

# BELWEST FOXES SOCCER CLUB INC.

# "SPORTS-SPECIFIC CORE TRAINING" CONTACT SPORTS

Contact team sports require high levels of speed and agility combined with strength to fend off opponents in contact situations and the ability to deliver controlled power from unbalanced body positions.

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#### CORE-STRENGTH TRAINING FOR CONTACT SPORTS

All contact sports require excellent cardiovascular fitness and a range of complex movements. Training should involve a combination of interval training to improve

cardiovascular fitness and strength-training circuits to develop muscular power. The latter should focus on the muscles specific to your sport.

#### PREPARATION

Good warm-up and cool-down procedures on match days, and a training programme that offers preparation for games, are essential. Warm-ups should include dynamic stretches and cardiovascular work. such as shuttle runs, to raise your body temperature.



# # Isometric

exercises such as mountain

climbers (xp.118) help build your core stability. This provides a solid platform for coping with multi-directional movements, controlling shots and passes, and fending off opponents.



# ■ Rotation

exercises such as pulley lifts. (1) pp.146-47 improve

your rotational power This increases the power of your kicks and passes. and stabilizes your body against torsional movements in contact.



# # Flexion

exercises such as

partner ball swaps (ppp.108-09) help you to generate greater hip strength and mobility. meroving your control and power when you are passing or shooting.

# **VISUAL EXERCISE DIRECTORY**





Active Pelvic Floor Woo.56-57



Fillow Squeeze 20058





Heel Slide 200.58





Knee Fold 3000.60-61



5tar 100.51



300.67







Abdominal Crunch 30pp.72-23



200.74





100 Et



Heel Reach 300.62



Roman Chair Side Bend 20 C.E.





Side-lying Leg Lift Mpp.84-85



Oblique Reach Xxx.86-87











Swim 330.54





Super-slow Bicycle **300.9**E





Sprinter Sit-up 000.9E 9990056



Horizontal Balance **30**0.37



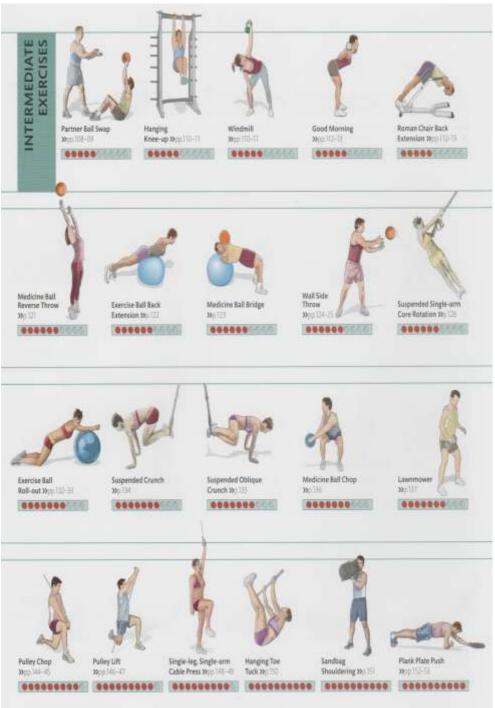


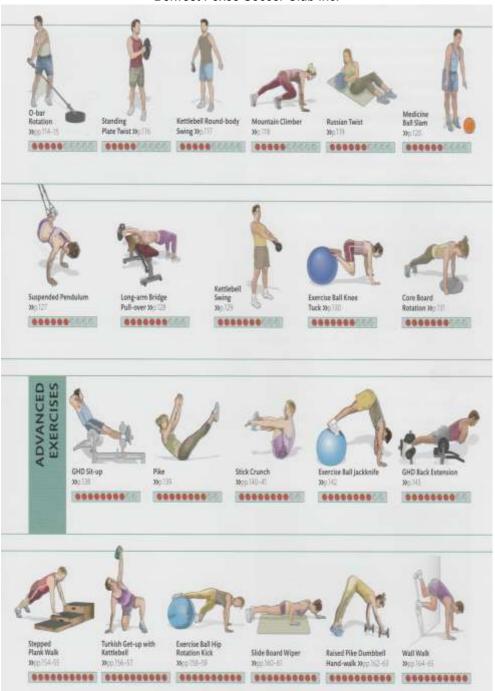
Bridge 300p.98-99 9999000000











# **CORE MOVEMENT DIRECTORY**

As you begin to train your core muscles using the exercises in this section, it is important to think of each in terms of their core movement, as well as their level difficulty. This is a key part of understanding how your core muscles work together, and to achieving the best results in your training. Using a balanced combination of movements will help you to gain excellent overall strength, stability, and mobility, while reducing the likelihood of muscular imbalance and injury.

