

Wednesday, 1st October 2025 | 7.30pm KO



SUTTON UNITED
VS KNAPHILL



The Official Sutton United FC Matchday Programme

THE U'S REPORT



THE FA YOUTH CUP

The FA Youth Cup returns for its 74th edition, continuing its proud tradition as the showcase competition for England's brightest young footballers.

The FA Youth Cup has long been regarded as the premier stage for English football's brightest young prospects. Since its creation in 1952, the competition has produced countless future stars and served as a platform for academies across the football pyramid to showcase their work.

The 2025/26 edition, the 74th in the Cup's history, promises another season of drama, talent, and discovery. With 535 clubs accepted into this year's tournament and a revised entry structure, the campaign will stretch from September 2025 through to the final in May 2026.

Aston Villa enter as defending champions, having defeated Manchester City 3–1 in last season's final in front of more than 25,000 supporters at Villa Park. Their victory confirmed the strength of Villa's academy setup, but the likes of Manchester City, Chelsea, and Manchester United – all serial youth cup contenders – will be eager to wrestle back control.

One key change for 2025/26 is the removal of 10th-tier clubs from the competition, trimming the number of entrants compared to recent years. This decision tightens the qualifying phase while maintaining the spirit of inclusivity that makes the FA Youth Cup unique.

The Youth Cup retains its classic knockout format, with two distinct phases:

- **Qualifying Rounds:** These open in September, with non-league and lower-tier youth sides battling through a Preliminary Round and three further qualifying stages.
- **Competition Proper:** League One and League Two academies enter in the First Round Proper, while Premier League and Championship sides join at the Third Round Proper. From there, it's a straight knockout all the way to the final.

From the opening ties in September to the Wembley-style final atmosphere in May, the 2025/26 FA Youth Cup is set to provide months of excitement. For the players, it represents a priceless opportunity to impress scouts, fans, and managers. For the clubs, it is a measure of academy strength and long-term vision.

One certainty remains: the Youth Cup will once again deliver stories that echo into the senior game, shaping the next generation of English football.

The Football Association has confirmed the official round dates for this season:

- Preliminary Round: Week of 1 September 2025
- First Qualifying Round: Week of 15 September 2025
- Second Qualifying Round: Week of 29 September 2025
- Third Qualifying Round: Week of 13 October 2025
- First Round Proper: By 1 November 2025
- Second Round Proper: By 22 November 2025
- Third Round Proper: By 13 December 2025
- Fourth Round Proper: By 24 January 2026
- Fifth Round Proper: By 21 February 2026
- Quarter-finals: By 14 March 2026
- Semi-finals: 11 April 2026
- Final: 9 May 2026



SUTTON UNITED

ACADEMY

The 2025/26 campaign marks a significant chapter for Sutton United's academy, with the club fielding sides in both the EFL Youth Alliance and the National League U19 Alliance.

The season has already produced a blend of high-scoring wins, frustrating setbacks, and cup heartbreak, painting a picture of a developing side learning to balance consistency with ambition. As ever, the academy's results offer a clear window into the progress of Sutton's next generation of players – and based on the early months, it is proving to be a season of resilience, growth, and promise.

The academy's campaign began with a string of pre-season friendlies to build sharpness and assess the squad. Results were mixed: a heavy 5–1 defeat to Leatherhead on 5 July showed early defensive vulnerabilities, but the side recovered with a spirited 2–2 draw against Corinthian Casuals a week later. A 4–2 loss to Ashford Town followed, before Sutton finally found momentum with a 2–1 win over Spartans Youth. The run suggested a squad still gelling, but with signs of attacking promise.

Competitive action began on with a home tie against Wycombe Wanderers, with Sutton falling to a 2–0 defeat, a sobering start that demanded a quick response. And respond they did: a 4–1 victory over Plymouth Argyle marked a statement performance, quickly followed by a hard-earned 0–0 draw away at Oxford United. They ended the month on a high, beating Portsmouth 4–2 at home, and from a stuttering opening, Sutton closed August with seven points from four games – a positive early return.

September featured both high-scoring victories and hard-fought results. In the National League Football Academy South, Sutton thrashed Wealdstone 7–1, showcasing offensive prowess, and followed it up with wins over Aldershot Town and Dagenham & Redbridge, while in the National League U19 Alliance Division F, they bounced back from a 5–2 defeat against Bromley by beating Dorking Wanderers and Boreham Wood Blues.

Meanwhile, In EFL Youth Alliance league action, a 3–3 draw with Bristol Rovers preceded a 3–1 victory over Swindon Town, demonstrating growing cohesion before overcoming Forest Green Rovers in their last outing.

