



CARPOOLING TO FOOTBALL



INTRODUCTION

Travel is one of the biggest contributors to football-related carbon emissions, particularly journeys to training, matches and events. Carpooling, also known as lift sharing, is a simple and practical way for Clubs to reduce the environmental impact of travel while also helping members save money and reduce congestion around facilities.

This resource provides practical guidance to help Clubs across Wales encourage safe, inclusive and effective carpooling practices. Whether for grassroots football, community events or elite competition, shared travel can play an important role in creating a more sustainable future for football in Wales.

This resource will support your Club to:

- Understand the benefits of carpooling.
- Reduce emissions linked to football travel.
- Encourage lift sharing for training, matches and events.
- Improve travel coordination for teams and supporters.
- Reduce congestion and parking pressures.
- Promote inclusive and affordable access to football.
- Support your Club's Travel Action Plan and Green Goals.





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BENEFITS

Why Promote Carpooling?

Many football journeys involve multiple people travelling from similar locations in separate vehicles. Encouraging shared travel can significantly reduce the number of cars travelling to football activities.

Carpooling can help Clubs to:

- Reduce carbon emissions from travel.
- Lower fuel and travel costs for members.
- Reduce parking demand and congestion.
- Strengthen social connection within teams and supporters.
- Improve access for those without regular transport.
- Support Club sustainability and Green Goals.

Carpooling can also be particularly valuable in rural areas of Wales where public transport options may be limited.



AWARENESS

Promote Carpooling Awareness

Creating awareness is one of the most effective ways to encourage behaviour change.

Clubs should communicate clearly why carpooling matters and how members can get involved.

Top Tips

- Use Club websites, social media and messaging groups to promote carpooling.
- Include shared travel messaging in matchday and event communications.
- Share environmental benefits alongside cost savings and convenience.
- Use posters or signage in clubhouses and car parks.
- Highlight positive examples from teams already sharing lifts.





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PRIORITY

Reserve Parking for 'Carpoolers'

Providing priority parking for shared vehicles can encourage more members to participate in carpooling schemes.

Visible recognition also helps normalise shared travel within the Club culture.

Top Tips

- Reserve designated parking spaces for carpool vehicles.
- Locate carpool spaces close to entrances where possible.
- Use clear signage or ground markings.
- Recognise teams or groups who consistently share lifts.
- Monitor usage to ensure spaces are used appropriately.



YOUNG PLAYERS

Carpooling for Mini, Junior and Youth Teams

At younger ages in football, it often involves multiple families travelling to the same venue at similar times, making it one of the easiest areas to introduce shared travel.

Carpooling can reduce pressure on parents and guardians while also reducing traffic around facilities.

Top Tips

- Work with coaches, team managers and parents to coordinate travel.
- Identify existing informal carpooling arrangements already in place.
- Nominate team travel champions to help coordinate communication.
- Use team messaging groups to organise shared lifts.
- Consider fixed pick-up points for away fixtures where appropriate.

Clubs should always ensure safeguarding considerations are followed and that all transport arrangements comply with Club safeguarding policies.





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ADULTS

Carpooling for Adult Teams and Volunteers

Adult players, coaches, volunteers and officials can also play a key role in reducing travel emissions through carpooling.

Top Tips

- Encourage shared travel planning before fixtures and events.
- Include carpooling discussions within team communications.
- Coordinate travel from central meeting points where appropriate.
- Encourage volunteers and committee members to share lifts to meetings.
- Recognise sustainable travel efforts across the Club.



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SUPPORTERS

Supporters Travelling to Matches

Supporters and parents travelling to matches can generate significant transport-related emissions, particularly for larger fixtures or tournaments.

Clubs can encourage supporters to consider more sustainable travel options.

Top Tips

- Promote carpooling alongside fixture announcements.
- Encourage supporters to arrange lifts through supporter groups or Club networks.
- Share travel information and suggested meeting points.
- Trial supporter travel initiatives for away fixtures.
- Celebrate successful shared travel stories through social media.

For larger events, Clubs may also wish to explore organised minibuses or coach travel.





SAFETY

Carpooling Safety Considerations

Safety should always remain a priority when organising shared travel.

While most carpooling arrangements are informal, Clubs should encourage members to follow sensible safety practices.

Safety Tips

- Arrange first meetings in public places where appropriate.
- Share travel details with family or friends.
- Ensure drivers hold valid licences, insurance and roadworthy vehicles.
- Respect safeguarding procedures for junior football.
- Encourage members to trust their instincts and avoid arrangements they are uncomfortable with.

Clubs should avoid formally assigning transport responsibilities unless appropriate safeguarding and insurance considerations are in place.



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ACCESSIBILITY

Inclusion and Accessibility

Carpooling can also help improve access to football for people who may otherwise struggle to attend training, matches or events.

Shared travel can support:

- Young players without independent transport.
- People living in rural communities.
- Older supporters.
- Volunteers.
- People who may feel uncomfortable travelling alone.

By supporting inclusive travel options, Clubs can strengthen community participation and reduce barriers to involvement in football.





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ACTIVE TRAVEL

Linking Carpooling to Active Travel

Carpooling can work alongside walking, cycling and public transport initiatives.

Top Tips

- Use safe and accessible pick-up locations.
- Choose pick up points near walking routes or cycle parking.
- Encourage combined active travel and shared travel journeys.
- Promote park and walk options where appropriate.

This integrated approach can help Clubs further reduce their environmental impact.



INITIATIVES

Ideas for Club Carpooling Initiatives

The most successful initiatives are often simple, practical, and community-led.

Clubs could consider:

- Team-based carpooling schemes.
- Shared travel WhatsApp groups.
- Carpool parking permits or spaces.
- Travel challenges between teams.
- Supporter away travel coordination.
- Reward schemes for sustainable travel.
- Shared travel weeks or campaigns.





FURTHER SUPPORT

Encouraging carpooling is a practical and achievable way for your Club to reduce travel emissions, lower costs, and strengthen community connections. Even small increases in shared travel can make a significant difference over the course of a season.

You do not need to implement a formal scheme immediately. Start by identifying opportunities where shared travel already happens and build from there through communication, coordination and encouragement.

Use what you have learned in this resource to:

- Inform one of your two mandatory Green Goals.
- Develop actions within your Travel Action Plan.
- Reduce traffic and parking pressures.
- Promote more sustainable travel behaviours.
- Improve access and inclusion across your Club.

Over time, building a culture where shared travel is encouraged and supported can help create a more sustainable and connected future for football in Wales.

Further information on Travel can be found at www.faw.cymru/TogetherGreener-travel.

If you require support with this resource, please contact sustainability@faw.cymru