The Core Exercise Matrix on the next few pages is designed to offer quick, user-friendly reference to help you locate the exercises in the book according to their core movement, along with details of the number of progressions they have.

The six core movements are ordered in the same way that they appear in the key at the start of the book (xp.9): Isometric; Flexon; Extension; Side Flexion; Rotation; and Complex, the individual exercises are then ordered presented according to their level of difficulty and page order. It is important to note that while Isometric exercises come first and there are more of them than for the other movements, this does not mean that they are more important. Balance is the key when you are training your core and you should always endeavour to combine as many core movements as you can.

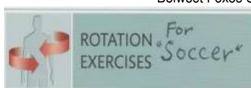
#### **USING THE MATRIX**

The chart on the following pages groups exercises in the main section of this chapter (ppp.56-165) according to their Target. Movement, ranking them in order of Difficulty Level, and listing the number of progressions for each. You can use this information in conjunction with the Design Your Own programmes (ppp.186-89) if you are looking for exercises of a specific movement, and level the Sports-Specific chapter (ppp.192-215) if you are intending to train specific core movements for your chosen sport, or simply as a general reference to help with your braining. It is important to remember that you should always train using a selection of exercises from a balanced range of core movements.

CORE EXERCISE MATRIX						
IS EX	OMETR (ERCISE	S Socc	er			
EXERCISE	LEVEL	PROGRESSIONS	PAGE			
Active Pelvic Floor	d	2	56-57			
Pillow Squeeze	-1	2	58			
Heel Slide	4	100	59			
Knee Fold	1	1	60-61			
Тое Тар	1	4	62-63			
Prone Abdominal Hollowing	1	(#C	64			
Oyster	1	200	66			
Prone Leg Lift	1	2	67			
Star	1		68			
Superman	1	4	70-71			

Leg Circle	2	1	74	Core Board Rotation 7	1 131
Side-lying Leg Lift	2	1	84-85	Single-leg, Single-arm Cable Press	- 148-49
Swim	3	*	94	Plank Plate Push 10	- 152-53
Horizontal Balance	4	1.	97	Stepped Plank Walk 10	- 154-55
Bridge	4	5	98-99	FLEXION	v For SES Soccer
Double-leg Lower and Lift	4	3	100-01	EXERCISE LEVEL	
Plank	4	6	102-03	Abdominal Crunch 2	6 72-73
Side Plank	4	3	104-05	Reverse Curl 2	2 75
Kettlebell Round- body Swing	5	177	117	Sit-up 2	1 78
Moutain Climber	5	12	118	Roll-back 2	- 90
Long-arm Bridge Pull-over	7	ī	128	Roll-up 3	- 91
Kettlebell Swing	7	4	129	VLeg-raise 3	- 92
Exercise Ball Knee Tuck	7	191	130	V Leg Sit-up 3	- 93

Sprinter Sit-up	3	8	96	Back Extension	1	-	69
Single-leg Extension and Stretch	.4	3#3	106	Dorsal Raise	2	2	76-77
Double-leg Extension and Stretch	4	1	107	Good Morning	5	12	112-13
Partner Ball Swap	5	1	108-09	Roman Chair Back Extension	5		112-13
Hanging Knee-up	5	1	110-11	Medicine Ball Reverse Throw	6	-	121
Medicine Ball Slam	6	2	120	Exercise Ball Back Extension	6	-	122
GHD Sit-up	8	(#3	138	GHD Back Extension	8		143
Pike	8	545	139	EXI	E-FLEX		
Stick Crunch	8		140-41	EXERCISE	LEVEL P	ROGRESSIONS	PAGE
Exercise Ball Jack-knife	8	-	142	Side-lying Lateral Crunch	2	-	80
Hanging Toe Tuck	10	-	150	Side Bend	2:	-	81
37026007	ENSION	For	0.0	Heel Reach	2	~	82
37026007	ENSION RCISES	Socia	S///	Heel Reach Roman Chair Side Bend	2	-	82





