



BRISTOL LADIES
UNION FC

Club Handbook

Season 2023/24

FOR PARENTS

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Club History

The club was formed in 2008 with the coming together of the University of Bristol Women's Football Club, and the girls sections of Rockleaze Ranger FC and Shire Colts FC. A key driver was the funding made available through the Gloucestershire Football Association to support the grassroots development of girls and women's football, along with the commitment and encouragement of individual officials, coaches and parents.

After much debate, the name Bristol Ladies Union FC was agreed and 'The Blues' created, with its distinctive 'all blue' kit and 'three-circle' badge representing the three age sections of the club.

In its first season, the focus for the Under 8/9/10 was on coaching and occasional friendlies, teams at Under 11/12/13 entered the Bristol Girls League and the First Team competed in the South West Women's Football League, with all matches played at Coombe Dingle Sports Complex.

With continued funding from the FA and Sport England, the enthusiastic dedication of officials, parents and coaches, and generous sponsorship support from local companies, the club thrived. The number of players, attracted to the club by its emphasis on skills development, enjoyment and inclusivity, increased every year to a point where there were representative teams at every level, and mini and junior players had progressed, as planned, to the development and first teams.

The club has used a number of pitches across north Bristol over the years and are now playing junior matches at BAWA in Filton with the Senior team playing in its spiritual home of Coombe Dingle. The Junior club teams compete in the Bristol Girls League while the Seniors are in the Gloucestershire Womens League.

Since 2008, the club has built a reputation for skills development, fairness, fun and inclusion, and is now proudly Bristol's largest female football club.

Contacts

Committee:

Chair	Nathalie Haines	chair@blufc.com
Vice Chair	Ellie Haines	vicechair@blufc.com
Secretary	Andy Lawrance	youth@blufc.com
Treasurer	Robin Pargeter	treasurer@blufc.com
Club Welfare Officer	Emma Weston	cwo@blufc.com
First Team Coach	Andy White	seniors@blufc.com
Kit	Anna Sice	kit@blufc.com
Registrations	Sandra Freke	registrations@blufc.com
Volunteers	Becca Ramsden	volunteers@blufc.com
Referees	Ellie Haines	refs@blufc.com
Newsletter	Rob Groves	newsletter@blufc.com
IT	Steve Cripps	webmaster@blufc.com

Coaches:

First Team	Andy White	seniors@blufc.com
U18s	Keith James	seniors@blufc.com
U16s	Steve Cripps	u16@blufc.com
U15s	Les Abraham	u15@blufc.com
U14s	Dan Hawkins-Crockford	u14@blufc.com
U13s	Andy Lawrance	u13@blufc.com
U12s	Tom Harris	u12@blufc.com
U11s	Ellie Haines	u11@blufc.com
U10s	Mat Holmes	u10@blufc.com
U9s	-	u9@blufc.com

Registration

All players must be registered through the Club website, www.blufc.com, by completing either the [Junior \(U10s-U16s\)](#) or [Senior \(1st Team & Dev Team\)](#) Google Form in the registration section. Players are not to train or play fixtures without registering.

Annual subs & match fees

Annual subs are set at the previous season's AGM. All subs must be paid before the start of the season.

Inclusion policy

The club's priority is to get girls playing football and those not able to pay either on time or in full will get some leeway. The player/parent should talk to any member of the committee or the relevant coach, who will hand details to the Treasurer.

Late joiners

When new players join after the start of the season, they need to register to play. Annual subs reductions are:

Date joining	% of full subs to pay
Sept-Oct	100%
Nov-Dec	80%
Jan-Mar	60%
April onwards	40%

Training only

If players only train and do not play fixtures, they should not be issued BLUFC kit, but they must still register with the club. Annual subs reductions are:

Date joining	% of full subs to pay
Sept-Oct	60%
Nov-Dec	50%
Jan-Mar	40%
April onwards	30%

Match fees

Match fees are set at the previous season's AGM. The coach or a parent helper collects the fees and transfers them to the club bank account, after deducting expenses, with clear referencing (e.g. U10s match fees), by the dates below. Match fees should not be paid individually into the club account by parents.

Match sub remittance dates:

19th December
18th March
14th May

Match day costs, e.g. referee fees or purchase of team goalkeeper gloves, come from the match fees, the amounts recorded and information passed to the Treasurer.

Incurring costs

The club reimburses any reasonably incurred costs by coaches or committee members with receipts to be provided to the Treasurer.

