

Junior Representative Teams

Boys

1. At Eastern Suburbs our representative program begins in the 7th grade. For the first 5 games of the season, our director of coaching or his appointed assistants watch the games of the 7-9th grade players. These are our trials. Before the 5th game he will email all the coaches of the teams, and ask for recommendations of players from their team that they feel are up to the standard of representative play. If there are additional names to those that have already been noticed, he will look at those players again.

If you think that your child is in the top 10% of the players of his grade, then please make sure your coach passes on their name to the director of coaching. Nominations will only be accepted from team coaches.

2. Depending on the standard, about 20 of the top boys will be selected as representative players for their grade. These boys will receive additional coaching from the Director of Coaching, one night a week after school. You will be informed what night that will be once the squad is selected.
3. Depending on total numbers for the grades, we try and put the 7th and 8th grade rep teams into the 8th and 9th grade draws respectively down at Madills. This means they play for their allotted club team, and then straight after play in the grade up with their rep team. This is totally dependant on player numbers in the grade. If we have too many players enroll in the 8th or 9th grades, we sometimes just don't have the field space to accommodate the rep teams.
4. Rep teams represent Eastern Suburbs at various tournaments around Auckland. The 7th grade attends a few, with 8th and 9th being more prevalent. Tournaments are generally on a Sunday, start from 8-9am and if you make the final can go through until 2.30pm. However, these are great fun and the kids really enjoy them.
5. Some years we have an "A" and a "B" team, other years we have more even "Gold" and "White" teams. This is at the discretion of the Director of Coaching, Grade Co-coordinator, and the Junior Chairman. Some tournaments are considered "more important" or "less important". For this reason we may select a team accordingly.

Coaches and Managers

1. Without a volunteer coach and manager, the rep teams will not operate regardless of our processes and systems. We try and operate a policy of selecting a volunteer coach after the squad selection. This is in an attempt to have all players treated equally, and not give a boy an advantage because his father has offered to coach. However, if the Director of coaching and the Junior Chairman feel that a player is an "obvious choice" for the rep team, and a parent of his is an "obvious choice" as the coach, then the coaching appointment may well be made at an earlier stage.

2. Coaches are encouraged to obtain coaching qualifications regardless of which team they are taking. The Director of coaching will assist in every way to facilitate this

The purpose of our rep program is to further develop the football ability of our elite young players, by exposing them to better coaching, better opposition, better players to play alongside, and more Football. This is not intended to be high pressure, serious, win at all costs Football. It is supposed to be fun for all those involved, players, coaches and parents.

Girls

The girls operate on a different level from the boys, largely because of their smaller numbers. If a girl is an outstanding player, they should endeavor to play in the boy's rep teams. It is not unusual to have girls in these teams. Their progress will be significantly enhanced playing with the better boys. They have the option to play "all girls" football once they get to 10th grade, and even then if they show special ability I suggest they remain in the boys grades for as long as possible. Eastern Suburbs has two full international Women's players currently, both played boys football for a long time.

For most girls however, the girl's rep teams are a great place to play extra football and represent the club. Tournaments are great fun, and not generally as lengthy (or as frequent) as the boys. We generally pick teams by firstly "who is available", but a coach is appointed and he / she may run a trial with the Director of coaching. This trial is more akin to a "get together" where you will more than likely just have a practice game. From that a basic squad is formed, and teams attend tournaments and players selected accordingly. The Director of coaching will organise some coaching sessions if the team wants them.