



HAYDOCK JUNIORS FC – SHIN PAD POLICY

As a club, player welfare and safety are paramount and something that is taken seriously across the club to ensure that our players can enjoy the game in an environment that is enjoyable and provides the highest level of protection possible.

We have become increasingly aware of the growing trend for **MINI SHIN PADS**, as illustrated below, across the grassroots footballing community.



As a club, we have taken the decision that mini shin pads **do not offer adequate protection** to minimise the risk or reduce the potential occurrence of injury to our players and therefore **REQUIRE ALL PLAYERS TO WEAR FULL SIZE SHIN PADS** to allow them to participate. This applies to both match day and training sessions. This policy complies with clause 2.10 of the clubs Code of Conduct which covers the requirement for players to attend training and matches with “*...all the necessary and appropriate kit to participate in a safe manner...*”. The Code of Conduct is available on the club website (address if required www.haydockjfc.co.uk/club-documents)

If players do not have full size shin pads, they will not be allowed to participate until they have adequately sized shin pads. We have discussed with managers who are supportive of this policy, and we have asked managers to enforce this policy to maximise and protect the safety of the players. The managers are simply following this policy and we ask parents and players to respect this policy if asked to do so.

We have witnessed and evidenced over many years the effect an injury can have on not just the player injured, who physically is unable to participate for a prolonged period, but also on wider teammates who witness such injuries and the impact it can have on their confidence and wellbeing during games, which obviously impacts their ability to enjoy the game they love.

I trust parents and players understand the club have taken this decision to ensure the safety of players and their teammates.

Haydock JFC Committee