

THE SUFFOLK FA YOUTH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



WAYS TO CONNECT WITH THE YOUTH COUNCIL:

X – SuffolkFA_YC

Email -

Suffolkfayouthcouncil@gmail.com

Instagram -

Suffolkfayouthcouncil

TikTok –

Suffolkfa.yc

Follow the Youth council to hear about all our exciting events and updates!

May and June Edition 2024

WHO WE ARE

The Suffolk FA Youth Council are a team of young people aged between 16-25 made up of individuals from all different roles within football from across the county who are the voice of the youth within Suffolk. The Suffolk FA Youth Council is provided with the autonomy to come up with their own ideas and suggestions to make a difference within the county. The Youth Council are here to support and give everyone the opportunity to make a difference and be heard, as we recognize that everyone has something meaningful to say.

INTRODUCTION TO YOUR YOUTH COUNCIL

Meet George – Youth Council Referees Lead

Hello, I am George! I'm based in Ipswich and have been officiating since I was 14. I am currently a Level 4 Suffolk FA Referee. I am involved with the Ipswich Referees' Association, play football, referee and work. I have continued all these despite having been away

for university in Leeds. Having refereed for seven seasons I have been lucky enough to work on many different leagues at a range of levels and have spent some significant time refereeing in West Yorkshire as I balance football and studying. During my time within the Youth Council, I hope to be able to help the transition from Youth to adult football and give back to grassroots football.



If you see a Youth Council member – don't be afraid to speak to us, we would love to hear everyone's suggestions.

YOUTH AND GRASSROOTS HEROES FEATURE

The Youth Council would love to know about your Youth heroes. We are always looking to recognise people who are making a difference and we want to use these stories. If your club has Youth heroes that need recognising send them to our new email address suffolkfayouthcouncil@gmail.com, let us know about them as we want to know and show them the recognition that they deserve.



As a Youth Council we have identified Ella Karkosa as our Youth and Grassroots Hero for May and June. Ella is an active Suffolk referee and post-16 student with the Ipswich Town Football Club Foundation.

Ella, who is 18 and from Ipswich, is an experienced match official whose talent and ability has been recognised and rewarded with some amazing opportunities. Just earlier this year, Ella was selected to be an assistant referee at the Isle of Man International Women's Day Festival after being nominated by her FA Emerging Talent Programme coach.

The FA Emerging Talent Programme is a talent identification programme for referees who are showing ambition and potential to progress within both the Women's and Men's game. Ella has been rewarded for her continued efforts as a referee through the support and opportunities this amazing programme for young people offers.

Ella's hardwork has led to her receiving some amazing appointments and promotions already so early in her career and she is currently a Level 5 in the Men's pathway and 3W referee in the Women's Pathway. Ella has officiated teams such as England U18 Women, Isle of Man's international women's team and Ipswich Town FC Women officiating in competitions such as the Women's FA Cup and being part of history, such as being part of the first all-female team of match officials to officiate a fixture in the Macron Suffolk & Ipswich League between East Bergholt United & Bildeston Rangers.

Ella has been a pioneer for women's refereeing in Suffolk, as a youth Council we'd like to thank Ella for her efforts in supporting grassroots football and wish her well on her refereeing journey as she climbs the ladder. We hope that this inspiring story will serve as an example of where simply picking up a whistle and giving refereeing a go can lead you. Well done Ella!



EVENTS

Over the past month the Youth Council have been present at the Suffolk FA annual Grassroots Festival supporting the delivery of the festival over the course of the two days. The Youth Council also had opportunities to talk to and complete the Youth Council survey with many participants which allow the Youth Council to gauge the feedback of the young people within Suffolk which will help the Youth Council to implement positive changes across the county.

The Youth Council also launched their first ever competition for the duration of the festival, which saw many teams across the county producing videos including why they love football and their best team celebrations. The Youth Council are also in the process of creating communities for young coaches and referees to connect and seek support from. Throughout May and June the Youth Council will continue to use the responses from the Youth Voice survey to create a positive difference to the game within the county and we look forward to putting these plans into place.

The Youth Council are very excited to be able to work with everyone across the county to improve and shape the game. As well as these projects the Youth Council are currently continuing to work on more projects to support and make a difference within the county, so keep an eye on this space!

HAVE YOUR SAY

The Youth Council love to hear from the Youth involved in today's game. Any support, ideas and suggestions that we receive help us to make a difference. Have your say and support the Youth Council:

[Suggestions Form](#)



[Youth Voice Survey](#)