BLUFC Bank account
 Name: BLUFC
 Sort code: 40-14-24
 Account: 61517023

Coaches training

Coaches must be at least 'Introduction to coaching football' qualified. The club will consider paying for training to UEFA C licence standard. All coaches must comply with ongoing FA qualification standards.

Kit

Players kit

Players who represent BLUFC in matches are provided with club kit:
 1 shirt
 1 pair of shorts
 1 pair of socks

Players can buy other BLUFC kit (hoodies, short-sleeved shirts, etc.) from the club shop on the Zapkam website:
www.zapkam.com/p/club-shops/football/bristol-ladies-union-fc

Playing kit is BLUFC property. Players must return playing kit (except socks) to the club if they leave. Hand the returned kit to the coach, who redistributes it or passes it back to the Kit Manager.

Pitches

Home venues:

1st, Dev	11v11	Coombe Dingle
U16,15,14	11v11	BAWA, Filton
U13,12, 11	9v9	BAWA, Filton
U10	7v7	BAWA, Filton

There may be occasions when teams have to play at other venues when pitches are not available.

If more than one team is playing at home, the older team has priority on the earliest KO, and if only one match pitch is provided, the younger team will play elsewhere.

All pitch enquiries and rearranged fixtures should come through the Pitch Manager via vicechair@blufc.com.

Cup matches always take priority over league fixtures. This inevitably leads to rearrangements, so please inform vicechair@blufc.com as soon as details are known.

Codes of contact

The club expects all players and spectators associated with the club to adhere to the Football Association's codes of conduct.

**Play your best.
Be your best.**

Make sure you and everyone around you has a good time on and off the pitch.

Play Your Part
(Code of Conduct)

Young Players

Play your part and support The FA's Code of Respect:

When playing football, I will:

- Always play my best for the benefit of the team
- Play fairly and be friendly
- Play by the rules and respect the Referee
- Shake hands with the other team - win or lose
- Listen carefully to what my coach tells me
- Understand that a coach has to do what's best for the team
- Talk to someone I trust or the club welfare officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club
- Encourage my team mates
- Respect the facilities home & away

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, I may:

- Be asked to apologise to whoever I've upset
- Receive a formal warning
- Be dropped, substituted or suspended from training

The FA RESPECT For All Nationwide
Building society with mutual respect

We ONLY do Positive.

If we behave positively during practice and matches, our children will too.

By setting a good example, we'll help build a supportive environment in which everyone can enjoy themselves.

Play Your Part (Code of Conduct)

Spectators and Parents/Carers

Play your part and support The FA's Code of Respect:

- Have fun; it's what we're all here for!
- Celebrate effort and good play from both sides
- Always respect the Referee and coaches and encourage players to do the same
- Stay behind the touchline and within the Designated Spectators' Area (where provided)
- When players make mistakes, offer them encouragement to try again next time
- Never engage in, or tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, I may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning or asked to leave
- Required to meet with the club committee, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Obligated to undertake an FA education course
- Requested not to attend future games, be suspended or have my membership removed
- Required to leave the club along with any dependents and/or issued a fine



Building society with mutual respect

*We ONLY
do
Positive.*

Welfare

The Club takes all welfare issues very seriously. All players or parents/carers should be aware that they can confidentially report any issues to the CWO via cwo@blufc.com.

All coaches must be DBS checked and must not coach or run fixtures if they are not.

If there is an incident during a match that is reported to or witnessed by the coach, they should inform the referee and make a note of the incident, detailing any witnesses. It should then be referred to the CWO, and copied to the Chair as necessary.

Each coach has period packs available in the kit bag for any girl that requires one.

Club website

www.blufc.com

Awards

At the end of each season, the Club funds a Manager's Player and a Players' Player trophy for all teams. Winners receive two cups, one to keep and one to hand back at the end of the season.

Affiliation and insurance

The club is affiliated to the Gloucestershire Football Association.

Public Liability Insurance is provided by the Gloucestershire Football Association via the National Game Insurance Scheme (NGIS) which is arranged by Bluefin Sport and underwritten by Catlin Underwriting Agencies Ltd. Personal accident insurance is provided by Bristol Ladies Union FC via the National Game Insurance Scheme (NGIS) which is arranged by Bluefin Sport and underwritten by Catlin Underwriting Agencies Ltd.

Insurance certificates can be provided on request from the Club Secretary.



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UNION FC**

www.blufc.com



UNLEASHED