



## LFC Guest Player Process: Explained

Guesting is a fundamental aspect of the Academy model and of LFCs focus on individual player development. Many players and parents new to LFC have questions on how the guesting model works and how it applies to their child. This FAQ aims to educate parents and players on LFCs guesting model and how their player will be involved.

- What are the goals of guesting players up and down across teams?
  - LFC views guesting as serving two key purposes 1) To assist in team development and progress and 2) to improve individual player development. Both these goals are taken into count on a week-to-week basis when deciding who will guest and to which team.
- Can you explain guesting for "team development"
  - A classic example is when an A2 team has moved up a level (e.g. Bronze to Silver) and is struggling. Guesting the right A1 player down can both help the team hold their own, and allow them to see how a more advanced player operates on the field. As in playing faster, quicker, with more intensity and with better ball distribution.
- Can you explain guesting for "individual development"
  - Players develop at different rates within a season, and have different strengths and weaknesses. One A2 player may need to play at a higher pace, with faster, stronger opponents, and therefore needs to guest up to A1. Another A2 player may need to gain confidence and play at a slower pace to help develop certain skills, and therefore needs to guest down to A2.
- Who decides which players will guest play each week?
  - Guest players are chosen each week at the Senior Staff meeting, based on input from coaches and DOCs. That includes any coach that has had contact with a player, such as through practices, COE, and games.
- How are players chosen to guest and what criteria are used to choose guest players?
  - The process of choosing guests incorporates many different factors. These include, but are not limited to i) which teams need guest players, ii) how many guest players they need, iii) what positions they need to fill, iv) what development level a player is at, v) how dedicated a player has been the last few weeks, vi) how much playing time a player is getting on their own team.
- Do i need to ask my coach for my player to Guest play
  - No. Every LFC coach is constantly assessing each players' development progress at practices and games. If a coach feels that a player is ready to guest-play up or down a level (or age group) to enhance their development, then that is communicated up to the DOCs, so that the player can be considered for available guesting opportunities.
- Will every player get an equal opportunity to Guest play during the season?
  - Every player on every team has the opportunity to guest. However, not every player will guest in a given season and some players will guest multiple times while others do not guest at all. This is typically based on the criteria used for

guesting, mentioned above. A player's position, development level, effort, playing time on own team, and other factors will all impact a given player's guesting options.

- Is there anything I can do to get my player more playing time if guesting is limited for his/her team.
  - Remember that teams play season games, State Cup games, and 2 tournaments every Fall season. That's 21+ games across about 16 weekends. More than 1 game per weekend on average. If your child wants more games and playing time, LFC has a relationship with the Winchester Soccer League, which is a fast, physical and high work-rate soccer environment. If your player is born between 2004 - 2011, then you can sign your player up for \$200, and play in their 10-game season. The cost includes uniform, practices and games. The season usually starts in late September. If you are interested you can email [winchestersl@yahoo.com](mailto:winchestersl@yahoo.com) for more info.
- If my player guest plays, is he/she guaranteed playing time?
  - Remember that a guest is there for two reasons - individual development and to support the team he/she is guesting for. Generally speaking, a player on his/her own team should get a minimum of 30% playing time for Academy 1 teams, and 50% playing time for Academy 2 and lower teams. Similarly, if a player guests, then they should get about 30% playing time, but will typically not start the game. However, all these numbers are rules-of-thumb, and apply across multiple games. For example, a player may get 60% playing time in one game and 40% in another. Additionally, coaches are instructed to make game-day decisions on playing time, based on the needs of the team and the situation at hand.