Interview Guide

For use during the interview process of participants, to guide the conversation topics and ensure that the data collection meets the objectives of the research project.

**Research Questions:**

How did former academy footballers experience bio-banding practice during the academy?

How did they experience their bodies and associated identities through bio-banding? What are their body-self stories?

How do former academy footballers make sense of those experiences now? What impact has bio-banding had on their footballing/non-footballing lives?

What role does the experience of bio-banding play in the narrative construction of their footballing identities over time (past present and future)?

* + Can you tell me about your experiences of football growing up, pre-academy?
    - How would you describe your relationship with football as a child.
    - Did you find football easy? Competitive? Limitations compared to others?
    - Discuss positive/negative aspects of these experiences.
    - Describe experiences and feelings around body/self.
  + Can we talk about your experience of joining an elite academy?
    - How would you describe your feelings towards football at this time?
    - How did you feel about the transition to a more structured football environment?
    - Thoughts and feelings around relationships with peers.
    - Describe the experience around body/self during this period. Comparing with others?
    - Experiences of the elite academy environment, expectations, and impacts on football/non-footballing life.
  + Describe any experiences of bio-banding/maturity-matched practice during your time within the elite academy environment.
    - Were you aware of being involved in such practices at the time? How did you feel about this and how did you understand the reasons and impacts to your academy experience?