Sutton's Academy has even continued to produce success within the First Team, as evident most recently by Charlie Bell.

The midfielder has risen from the Academy over the last week to make his senior league debut against Woking, and scored his first goal in the same game to level for the U's, before notching his second with a thunderbolt of a strike against Yeovil Town.

He had made his senior debut in all competitions alongside teammates Adam Reeves and Mehmet Halim, who was first named on the bench away at Altrincham, and the trio have followed in the footsteps of Jack Taylor and Junior Eccleston, two players who have become key figures within the first team.



Photo by Paul Loughlin

FA YOUTH CUP



TODAY'S OTHER GAMES

Osset United vs FC Halifax Town
FC United of Manchester vs Radcliffe
Loughborough Students vs Ashby Ivanhoe
Solihull Moors vs Rushall Olympic
Merstham vs Woking
Paulton Rovers vs Chippenham Town
Stockton Town vs Blyth Spartans
Trafford vs Stockport Town
Worcester City vs Brocton
Bedford Town vs Godmanchester Rovers
King's Lynn Town vs Haverhill Rovers
Needham Market vs Fakenham Town
Bath City vs Forest Green Rovers
Redbridge vs Hertford Town

TOMORROW'S GAMES

Hanworth Villa vs Wealdstone
Frickley Athletic vs North Ferriby
Heacham vs AFC Sudbury
Workington AFC vs Hartlepool United
Stalybridge Celtic vs AFC Fylde
York City vs Bradford (PA)
Brackley Town vs Easington Sports
Hallen vs Portishead Town
Chester vs Rochdale AFC
Boston United vs Aylestone Park
Royston Town vs Harborough Town
Wellinborough Town vs AFC Dunstable
Dag & Red vs Southend United
Kings Langley vs Northwood
Welling United vs Maidstone United
Chatham Town vs Whistable Town
Erith Town vs Dulwich Hamlet
Hampton & Richmond vs Eastbourne
Camberley Town vs Dorking Wanderers
Aldershot Town vs Badshot Lea
Hamble Club vs AFC Stoneham
Hollands & Blair vs Tonbridge Angels

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Newcastle Benfield vs Gateshead
Morecambe vs Carlisle United AFC
Macclesfield vs Whitchurch Alport
Quorn vs Matlock Town
Altrincham vs South Liverpool
Marine vs West Didsbury & Chorlton
Ware vs Aveley
Wingate & Finchley vs Beaconsfield Town
Bracknell Town vs Windsor & Eton

TODAY'S SQUADS



SUTTON UNITED

ACADEMY HEAD OF COACHING

Glen Nichols

Klevis **Muca** (GK)
 Aaron **James** (GK)
 Derrell **Ashia**
 Charlie **Bell**
 Tolani **Bello**
 Haniel **Boateng-Asante**
 Taylor **Boon**
 Areshai **Dillon**
 James **Fennelow**
 Ned **Hepburn**
 Josh **Jenkins**
 Marvel **N'Zi**
 Jack **Pledge**
 Adam **Reeves**
 Bobby **Sheargold**
 Dan **Urpens**
 Sid **Ward**
 Ezekiel **Yohannes**
 Aaron-James **Harleston**



MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee

Craig Griffiths

Assistant Referee

Lee Murphy (Red/Yellow)
 Joshua Helm-Cowley (Yellow)

UP NEXT AT THE VBS COMMUNITY STADIUM

Sutton United vs Hartlepool United
 Saturday, 18th October | 5:30pm KO



TODAY'S OTHER GAMES

Osset United vs FC Halifax Town
 FC United of Manchester vs Radcliffe
 Loughborough Students vs Ashby Ivanhoe
 Solihull Moors vs Rushall Olympic
 Merstham vs Woking
 Paulton Rovers vs Chippenham Town
 Stockton Town vs Blyth Spartans
 Trafford vs Stockport Town
 Worcester City vs Brocton
 Bedford Town vs Godmanchester Rovers
 King's Lynn Town vs Haverhill Rovers
 Needham Market vs Fakenham Town
 Bath City vs Forest Green Rovers
 Redbridge vs Hertford Town



KNAPHILL

COACH

Andrew Cromble

Harry **Baker**
 Jacob **Weavers**
 Thomas **Barron**
 Jacob **Kelly**
 Harvey **Butterfield**
 Oscar **Pender**
 Rory **McQuaid**
 Dan **Boon**
 Simba **Chimanya**
 Finn **Valentin**
 Liam **Girdlestone**
 Ed **Fitzgerald**
 Brandon **Jiagge**
 Subham **Gurung**
 Daniele **Fantappe**
 Charlie **Hooker**
 Luke **Binney**