

FC United Criteria for Playing Friendlies 2016

FC United regularly publish criteria for how our programme of pre-season friendlies is planned. Latest amendments have been agreed as per the date below.

The following factors will be considered when agreeing to friendly games:

All games

- Football considerations, i.e. will the match provide a good opportunity for the management team to assess our players?
- Honouring obligations to teams that have given us specific help or have similar fan-based ownership.
- Attractiveness of the match for our fans.
- Getting a mixture of local games alongside more distant travel, which may give an opportunity for teambuilding.
- Charity requests for fundraising.
- Unless there are exceptional circumstances, a friendly will not be agreed as part of any other negotiation. Income from friendlies is generated by fans, particularly our co-owners and therefore should not be included in any other financial transaction.
- Requests to participate in a multi-team football tournament are unlikely to be agreed, unless it can be shown it would provide a good footballing standard and be financially viable.
- First teamers, triallists, fringe or youth players might feature in any friendly. Games designated as FCXI would indicate the squad for that fixture is expected to feature fewer regular first team players, but a full first team may play dependent on squad requirements at the time.
- We may sometimes schedule extra practice games to be played behind closed doors, but wherever possible friendly games will be made open to supporters.
- As FC United is a fans-owned club, it is unlikely opposition clubs that are in dispute with their own fans would be offered a game unless approval is given by their supporters.

Away games

- If appropriate, the willingness of opponents to pay our expenses and share gate receipts may influence choices.
- Lower level semi-professional or amateur clubs with whom FC United has an ongoing relationship and/or a shared history may not be asked to share the gate for an away game, although expenses would be required if appropriate. The decision to request a gate share remains at the discretion of the Board.

Home games at Broadhurst Park

- Semi-professional or amateur clubs will be offered a share of the gate proportional to the number of fans they bring to the game. If required, this may be defined as the number of fans who choose to pay into the away turnstile(s), even if segregation is not in place.
- Travel and accommodation expenses will be paid as appropriate, but excess requirement for expenses will affect the choice of opposition.

Criteria approved at FC United Board meeting October 2015