

## **EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL CLUB YOUTH INFORMATION FOR THE 2010 SEASON**

**Welcome to Eastern Suburbs FC Youth Division.**

**PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY – THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CHANGES !!**

We continue to make further improvements to the structure of the Youth Division, as a follow on from the last few years.

The Youth section of the club now has its own Director of Football in Simon Richards and runs quite separately from the Junior and Senior sections in terms of development but with links for pathway development for players.

The U-19 men's team has been migrated to the Youth section. This is part of a desire on the part of the Club Exec to smooth the pathways for players through the latter part of Youth football and onto senior play. The top Girl's Youth squad is U-17 with the formation of a new U19 league run by the Senior section of the Club which will play on Saturdays.

In reality with women's football, players at U-17 level are becoming more and more involved in Senior football and will continue to do so.

At the end of last year we launched our Youth Talent Development Programme which was enormously successful. We are to continue this and enhance it during this season. Initially set up for selected Grade 10-13 boys, this ran weekly for the whole of Term 4, and will also run for a number of weeks pre season. The purpose of the TDP is to identify talented players and give them the opportunity to develop to their potential and allows us to integrate training with the selection process for top teams in the following season.

This season we will be including selected female players in the programme, and we are also extending it to include 14 Grade and those players coming up from Junior 9 Grade. A clear pathway is emerging for players from early in Youth play, and opportunities exist for players to join this elite programme right through to 14 Grade – in future years as this body of talent ages we will further extend the programme.

Already we have seen benefits from this, with players demonstrating higher levels of game understanding and vision. Additionally we are finding that we are attracting more top level players, keen to get on board what is seen to be a leading edge development programme.

We believe there are no other programmes in Auckland that offer such an opportunity with the backing of an established club, and with a clear pathway on which players can progress.

Please read the following information to get a feel for how we are working this year:

### **Grades and Team Make Up**

This year as previously we will have a Tamaki League operating in conjunction with Ellerslie, Fencibles and Bucklands Beach football clubs, which will give 10 and 11 Graders the opportunity to stay in the local area to play their football as opposed to being involved with a team playing in the AFF leagues which play throughout the Auckland area from the Harbour Bridge to Drury.

This year Eastern Suburbs will be taking charge of the league, taking over from the great work done by Ellerslie in establishing and running the Tamaki League over recent years. We expect Eastern Suburbs to have about 10 teams in each of 10 and 11 grade which means that about half of the games played by Tamaki teams will be at Glover Park or Crossfields Road

The club has appointed Fiona McKinlay to run the Tamaki League. Fiona has a wealth of experience in sports management and we are excited to have her on board to run this important aspect of Youth Football at Eastern Suburbs

Format is being finalised now, but as a result of suggestions and a comprehensive survey of a number of Tamaki League coaches we will be making a number of enhancements to the league.

These will include competitive options for teams with results collated and winners rewarded at the end of the season. Along side this we will run a recreational league which will be 'non competitive' – that is the same as at present for those players wishing to enjoy a more social and less pressured Saturday morning!

Grades 12 and 13 upwards will all play in the AFF leagues, as will all Girl's teams, although should numbers and grounds permit we may offer an in house 12 Grade Tamaki league

Numbers of AFF teams for 12 and 13 boys and 13-17 girls will depend upon registrations received by the first week in March – we are obliged to advise AFF of team numbers at the end of the first week so this acts as a cut-off. Once we have set the number of teams we will have a waiting list for late enrolments. We sometimes allow for an extra team here and there to allow for this although AFF do not particularly like this.

In grades 14, 15, 17 and 19 for boys we will be limiting teams to three teams in Grade 14 and most likely a single team in each of grades 15, 17 and 19 unless numbers are overwhelmingly supportive of a second team. This is due to the effect that school football has on our numbers. In past years we have had much difficulty finding a team place for players arriving at the club (often late following school trials) and with AFF demanding to know quite early on the number of teams we are entering we are forced to limit numbers.

If you are looking at playing Grade 14 please be registered early. If you have a full squad of 13 or 14 that you want to play in Grade 14 as a team, let us know and we will most likely be able to adjust numbers to accommodate this.

### **Squad Sizes**

Grades 10 and 11 for all players and grade 12 for Girls will run in a 7 a side competition with squads of 10 maximum.

Grades 13 and up, and 12 for boys will run 11 a side with a squad size of 14 maximum.

AFF are keen to follow the directive of Football New Zealand which sees all grades up to 12 playing 9 a side. Field numbers are an issue here which has delayed a complete change over.

### **Registration - NOW OPEN**

All players must be registered with the club prior to team announcements after trials

Team numbers are sent to AFF early March and players must be registered and financial in order to play – AFF are getting more strict on this matter

### **Team Selection**

As noted above, team selections will be made based on the TDP training sessions and any additional trials necessary. In as many cases as possible we are trying to avoid trials as we tend to find these are high pressure and can give a false view

Selected players will be invited into the training sessions to observe them with a view to adding them into teams

Trials weeks for teams not involved with the TDP will commence mid February for two weeks

DoF has the final say on team selection following the trials period, and we reserve the right to adjust team personnel during the first month of the season should it be suspected that selection errors have occurred.