# COMPLEX EXERCISES

EXERCISE	LEVEL	PROGRESSIONS	PAGE	EXERCISE	LEVEL	PROGRESSIONS	PAGE
Oblique Crunch	2	1	79	Suspended Pendulum	7	-	127
Oblique Reach	2	4	86-87	Exercise Ball Roll-out	7	1	132-33
Hip Roll	2	3	88-89	Suspended Crunch	7	1	134
Super-slow Bicycle	3	=	95	Suspended Oblique Crunch	7		135
O-bar Rotation	5	- 8	114-15	Medicine Ball Chop	7		136
Standing Plate Twist	5	=	716	Lawnmower	7	-	137
Russian Twist	6	=	119	Sandbag Shouldering	10	-	151
Medicine Ball Bridge	6	=	123	Turkish Get-up with Kettlebell	10	- 7	156-57
Wall Side Throw	6	2	124-25	Exercise Ball Hip Rotation Kick	10	2	158-59
Suspended Single-arm Core Rotation	6		126	Slide Board Wiper	10	-	160-61
Pulley Chop	9	3	144-45	Raised Pike Dumbbell Hand-walk	10	3	162-63
Pulley Lift	9	3	146-47	Wall Walk	10	-	164-65

# **MOBILIZATION**

Mobility stretches are a key part of any exercise routine, helping you to get the best results and reducing your risk of injury. They lengthen and loosen your muscles, increasing your range of

movement and flexibility, and reducing stiffness and pressure on your discs, ligaments, and facet joints. When performing the movements, relax your body, and breathe deeply and rhythmically.

# THORACIC ROLLER

In this exercise, the foam roller acts as a hinge to help improve the range of motion in your middle and upper

back. It is a good movement to mobilize the muscles of your neck and back.



Sit with your heels planted on the floor and the roller beneath the middle of your back. Lie back onto the roller so that it is just below your shoulder blades, Clasp your hands together and lightly cradle your head.



With your chin tucked in, side up and down the roller, from your neck down to the level of your lowest ribs, but do not go too low into your lumbar spine. Repeat the exercise for at least 30 seconds.

# **LAT** ROLLER

This exercise helps to loosen up the large muscles of your middle and upper back, reducing tightness, tension, and muscular pain.



Lie on your right side with the roller positioned beneath your armpit, and place your hands behind your head for stability. Use your back muscles to roll down from your armpit to the base of your shoulder blade. Roll back up and repeat for at least 30 seconds, then switch sides.

# **GLUTE/PIRIFORMIS** ROLLER

This exercise loosens up the gluteals at the outside of your buttocks and the piriformis towards the middle of them.



Sit on the foam roller with your right buttock and cross your right leg over your left leg. Rolling backwards and forwards, work on the outside of your buttock before shifting your weight to the middle of your buttock. Repeat for at least 30 seconds before switching sides.

#### **LUMBAR ROLLER**

In this exercise, the foam roller works the muscles of your lumbar spine, helping to mobilize your lower back. A strong lower back is essential for

all sports, from running to weightlifting, and is important for anyone who spends a lot of time working at a desk.



11 Sit with your heels planted on the floor and the roller positioned beneath your lower back. Place your hands on either side of your head and cradle it lightly, without putting any strain on your neck.

2 Keeping your head stable, slowly and carefully slide up and down on the roller, from the bottom of your ribcage to the top of your pelvis. Repeat for at least 30 seconds.

# TFL/ITB ROLLER

This exercise loosens your illiotibial band (ITB), the band of muscular tissue on the outside of your upper leg, and helps general mobility in your glutes and hip muscles. It also loosens your tensor fasciae lata (TFL), a muscle in the thigh that is utilized in sports from hurdling to horse riding.



Lie on your right side with the roller positioned beneath the outside of your thigh, just below your hip. Propping yourself up on your right forearm, with your left hand on your hip, cross your left leg over the right, placing your left foot flat on the floor for support.

2 Using your right forearm, gently push your body over the roller so that the outside of your right thigh slides up and down the roller, as far as your knee. Slide back the opposite way to your hip. Repeat for at least 30 seconds, then swap sides.

# **NECK ROTATION**

This very simple movement can help ease neck aches. After a little practice, you should be able to rotate your neck through at least 70 degrees to each side without feeling 'pulls' or hearing cracking sounds.



Look straight ahead, keeping your spine in a neutral position. Keep the upper body relaxed and your arms loose by your sides



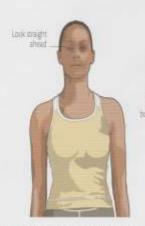
Move your head slowly towards your right shoulder, without straining. Turn it as far as is comfortable and hold for a few seconds.



