



VOLUNTEERING WITH NORTH UNITED FC

About us

North United Football Club was established in 2018 to serve the areas of the Greater Shankill, Ballysillan and further afield. We aim to provide our members with a social and physical outlet through the sport of football. Our members are mostly from the Protestant side of the local community and have little opportunity to engage and interact with those from the Catholic side. The sport of football allows this to happen but generally the two sides are still against each other in a competitive match. We are planning to provide opportunities through bringing groups together and interacting rather than playing against each other. We also encourage and promote mental health awareness as there are an increasing number of young men suffering with mental health issues within our local community.

Purpose of our volunteer policy

Our volunteer policy has been created to show our volunteers and potential volunteers that we have spent time and care in planning how volunteers will be welcomed at North United FC. It also outlines that all volunteers will be treated in a fair and consistent way. It should also help our volunteers understand what support is available to them and what they can expect from us.

Our vision and mission for volunteering

Volunteering is a great way to share your enthusiasm, skills and ideas whilst having fun and meeting like-minded people. By volunteering for North United FC you will be making a positive contribution to community development in our area. Volunteers are vital to our work.

Attracting volunteers and volunteer agreement

We have a range of opportunities for volunteers to get involved in. To find out more you can visit our website or contact us via email on northutd@gmail.com.

Once we receive a copy of your completed registration form, a member of our team will get in touch with more information on specific opportunities and we can decide together which option best matches your interests and time availability and also our needs. Your help will be greatly appreciated and really will make a difference.

Access NI Checks

Some volunteer roles will require an Access NI check to inform North United FC of any criminal convictions that a person wishing to volunteer may have. For example, any volunteer position which involves regulated activity with children or vulnerable adults will be subject to an Access NI check.

Induction and training

It does not matter how much you already know, as there will be opportunities to learn, and we have roles to suit every level of expertise.

There will be an induction prepared and delivered by one of our staff. This will include:

- Some information about North United FC, our vision, mission and our future plans
- The role of the volunteer
- Introduction to some volunteers
- Tour around our facilities and see some of our initiatives
- Copy of all the relevant policies including this volunteer policy and also our Health and Safety, Expenses, Equality and Diversity and Conflict Management
- Essential procedures such as timekeeping, rota
- Information about training and ongoing learning opportunities

There will be a trial period of four weeks to give North United FC and you time to discover if you are suited to each other. A review will be made midway through the

trial period and also at the end. This is not an assessment, it is just so that we can be sure that you benefit the most from the volunteering experience and maximise the time you are giving freely.

Support

Our Volunteer Manager will offer support to you. They will remain your key contact throughout your volunteering with us. This will include regular meetings with you to discuss how you are getting on, discuss any training needs and deal with issues arising. This will also ensure that North United FC are doing all we can to make your volunteering experience an enjoyable and meaningful one.

Recognition and reward

We could not do the work we do without our volunteers. To acknowledge this we will always say thank you and show appreciation for a job well done. There will always be a listening ear or shoulder to lean on. We have an annual presentation night where we recognise our volunteers and have regular other social opportunities to engage as a team of volunteers.

Expenses

We value our volunteers and want to ensure that there are no barriers to volunteer involvement. All reasonable out of pocket expenses, if required, will be reimbursed including expenses for travel and meals (if working more than 4.5 hours in one session). In order to claim expenses, an Expenses Form must be completed, a valid receipt provided and this should be handed in to the volunteer manager.

Resolving problems

We hope that you will have a very enjoyable experience volunteering with us. However if your role as a volunteer does not meet with your expectations or with the commitments we have made to you, we want you to feel comfortable about letting us know. First of all, talk to the person who leads the team where you volunteer and he or she should be able to sort it out with you before it becomes a problem. If you do not feel this will resolve things you can speak to the Volunteer co-ordinator.

Confidentiality

We expect all volunteers to adhere to confidentiality guidelines which will be explained to you before you begin volunteering with us and this also includes use of social media and contact with any press.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

North United FC is committed to embracing diversity and promoting equality and inclusion. When representing North United FC as a volunteer we expect you to support our commitment to promoting equality.