Teams will be announced on the Eastern Suburbs website sometime during the first or second week of March unless additional time is needed for some grades

Pre-season Training starts immediately following selections which will give two - three weeks training prior to the start of the season (Grading Rounds) for AFF teams early April

The season start for Tamaki League teams is to also be Early April

### **Subscription Charges**

Over the years the club has been subject to both rising costs for our main expenses (grounds, electricity, equipment etc..) and to a significant drop off in grant funding available. Added to this we are now obliged to pay levies to New Zealand Football as well as fees for the local AFF (Auckland Football)

These costs are high, and for years we have absorbed them in our subs which have generally been kept as low as possible. Last year the club struggled financially and we have no option but to change the way we charge subs

Last year our base sub was \$175.00 including gst less a \$20 early bird discount, over the whole section. Top teams paid an additional levy of \$75 for additional equipment, use of the gym and coach support

This year we are charging a base sub of \$125 excluding gst for 10 and 11 grade and \$135 for 12-19 grade

Levies due to NZF and AFF amount to \$16 for in house players (Tamaki League) and \$30 for 10 and 11 grade AFF players – this includes gst

12 – 19 grade players are levied \$40 per year

2010 Subs will therefore be as follows (all including gst):

10-11 Grade In House players	\$	155.00
10-11 Grade AFF players		170.00
12-19 Grade players		190.00

These subs assume payment before the end of February – we have previously run an ‘early Bird Discount’ but have found most players have registered prior to the cutoff.

Late subs will be \$180.00, \$200.00 and \$220.00 respectively unless there are extenuating circumstances.

### **Top Teams**

In the past we have charged a Top Team Levy to those players playing at the highest level in their grade

This levy has been to cover the cost of additional equipment such as extra balls (one per player), bibs, extra cones and discs, lino flags and space booked by the club at a gym for mid winter training

This year we will be asking all top team players to purchase a Top Team Pack for \$80.00. This will be presented to the player upon selection and will be handed to the coach for the team use. We are hoping this will allay any concerns as to ‘value for money’

Top team players will also be required to have a club jacket. In the past we have provide these but we have found that many players now have their own, and we have had difficulty having the gear returned. Costs have risen so we are dispensing with the provision of club gear.

We will be selling our existing club jackets for \$30.00 (normal retail is \$65.00) on a first come first served basis

Playing strip is only provided to metro teams in 13, 14, 15, 17 and 19 grades as these strips must be fully numbered

Top teams are defined as:

In 7 a side team squads, top two teams (total squad size 18-20)

In 11 a side squads, top team (total squad size 14)

### **Playing Kit**

After six years with the existing gold and white kit, we have negotiated directly with Lotto to provide a stock shirt for our club

Previously our shirts have had to be made up in NZ, and have been expensive and slow to obtain

This year and for the next 4 at least we will be using a new shirt which is available at Champs Sports now

The shirt is of high quality, and is the same style as worn by Fiorentina in Italy’s La Liga – the price is actually less than the previous shirt

All Youth teams **except Tamaki League** will play in the new shirt which I think you will agree is a very nice look



**Eastern Suburbs Logo to be embroidered**

**In Black/White on all Metro Boys and Girls strps.**

**Premiere Mens /Ladies, Reserves, and Elite youth teams to have Transferred logos**

**Sponsors logo to be confirmed  
Logos only on senior strips**

Players are to wear white shorts, and gold socks

Top Teams will play in white socks to distinguish form other teams and to remain in line with our top Men's and Women's teams

### **Coaching**

Coaching is provided by parent coaches, other than in some circumstances where coaches are provided for top Metro teams – for example this year Matt Frost will be coaching the U-19 Metro boy's team squad

We are negotiating to have specialist goalkeeper training available – this will be a set programme for which a charge will be made – top team goalkeepers will receive a discount. More information later

Available for parent coaches will be a syllabus provide by our DoF for each parent coach to work through on a week by week basis.

Simon Richards our Director of Football is available at all times for advice on coaching, and will through the year ne running 'Coach the Coaches' sessions for parent coaches as well as formal Coach Education programmes for those coaches keen to gain some qualifications and learn more

about football coaching generally

Simon is highly qualified and is a Coach Educator with excellent contacts in NZF and AFF – as a result we are able to offer the highest level of coach education to our coaches

### **Other Matters**

As part of our management of our fields and to ensure that goals and nets etc.. are put away correctly we need someone to open up and close up each Saturday at Glover and Crossfields.

This is a paid position and would suit a responsible teenage member of the club who could open up the ground shed in the morning and then check in the afternoon that all nets and corner flags are away – and if not do so. Would suit someone living close by. If you know of someone who may like to do either of the fields please contact Tracey at the office

### **Questions**

Should you have any queries with regard to the youth setup, please check with your grade coordinator, or contact the Club.

**We are looking forward to a great season and hope for a successful year !!**