

FC United Criteria for Playing Friendlies (2011)

We have previously published some criteria for how our programme of pre-season friendlies is planned. Some amendments have been made for friendlies in 2011, so the following factors will be considered when agreeing to games:

- Football considerations, i.e. will the match provide a good opportunity for the management team to assess our players?
- Honouring obligations to teams that have given us specific help or have similar fan-based ownership.
- Attractiveness of the match for our fans.
- The willingness of the opponents to pay our expenses in advance and share gate receipts.
- Getting a mixture of local games alongside more distant travel, which may give an opportunity for teambuilding.
- Being invited, because we have to play friendlies at away grounds; therefore we're dependent on finding opponents who are prepared to host a game.
- Charity requests for fundraising.
- Unless there are exceptional circumstances, a friendly will not be agreed as part of any other negotiation. Income from friendlies is generated by fans, particularly our co-owners and therefore should not be included in any other financial transaction.
- Requests to participate in a multi-team football tournament are unlikely to be agreed, unless it can be shown it would provide a good footballing standard and be financially viable.

Sometimes pre-season seems a little crowded, but we often need to play two friendly games a week to ensure all squad members benefit from a complete programme of pre-season games. Although we may sometimes schedule extra practice games to be played behind closed doors, we know people like to watch the team, so wherever possible friendly games will be made open to supporters.

Criteria approved at FC United Board meeting 17/01/2011