incoming players only.



We maintain a healthy and up-to-date recruitment database that plays an important role in this process.

B. END OF EACH SEASON

Streaming will also be a consideration at the end of each season. Generally, there may be some minor movement of players between teams.

It's worth remembering that in a short time some children can develop rapidly; become highly self-motivated to hit their potential; some develop issues of confidence and some will have unique and different needs. Streaming at the end of season enables us to make sure all teams and players are aligned.

Again, streaming should be concluded and communicated by the **end of May**.

C. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

There will be occasions when players may move up or down during the season, depending on their development or a change in circumstances.

HOW STREAMING HAPPENS

All streaming is overseen by year group co-ordinators.

1

MEET

Year group managers and coaches hold formal meetings to discuss player development and the recent season; who will benefit from being streamed up or down and who remains in which team¹.

(Internal trials may take place where there are harder decisions to make and no agreements can be reached. We may use external coaching organisations to help facilitate this decision-making process. This is, however, rare and likely only at Format Transitions).

2

CONSULT

Once player movements are identified, conversations will take place between coaches and parents (and depending on age, includes the player). Conversations will also occur for players not moving – there are some players that may be disappointed or feel over-looked and these conversations are equally as important.

3

COMMUNICATE

We realise great communication is hugely important in making this process work so we rely on openness and transparency between coaches and parents.

Players are to be informed in such a way as to ensure that the reasons are fully understood, negating any impact (positive or negative) to confidence.

¹ Only from U13 onwards should positional requirements be a factor in streaming conversations.

We encourage all teams to have at least one training session after streaming has occurred and before end of the summer school term.

Players are usually happier a few weeks after streaming when they are with players of similar ability and have settled in to their new team – true for all age groups

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions on our approach to streaming, please contact the Chair or Vice Chair – see the contacts page at www.claygateroyals.club.



SPECIAL NOTES FOR COACHES

1. Streaming can be contentious. We won't always get everything 100% correct but by using this document and applying common sense we aim to have all players playing at a level that is proportionate with ability levels.
2. Year group coaches and age group co-ordinators must work together. We need to be flexible and interchangeable between teams and understand that the concept of "this is my team" is not our way.
3. Coaches should make every effort to remain impartial to their own children to avoid conflict of interest. Players' welfare and development is the sole consideration when streaming.
4. There are different considerations when handling streaming for girls and boys.
5. Communication is key to making streaming work, this should be done in a timely manner before end of season and keeping parents informed during the process.
6. Ensure transition is handled professionally for players moving teams.
7. Streaming gets easier as teams move up the age groups.

FAQS

What do we do if a player does not wish to move upstream?

We cannot force the player to move but we must communicate to the player and parents and explain that we feel the decision is in the best interests of the player's development. The manager must make it absolutely clear that he or she is in favour of the move and must not give any mixed-messages to the parents publicly or privately. If the player wishes to remain after discussions, then they remain and it can be reviewed in the future.

What do we do if a player refuses to move downstream?

This is difficult but we have to enforce the decision - it is no good for the development of the player, the players' teammates and would be stopping another player moving up.

What do we do when a parent questions streaming decisions?

Discussions to resolve any concerns should take the following route:

Team Manager – will solve the vast majority of concerns.

Age Group Co-ordinator – will mediate between manager and parent / player.

Chair/ Vice Chair – raise outstanding issues to the committee for a final decision.