

# **Attributes of the Dover Athletic Player**

Below is a list of what makes up a successful Dover Athletic Player. These are the areas by which our coaches will work extensively upon to ensure each player has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

## **1. PROFESSIONALISM**

Encourage a professional attitude in players, coaches, officials and opposition. This shall then form the player's true identity not only on the pitch but off as well. This includes appearance at training and match days.

## **2. DISCIPLINE**

Both on and off the field, at training sessions and matches. This will always be a fundamental player requirement. Dover Athletic fully endorse the FA Respect campaign, to players/officials/coaches/supporters.

## **3. ABILITY TO SELF EVALUATE**

It is important to possess the ability to reflect upon and analyse your own performance/s, in order to identify what went well, what areas could you do better as well as how are we going to change it.

## **4. COMMITMENT**

Commitment to training and your continual learning journey. Players who display this attribute consistently, are more likely to end up true leaders/captains. These players are predominately the players who are desperate to have the opportunities to one day move forwards and succeed in the professional game.

## **5. CREATIVITY**

Never be afraid to let the players try new techniques with encouragement should they fail. The creative players shall be the success to any team and at the heart of the youth development model.

## **6. DESIRE**

The basic passion and desire to succeed is identifiable from the very earliest age.

Coaches will assist in coaching this mentality with constant praising at every opportunity from a good tackle to a great shot or save. Players will then want to "repeat" therefore with the praise their hunger increases.

## **7. WORK RATE**

This is an absolute must. Without work rate every other attribute we have all listed will fail. If players put in the hard work first only then can the skill, techniques and confidence levels allow successful results.

## **8. LOVE OF THE GAME**

Love of the game is essential in any sport to reach the top. Here at Dover Athletic we encourage our players to aspire to reach their full potential, by giving them quality, qualified coaching and all the opportunities which arise from this. However, if a player does not have love for the game then they will be less likely to have other attributes such as dedication and commitment to achieve the top.

## **9. TEAM ETHIC/WORK**

No one individual is bigger than the club - 'WE ARE A FAMILY, ONE TEAM, ONE CLUB'. The team comes before the individual. It doesn't matter how great a player you may be, without the support of your team you will never achieve success.

## **10. PROTECT**

Protecting the ball when in possession can be a difficult task at times. A player will lose possession at various times during a game, however the Dover Athletic Player is taught how to make it difficult for the opposition to win the ball back off you. Body positioning along with technical coaching will cover the five principles of defensive responsibilities: Pressure/Cover/Defend/Delay/Protect.

## **11. LEADERSHIP**

We encourage you to take the lead, to be the very best you can be, sometimes that will include taking a player out of their comfort zone, engaging with every player to give them a voice, where they are able to express why something went well and why something did not, and how they believe they can change the situation.

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