Move your head back through the starting position towards your left shoulder, without straining. Return to the start position.

# **NECK EXTENSION** AND FLEXION

This simple dynamic stretch, which can be carried out standing or seated, will help prevent general neck stiffness and is useful for sports in which head position and movement are important.



Stand upright with your arms by your sides in a relaxed posture. Look straight ahead and keep your spine in a neutral position.



2 Extend your neck as far as is comfortable by slowly raising your chin so you are looking directly upwards. Hold for a few seconds.



Flex your neck by letting your head drop forwards without straining. Hold for a few seconds and return to the start position.

# **NECK SIDE FLEXION**

This is a useful mobility stretch for the muscles of your shoulders and neck, helping to ease tightness and tension. It is also good for mobilizing your spine, and so for improving your posture.



Stand upright, holding your body in a relaxed posture, with your shoulders loose and your eyes looking straight ahead.



Tilt your head so that your right ear moves towards your right shoulder as far as is comfortable. Hold for a few seconds.



Flex your neck in the apposite direction as far as you can go. Hold for a few seconds and return to the start position.

# SHOULDER ROTATION

This exercise provides an excellent way of freeing up the muscles and ligaments around your shoulder joints, and

of warming your trapezius muscles. This is particularly important before beginning a resistance training session.



Let your arms hang loose by your sides and relax your shoulders. Keep your head level and your spine in a neutral position.



Rotate your shoulders forwards and up, raising them slowly towards your ears.



Hold the position for a few seconds, then reverse the movement backwards.



# LYING TRUNK ROTATION

This exercise helps to improve the rotational mobility of your upper-back muscles and your thoracic spine, while also stretching the muscles of your chest.





Lie on your left side with your hips, knees, and feet stacked one above the other, and your hips and knees bent at right angles. Extend your arms straight in front of you, pressing your palms together.

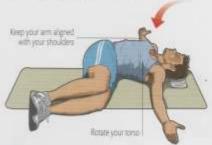


Breathing out, rotate your upper body to face the ceiling, keeping your hips stacked and your right arm extended.

Rep your core engaged

Breathing out, reach back towards the ceiling with your right arm, while rotating your torso back towards the start position slowly and under control.

Reeping your knees and feet together and your hips stucked, breathe in, brace your abdomen, and reach upwards and back with your right hand, while keeping your left arm straight and resting on the floor.



Continue the movement until you are as far back as possible, with your chest facing upwards and your hips still stacked. Hold the movement briefly, keeping your shoulders stable and level. Breathe in.



Continue the movement towards the start position and touch the palms of your hands together.

Repeat the movement as required, then switch sides.

# LYING WAIST TWIST

This exercise increases the mobility of the joints and muscles in your lower and upper back. Perform the same number of repetitions on both sides of your body.



Placing a folded towel under your head for extra support, lie on your back with your body relaxed and your arms loose but extended at a 90-degree angle from your upper body. Keep your legs and feet together.



Reeping your upper body flat against the mat, bend your left leg at the knee and bring it across your body, using your right hand to increase the stretch, and allowing your right leg to turn and bend in the same direction.



Hold the stretch for a few seconds, return to the start position, and switch sides.

# CAT AND CAMEL

A great muscle-releasing exercise, this stretch helps to lubricate your spine and get your spinal discs moving. It is one of the best exercises you can do as part of a general warm-up,



Kneel on all fours with your hands flat on the floor and in line with your shoulders, your fingers pointing forwards, and your knees below your hips.



Round your back upwards and pull in your stomach, letting your head drop down as you do so. Hold the stretch for a few seconds at the top of the movement.



In one fluid movement, raise your buttocks and curve your spine downwards while lifting your head so that you are looking straight ahead. Hold the stretch for a few seconds, then return to the start position.

#### THREADING THE NEEDLE

This dynamic stretch is good for mobilizing the spine and improving your spinal flexibility while warming up the muscles of your shoulders and lower back.



Kneel on all fours with your back flat and your neck in a relaxed position, Position your arms directly under your shoulders, and bend your hips and knees at right angles, keeping your feet together.



2 Supporting your weight with your right hand, reach under and across your chest with your left hand, turning your head to look to the right.



3 Hold the stretch for a few seconds then reverse the movement to the start position. Repeat as required and switch sides.

