



Leighton United Football Club

PLAYING FEES & FINANCIALS FAQ

Q1 How are annual playing fees determined ?

The club Management Committee reviews the playing fees as part of the annual review of finances and financial expenditure accounting for changes in situation internally and externally - these decisions are ratified by the committee and then communicated out to parents.

Q2 How often are playing fees changed ?

Note very often. As a club policy we try to keep our fees affordable and comparable to other similar clubs with similar operations. We decided to alter the playing fees two years ago (the first change in over 5 previous years) to harmonise the fee levels and make things easier for parents.

Q3 What are the playing fees for the 2024-25 football season ?

Playing fees as endorsed at June 2024 will be:

Format	League	Playing Fee
5 aside and 7 aside (boys and girls)	Bedfordshire Mini Soccer League, Bedfordshire FA Girls League, Milton Keynes & District Development League	£ 145
9 aside and 11 aside (boys and girls)	Bedfordshire FA Girls League, Chiltern Youth Football League, Milton Keynes & District Development League	£ 195

These fees are increased from £135 and £185 respectively. This increase has been considered very carefully—accounting for increased costs of operations, materials and equipment—and believe we our costs remain competitive and value for money compared to other local clubs.

It is necessary to run the club as a business and to be financially sustainable. We maintained fees at a static level for as long as possible over many previous seasons but now need to increase income to help cover substantial increases in costs.

Q4 Why is there a jump in fees between small and large teams ?

Generally, our larger and older teams incur more costs for referees, leagues and other expenses.

Q5 What do the playing fees cover ?

Playing fees contribute toward the club running costs including:

- Provision of match day playing kit.
- Provision of football equipment for training and match days – includes a stock of footballs for each team. Replenished at least annually
- Provision of first aid kits
- Cedars School training venue costs (when it is exceptionally agreed that teams can train elsewhere the venue cost will be a team responsibility)
- All FA and league affiliation fees
- All referee fees
- All league and FA administration costs

- Subsidising coaching qualifications and DBS checks in certain circumstances
- Pitch maintenance and renovation
- Facility refurbishment and maintenance, including clubhouse, car park and driveway, shipping containers, security systems, defibrillator, waste disposal etc.
- Utility and Services costs
- Club trophies and medals for the season
- Public liability insurance and other overheads football kits and equipment, pitch maintenance, clubhouse operations and general ground costs, utilities, insurances, registration fees, referee fees, player trophies, communications, events and more.

Note:

- Payment of playing fees has no entitlement to playing kit ownership
- Playing kit remains the property of the club and must be returned upon leaving the club
- Normally playing fees also cover the costs for hiring Cedars 3G for training
- The club operates as a not-for-profit organisation
- Proceeds are invested for the further development of the club and benefit of players

Q6 Do playing fees cover all the club expenses ?

No. Unfortunately, playing fees usually only cover about two-thirds of annual expenditure required to run the club and facilities. The balance of funds is normally gained from tea-bar income and other sources such events.

Q7 What do you mean by 'season' ?

Playing fees are based on an 8-month football season from September to April inclusive, covering when most league matches are played. It is accepted that some teams may have scheduled fixtures outside this period.

Q8 When are playing fees due ?

Regular Playing Fees must be paid either in full at the time of pre-season player registration, before the start of the league season or by two equal instalments, half pre-season and the remaining half by 30th September. If hardship payment plans are granted, payments must be completed by the 31st of January 2025. Failure to complete payment of playing fees will result in players being de-registered and ineligible to play until accounts are settled.

Q9 Do you offer discounts ?

Where a player has younger siblings playing at the club the younger ones are eligible for a sibling reduction of £30 each, but only if the siblings register as players before the start of the season.

Siblings joining later in the season will not be eligible for the discount.

Players who represent two club teams will pay a full fee for one team and be entitled to a reduction of £30 for the other team.

A playing fee will not be charged for children of lead coaches who are named as the coach/manager for the team on the Football Association (FA) Whole Game System database, provided these coaches have at least an FA Level 1 (or equivalent) coaching qualification (not just the online FA Playmaker), have current FA safeguarding, FA first aid and FA Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check credentials, attend twice yearly coach's meetings organised by the Head Coach (usually at the start and end of the season) and be fully aware and compliant with all club policies and procedures, including agreeing the Coach/Team Manager and Assistant Coach Code of Conduct.

This discount is in recognition of volunteer time and commitment spent running teams. Maximum of two discounts per team.

Q10 How can payments be made ?

Preferred method is BACS payment using details:

Account Name:

Leighton United Football Club

A/C No: 81538667

Sort Code: 40-19-30

Ref Number: The team the player plays for and the player's name - this is vital so that payments are traceable.

Payments can also be made by cash or by a cheque made payable to Leighton United Football Club.

Q11 Are extended staged payments allowed ?

Extended stage payment plans will only be considered when financial hardship is proven. Claims for financial hardship, e.g. by provision of evidence to confirm receipt of state unemployment or social security benefits, will be adjudicated by Club Welfare Officers. When extended staged payment plans are agreed they must be paid up in full by 31 January of the following year at the very latest.

Q12 What will happen if playing fees are not paid ?

A **no payment – no play** policy is implemented at LUFC – which is confirmed on the player registration form completed by parents/carers.

If regular playing fees are not paid in full by 30 September or a hardship stage payment plan has not been agreed by then player registration will be removed and the player, is no longer allowed to play until the debt has been cleared.

All agreed hardship payment plans must be completed by 31st January 2025.

Q13 What if a player joins part way through a season ?

Players joining the club after the season start date or part-way through the season will be charged a fee calculated to be pro-rata for the point of the season that players join.

Q14 What if a player joins part way through a season ?

The player will be charged a pro-rata fee for the time remaining of the season. For example, in a normal 8-month season a player joining in January with 4 months of the season remaining would be charged half the full season playing fee.

Q15 What if a player leaves during the season or cannot complete the season ?

No playing fee (or proportion thereof) will be reimbursed to players who leave the club voluntarily partway through a season.

In the event of a player sustaining long term injury while representing the club or developing a long-term illness during a football season, then the Management Committee has discretion to reimburse fees on a pro-rata basis.

If a team is not able to fulfil its scheduled fixture programme for reasons outside of its control, then playing fees may be reimbursed pro-rata as determined by the Management Committee.

The Management Committee is empowered to authorise other refunds in individual circumstances.

The club is not geared for mass refunds of any size.

Q16 Does payment of a playing fee infer an entitlement to club membership ?

No. Payment of playing fees is only for opportunities to play football. They do not entitle those making payments to have any say in how the club is run, including no voting rights at the annual general meeting or to any financial interest in the club.

Q17 Will the club cover the cost of hiring alternative training facilities ?

Club training during the autumn and spring school terms takes place at the Cedars Upper School 3G artificial pitch facility in Leighton Buzzard.

This is budgeted and paid for by the club.

During the summer term, training is planned to take place at the club's premises.

Alternative venues will only be exceptionally agreed, and costs will then be a team responsibility, not covered by the club.

Q18 Are any of club staff paid ?

No. All club officials, coaches and helpers are unpaid volunteers who also do not claim any personal expenses.

Q19 Does the club pay disciplinary fines ?

No. The club may initially pay disciplinary fines incurred by players, coaches, officials, supporters or other club representatives to avoid surcharges for late payment, but such fines will be retrieved from those responsible/

Q20 What is the current financial state of the club ?

Despite recently investing heavily in essential facility refurbishment in the 2021 – 2022 financial year, the club is currently in a stable and secure overall financial condition.