

Safer Coaching and Scouting:

Advice regarding coaches, scouts, scouting, player trials and player recruitment

Introduction

Melbourne City FC have a team of coaches and one scout whose role it is to seek out new talent and invite them for trials. The below information outlines the policies and procedures to which Melbourne City FC coaches and scout adhere when engaging with parents and potential new players.

Do not trust any organisation that asks you for any payment in return for a trial with Melbourne City FC or a City Football Group club. Should you have any concerns relating to an approach that has been made, through any medium such as a website, Facebook, chat platform (like WhatsApp or Twitter), poster or activity, you can email safeatcity@melbournecityfc.com.au who will be able to assist you.

Please note: this email address is to be used in relation to safeguarding matters only, not to request a trial.

Melbourne City FC Coaches

Melbourne City FC coaches are formally employed by the Club, and will only operate at official Melbourne City FC locations (CFA Casey Fields, Parade College, or at designated City Football Schools sites).

The Melbourne City Football Club coaches are all highly skilled, trained and experienced in coaching youth age groups, as well as being trained in safeguarding matters, to use age-appropriate language and teaching techniques.

Melbourne City Football Club coaches will only wear Melbourne City FC kit when conducting sessions.

Melbourne City Scout

The Melbourne City FC and Asia scout is a City Football Group (CFG) employee. He may also scout for other clubs that are part of the 'City Football Group' family of football clubs.

The scout who works for Melbourne City Football Club and CFG has been appointed to identify football talent across Australia and Asia and is highly skilled and experienced in identifying players with the potential to play for us at the very highest level.

Appropriate Checks & Training

Melbourne City Football Club coaches and scout are required to follow strict guidelines and are carefully managed and supported by our Director of Football.

They have all hold a valid and current Working With Children Checks Victoria card which includes having their background checked. They are also required to complete a range of compulsory training courses to ensure that they meet all the relevant football regulations and are up to date with current good practice. All coaches complete Safeguarding training.

This scout will carry official CFG identification when watching players, which they can present for verification. Any discussions or approaches about an U18 player will be conducted via that player's parents and existing coaches. Any such discussion will most likely occur through an official representative of Melbourne City FC, such as a designated age group coach for a Melbourne City FC team, or the Club's Head of Academy, rather than by this scout.

You will never be asked for any form of payment in order for a trial to be conducted.

Bogus Coaches and Scouts

There are several ways to identify bogus coaches and/or scouts. Often, they:

- ask you to pay them in return for promises of trials or extra training or to cover insurance or medical fees or transport
- ask for money in relation to arranging accommodation or even to move house
- say they can give you extra training in order to get you a trial
- have scruffy or old or odd-looking kit
- have a letter supposed to be from someone at our Club usually someone like the first team manager
- offer to take you in person to a trial
- offer you one-on-one training
- offer training at locations that are not usual Melbourne City FC training grounds or approved locations (e.g. not at Casey Fields, Parade College, or a designated City Football Schools site)
- approach through social networking (Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat etc) or online gaming chat (e.g. FIFA)
- use emails that end in @gmail.com, @outlook.com or look like bbsmithmcfc@yahoo.com or johnwmelcity@hotmail.com

Bogus trials and private football operators making false claims

The City Football Group's management hear regularly of young players (or their parents) who have signed up to play at trial days that claim to be either taking place at official City Football Group club training venues or have Melbourne City FC coaches or scouts in attendance and share examples of players who think they have been signed to a club after attending one of these days.

These are people and their messages:

- may look convincing and have high quality publicity and online presence
- may have a club badge(s) on there, but are being used fraudulently
- could use a generic email address e.g. @gmail.com or @outlook.com etc
- usually require you to register online with the company's website
- ask you for money at some point, usually up front for a football trial event
- will often not be there when you turn up for your expected event

If you are ever unsure of whether a potential trial or event is genuine, you can always email safeatcity@melbournecityfc.com.au to query an approach.

Be Careful

There are lots of ways to be careful and stay safe:

- do not make any payment to anyone for any reason involving a trial – a genuine Melbourne City FC Academy trial or invitation to trial will not involve any financial exchange
- do not assume someone is an official coach or scout or representing Melbourne City FC just because they say they are
- ask for identification and check it closely
- look closely at any uniform but do not assume that they are an official coach or scout simply because they are wearing branded clothing
- be very wary of any contact from someone claiming to be a coach, scout or agent that comes via the internet, social media, online gaming or solely by phone
- you can ring or email us and check with a Melbourne City FC representative in charge of Academy operations (email enquiries to: safeatcity@melbournecityfc.com.au; or phone (03) 9457 1765
- do not go anywhere with them or arrange to meet someone you do not know, especially if no-one knows where you are, or where you are going - always take a parent with you / go with your child (however old your child is)

You can email safeatcity@melbournecityfc.com.au to query an approach or suspect website or operation and help you stay safe. Please do not use this email to try and request a trial. Any such approach will not receive any reply of any form.