# HIP FLEXOR STRETCH

This stretch is an excellent movement for your hip flexors, which may be particularly tight if you spend a lot of time sitting down. Good hip mobility is vital for balance and posture.







# HIP CIRCLE



# **CHILD'S POSE**

This movement gently mobilizes your spine and hips while also working your shoulders and upper back. If you find the exercise uncomfortable, you can place a rolled-up towel between the back of your thighs and calves. To increase the stretch, reach your hands in front of you as far as you can.



Kneel on all fours with your hands in line with your shoulders, your fingers pointing forwards, and your knees directly below your hips. Keep your back and neck straight.



Reeping your hands in position, slowly lower yourself down onto your heels until your forehead touches the mat. Extend your hands in front of you as far as is comfortable.

## **COBRA EXTENSION**

This simple exercise is designed to stretch and strengthen your lower back muscles and improve your spinal flexibility. You should aim to perform the movement with a slow, fluid motion, keeping your neck and shoulders relaxed throughout.



Lie face down on a mat with your hands flat on the floor and roughly level with your chin. Extend your feet, keeping your legs together. Breathe in.



Pressing your hips against the mat and breathing out, lift your torso upwards slowly, using your arms for suppon. Raise your head and shoulders as high as you can, keeping your lower back relaxed.



Pause binefly at the top of the movement, then lower your torso back to the start position with a smooth, controlled movement, and using your arms for support.

## **SCORPION STRETCH**

This is an excellent all-body stretch that improves your spinal flexibility. The movement can take some practice, but good technique is key, so focus on achieving the correct position rather than trying to push the stretch too far.



## **BACK ROLL**

This dynamic stretch is an excellent way of mobilizing the muscles of your spine, lower back, and buttocks. Aim to perform the movement with a slow, controlled movement, and use a mat to cushion your spine as you roll. Be careful not to place strain on your neck.



Six upright on a mat with your knees drawn up to your chest and your feet lifted off the floor. Engage your core, grip your ankles, and relax your neck, keeping, your head facing forwards.



2 Gently roll backwards until your shoulder blades are resting on the floor, with your knees tucked up to your chest. Keep your core engaged and be careful not to roll onto your neck.



a few seconds, then reverse the movement with a smooth, controlled motion, rolling forwards to return to the start position.

# SKIER

This excellent mobilizing stretch works your spine

and shoulder joints in one fluid movement. It also encourages your upper and lower body to function as a unit. The exercise requires good co-ordination and range of motion, so it may take some practice to perfect.

> Rant your feet on the floor



Bending your knees and dropping your buttocks back into a half squat, swing your upper body down and forwards, keeping your arms straight, your core engaged, and your back in a neutral position.

Xrep your arms straight and your elbows soft.

#### TARGET MOVEMENT ICONS



#### ISOMETRIC

bometric strength is the ability to hold your body in a fixed position or resist an external force, such as when you are carrying a heavy weight.



#### SIDE FLEXION

This movement involves bending from side to side from your waist or reaching overhead to either your left or your right.



#### FLEXION

Flexion involves bending forwards for example, when you are picking something off the ground, or moving to sit or stand from a lying position.



#### ROTATION

Rotation involves turning movements from your waist, such as twisting to look over your shoulder.



#### EXTENSION

Extension involves bending your back to stand from a bent-over position, or arching your back to strench up to reach something.



#### COMPLEX

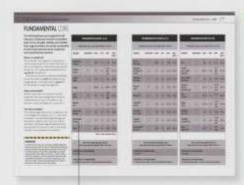
Complex movements involve a combination of one or more of the other five movements listed in this table.

#### **CORE-TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

This chapter offers five easy-to-navigate three-part programmes to help you get the most out of your core training (xipp.174-85). There are also two handy tables to help you to create your own workouts (xipp.186-89), and a final programme you can use as a test or a fun challenge you can include in your training.

#### SPORTS-SPECIFIC CORE-TRAINING

This section profiles a comprehensive range of sports according to their principle core movements, with example exercises that may help to improve your performance. The table at the start of the chapter (app.195-97) offers a user-friendly reference to help you understand the key movements of your chosen sport.





#### THREE-STAGE PROGRAMMES

Each of the easy-to-use programmes offer three levels of difficulty to help you progress in a safe and structured way and get the very best results from your training regimen.

#### SPORTS-SPECIFIC CORE MOVEMENTS

Information on the core movements for each group of sports helps you to gain a better understanding of how to train for your chosen activity.