

# Welcome

# Thank you for attending our first AGM for our brand-new youth football club!

#### Mission Statement

Our mission as Chichester Rangers FC is to provide a long-term safe, supportive and inclusive environment to develop football skills in children from U7 up to U18.

We are aiming to support the continuous development of everyone who plays or coaches within the club for years to come. This will be through regular organised training sessions and matches for players and supporting managers and coaches with training programmes and CPD modules through The FA's learning platform.

Chichester Rangers' home ground will be at the sports pitches located on the new Shopwyke Lakes development, located just off the A27 in Chichester. This recently-secured premises offers us a guaranteed minimum five-year licence with an exclusive space for multiple pitches, while the main building attached to the grounds has fully accessible changing rooms, showers and toilets. Other facilities such as a hall for meetings and club events should also hopefully be possible.

#### **Future Growth**

A few teams will be joining us right from the start which will help to get the club's name known in the area, however going forward we are also keen to expand by welcoming and forming other players and teams per local demand.

We will also be prioritising the formation of an all-girls football team within the club, with the possibility of the team being affiliated to the Sussex County Women & Girls Football League in the future. As of May 2025, there is currently only one affiliated youth girls' team with a pitch located in Chichester itself — an U16 playing for Chichester City FC. Expansion of girl's football in the local area is critical in giving girls safe and inclusive access to football, and we would like to support this as much as possible.

Towards the end of the 2026/27 season, we will be looking to begin hosting our own tournaments. Not only will this increase the reputation of the club and potentially attract new teams/players, but tournaments will also provide financial injections into the club to allow us to re-invest it in upgrades, more equipment and the development of players/coaches within the club.

#### Accreditation

As part of our future plan, we will also be looking to achieve *England Football Accredited* status in the future. This is a scheme (known in the old days as FA Charter Standard) that shows and proves that the club can offer an accessible, sustainable and safe environment for everyone whilst delivering an effective youth football development programme.

This status not only boosts the reputation and standing of the club, but can make it more appealing to prospective players as well, furthering our local reach.

It also brings with it other benefits, such as an annual gift of Nike footballs for matches, vouchers to purchase kit and equipment, and opens more doors for funding and grant opportunities.

## **Initial Funding**

To begin with, we will be looking for sponsors and investors who share our vision to expand the availability of youth football development in the area. Some key items requiring the support of fundraising will be training equipment, goals, kits and a ride-on lawnmower. As you can imagine, these items do not come cheap. Although Sport England and The Football Foundation can help with reclaiming some of these costs, they will not meet the total financial outlay or cover everything we need. This is where sponsorship and financial support is critical to us in achieving our mission.

Some teams already have an existing relationship with their current kit sponsors, so we are hopeful that they may be willing to support from the start if able to, although new sponsors, including club-wide sponsors, will be welcomed and considered in full.

We will also be contacting all the local businesses on the industrial parks next door to the pitches to see if they would be willing to support. Given the proximity of these businesses to our home ground, and the amount of footfall we could generate, we are hopeful that this will be an appealing opportunity for some of them.

To aid in fundraising efforts, a fundraising committee will be formed at the AGM whose purpose will be to seek out sponsorship and investment opportunities, and to organise fundraising events within the club.

#### Location

As mentioned at the start, our home ground is within a new development adjacent to the A27. It's surrounded by approximately 700 residences and 80 business units, while also being home to the infamous Flip Out. The road through the estate that passes our ground is used as a through-route by hundreds of people every day. We won't be invisible, and people will know we're there. Having people see us train/play

every weekend and hold social events within this area will hopefully spark interest and encourage people to come and see us.

### Site Plan



As shown, we have a space for an initial three pitches, but there will still be space north of the cricket green for a small pitch in the future, such as a 3v3 for upcoming U7s in line with The FA's *FutureFit* scheme being introduced in the 2026/27 season.

We have been afforded the freedom to adjust the pitches as we see fit and in-line with the needs of the club, including double-marking. This means that we can change the layout and move pitches around at any time to accommodate as best we can.

The cricket pitch must stay as part of our property licence but will be under our control. As a club we can rent this out to local cricket teams to gain some income, however this will obviously have to work around the football schedule.

### **Youth Forum**

As youth football development is our primary focus, we want to ensure that the views and ideas of all our players are considered as much as possible and that they're given the right platform to share these openly, freely and without judgement.

To aid this, we will be forming a Youth Forum. This is an FA-recommended programme where each team nominates a fellow teammate (or teammates) to represent their team at regular meetings held by club officials. To help relieve any pressure on our young players, and to allow for free-flowing open discussion, these meetings won't include any managers, coaches or parents.

This will give our young players the opportunity to discuss what they would like to see introduced, changed or actioned, as well as share any ideas they may have to develop the club, themselves, or their team. After each Youth Forum meeting, all feedback will be discussed with the relevant people to see what we can do as a club based on their feedback.

We must remember that without the children we don't have a club, so reasonable and justified feedback should always be considered, and reasons provided back to the Youth Forum when something isn't possible.

## Respect

As a club, we are very keen to uphold and enforce The FA's Respect Codes of Conduct for <u>everyone</u> associated with the club. We want Chichester Rangers to be a fun, welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone no matter who you are, where you're from, or what role you play in the club. Whether you're a club official, parent, player or match official, respectful behaviour should always be the standard.

Teammates should always be treated with respect, and it's important for all of our managers, coaches and players to remember that everyone makes mistakes, and some people might be stronger in some areas than others. We should be actively seeking to encourage personal development rather than spread negativity.

We will have a strict zero-tolerance policy on bullying and harassment, in line with our codes of conduct, anti-bullying policy and equality policy.

#### **Fees**

To enable the club to have a reliable financial forecast and to relieve pressure on our managers with collecting and tracking subs, we will be requiring all teams to use Spond. Existing team groups will be absorbed into the club system with no need to set everything up again. This will allow for monthly match/training fees to be paid by parents through the Spond app using any common method of payment including credit/debit cards, Google Pay and Apple Pay. Cash/bank transfer will still be an option for those that are unable to pay by any other means, however payment via Spond will be preferred to reduce the administrative work.

A monthly payment amount will be calculated for each team based on their age group, matches (including referee/pitch fees) and training sessions that month, then charged in arrears (e.g. fees due at the end of July will be for all games/training in July) and split evenly across the squad.