



WALSALL FOOTBALL CLUB ELITE ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
0845 003 7339

admin@elitedc.org

Walsall FC Advanced Development Centre Trials – Smethwick

Smethwick Centre

8's, 9's, 10's 11's 12's (09/10) – 0930 – 1030

13's, 14's, 15's (09/10) – 1100 - 1230

**Redhill School,
Junction Road,
Stourbridge,
DY8 1JX
3rd generation artificial surface.**

Elite DC is a non-profit making coaching organisation which has a number of Centres in different parts of the country who work in official association with local professional clubs. Elite Development Centres try to emulate a professional club's youth department by giving players the opportunity to receive professional coaching and to play in games against the country's top talent from other professional clubs. The emphasis is purely on development, giving players maximum opportunities **without affecting any of their existing club commitments.**

Elite DC will be setting up a Development Centre in Smethwick which shall act as a feeder to Walsall FC's Centre of Excellence. The players at the Advanced Development Centre will be monitored as to their progression which shall be reported directly to the player and his parents and as appropriate to Walsall Football Club Centre of Excellence.

Rene Gilmartin and Jay Edwards are the head coaches at the centre. Rene is the Irish international goalkeeper has been at Walsall since the summer of 2005 where in September he made his debut against Chesterfield. A year later he made his international debut at under 19's and went on to play for the under 21's. Jay Edwards has worked with Walsall Football club for the last 7 years. He has worked within the community and has experience of all age groups. His full time role will now move towards the various development centres for the club including Smethwick. Both head coaches will report directly to Mick Haswell, Bill Jones and Mark Fogerty at Walsall FC Centre of Excellence regarding the progression of players at the Advanced Development Centre.

Centre of Excellence coaches such as Shaun Ponder, Steve Meacham shall work from the Smethwick Centre, along with chief scout Gary Astbury who will liaise with scouts and coaches regarding players.

The idea behind the Advanced Development Centre is to provide boys who at local club level are of a very good standard but at this moment in time, might just be short of the standard required to be offered a schoolboy contract at Walsall FC Centre of Excellence. By attending the Advanced Development Centres, the boys are able to get a very good level of coaching by F.A qualified staff, many of which work at the clubs Centre of Excellence. In addition, there is a games program against other professional clubs Centre of Excellences and Development Centres ensuring the boys are playing at the highest standard possible without affecting any of their local club commitments.

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Boys at Walsall Advanced Development Centre are monitored as to their performances in training and games, and those players perceived to be performing at the required level shall be sent in to Walsall Centre of Excellence for trials in view to being offered a schoolboy contract with Walsall FC. On a regular basis, throughout the season there shall be regular games against the Advanced Development Centres and the Centre of Excellences in order that the staff at Walsall Football Club Youth Department can watch the boys playing and compare them to the boys already on schoolboy contracts at the Centre of Excellence.

Similarly, if a boy is released from the Centre of Excellence he will be signposted to attend the Walsall Football Club Advanced Development Centre, as in this environment the club feels the player will have the most chance in developing to the standard required to get back into the Centre of Excellence. This is due to a good standard of coaching and regular games against professional clubs which are of high standard and help accelerate development. By attending the Advanced Development Centre the player is still under the umbrella of Walsall Football Club and that the Youth Department can monitor the players progress.

In summary, Walsall Advanced Development Centres that are run by Elite DC, come within the Youth structure of Walsall Football Club. The emphasis of boys that attend the Advanced Development Centres is to develop through the coaching and games program to meet the standard required by Walsall Football Club Centre of Excellence. There is a genuine exit route from the Advanced Development Centre to the Centre of Excellence and from the Centre of Excellence to the Advanced Development Centre.

I hope this clarifies that Walsall Advanced Development Centres are officially within the Youth Structure at Walsall Football Club and principally aim to develop good club players to meet the standard required by Walsall Football Club Centre of Excellence.

Walsall FC Advanced Development Centre firmly believes that achieving maximum player development is based on 3 key factors:

- **Quality Coaching** (all Elite players shall be developed on Technique, Attitude, Speed and Knowledge.)
- **Playing against better players** – done through a comprehensive game program against centres of excellences and academies of professional clubs, each age group will play on average two games a month against quality opposition. In our opinion, development is not maximised if players only train and do not have the opportunity to be tested and challenged in a games program against quality players from different parts of the country. Elite feels that this ingredient has been key when a large percentage of our boys have been successful in the transition from development centre to centre of excellence.
- **Working with other good players** – when a coach works with a group of players who are all of above average ability, this allows for the coaching session to be more detailed and at a high tempo allowing match situations to materialise.

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TRIAL TIME AND DATE

Saturday 11th July 2009 at the times below:

**Redhill School,
Junction Road,
Stourbridge,
DY8 1JX**

(All players need to bring trainers suitable to train on a 3G Rubber Crumb Surface, and Football Boots to play on Grass, all players to bring shin pads, and appropriate clothing to play games in. All players will not be allowed to trial until they have handed in the completed trialist form on the day of the trial.)

Under 7s, Under 8s , Under 9s, Under 10s, Under 11s, Under 12s. Trial Times 9.00 am – 10.30am

Under 13s, Under 14s, Under 15s. Trial Times 11.00am-12.30am.

There are no costs incurred for attendance at the trial. However, once squads are formed, like any Club, training fees will be necessary.

Walsall Advanced Development Centres are run by Elite DC. Elite DC presently act as a non-profit making organisation, and are currently seeking charitable trust recognition. The training fees that the boys pay for are to cover the costs that each centre incurs. Such costs include:

- **Staff – FA Coaches**
- **Insurance**
- **Equipment**
- **Venue Hire**
- **Administration**
- **Physiotherapy/Medical Provision**
- **Contingencies**

I wish to reiterate that the costs of training are simply to cover the overhead faced by the Advanced Development Centres, and are completely non profit based.

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The coaching program delivered at Elite is designed to develop both a player's technical ability and his personal development. This is done through:

- ✓ FA/UEFA Qualified Coaches and ex professional players
- ✓ Code of Conduct for Players/Coaches/Parents and Spectators
- ✓ Player/Coach Ratios
- ✓ Enhanced Facilities Coaching and Medical Provision
- ✓ Specialised coaching for Goalkeepers
- ✓ Child Protection Policy
- ✓ Player Insurance
- ✓ Competitive Matches as part of an integrated Development Program
- ✓

What to do now?

Walsall FC Advanced Development Centre would like to ask club managers and schools to nominate up to six players from their squads or school years to attend the trials. The qualities that the Development Centre will be looking for are:

- a good level of technical ability,
- a receptive attitude to learning and improving, and
- an ambition and motivation to develop themselves to play at the highest level possible.

Please fill in the attached information sheet, which must be brought along for registration at the player's first trial day.

IMPORTANT

Registering Players for the Trials.

It is now necessary for the school or club to return an email to us with details of who you would like to attend the trial to

E-mail address: elite.dc@hotmail.com or call **0845 003 7339**

It is then requested that the managers pass the information contained within the email to the parents of the trialist, so they have prior information about what the trials are for and bring along the player/trialist details form on the day.

It is essential that this is done, as Elite Advanced DC shall be organising trialists into teams in order to play trial matches and sessions. It is important that Elite know the details of what players shall be attending the trials.

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Trialist Details:

Players/Trialist Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone: Home:

Mobile:

Email Address

School Attended

Name of Headteacher

School Year

Junior Club Team(s)

Name of Club Manager(s)

What day do you play your Club Football, and in what League(s)

Preferred Position

Parent/Guardian Signature.

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