



## **ABERFELDIE JUNIOR FOOTBALL** **MEMBER INFORMATION - SEASON 2017**

The Junior Football Section of the Aberfeldie Sports Club welcomes all players and parents to what promises to be an exciting and rewarding season.

The following information is intended to answer questions that are most frequently asked at the start of the season. Whilst it contains essential information for new parents, 'seasoned' parents should also take the time to review and update themselves on important dates, and note any changes to previous policies and processes. This information should be read in conjunction with information on the club website: [www.abers.com.au](http://www.abers.com.au)

The website includes club contacts, information about the club history and structure, policies and the club song.

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### **COMMUNICATION**

The club's preferred methods of communication are via the Abers website and email or electronic newsletter. You should regularly check the website for information updates.

To ensure you continue to receive the eNewsletter, [please subscribe here](#) or advise the Junior Secretary at [juniorfootball@abers.com.au](mailto:juniorfootball@abers.com.au) of any changes to your email address.

On a weekly basis, much of the communication will be at team level through the coaches and team managers. Most teams also have a weekly newsletter that the team manager will also send to you electronically. Make sure the coach & team manager have your contact details and notify them if these change, so you and your child don't miss out on any important information.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

At ABERS we strive to instil and maintain high standards of behaviour both on and off the field that are in keeping with club and EDFL polices, as well as the AFL Kids First Program. Players, parents, coaches and committee members are required to uphold a code of conduct and work together to maintain the excellent standards families have come to expect at the Aberfeldie Sports Club. You and your child will be provided with a Code of Conduct Agreement to review during the pre-season. See the website to preview these documents. Please ensure you discuss the codes with your family.

### **PARENT PARTICIPATION**

You and your child have signed up to be part of a team – your child is part of the on-field team and you are part of the off-field team. Volunteering is a great way to get involved in your child's sport, share or develop your talents and get to know others. Clubs don't exist without volunteers, so whatever you can do to help, however big or small, is appreciated.

**Every family is expected to contribute.** Your coach and team manager are the key people to approach to offer your assistance. The team manager will be looking for volunteers to assist with weekly game day duties and will create a roster. These duties might include time keeping, providing oranges or awards, goal umpiring, boundary umpiring or being an umpire escort. All parents are expected to participate in the roster of duties. Your team will also need a runner and a first aid officer. Put your hand up if you can help. Your active volunteering will ensure one less thing for them to worry about and ensure the team hits the field well prepared.

## WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

In compliance with legislation and EDFL requirements, the club has a policy that all committee members, coaches, team managers and first aid officers have a Working with Children Check.

## FIXTURE FOR SEASON 2017

The fixture and ground location details are available on the EDFL Web site ([www.essendonfl.com.au](http://www.essendonfl.com.au)). You should take it upon yourself to check this website regularly throughout the season.

## TRAINING

Training schedules and venues vary across the age groups and individual teams. Clifton Park or Walter Street Reserve in Ascot Vale are ABERS main training venues. Throughout the season, some teams mix a variety of activities and venues into the training schedule to maximize player development. Coaches and team managers will provide up to date information on these matters. The training schedule will be placed on the website.

## TEAM SELECTION

Team selection is a complex process based on many factors. Our guiding principles are to field competitive teams in each division and ensure players have fun. Although parent requests will be considered, we cannot guarantee they will be accommodated. Pre-season provides the opportunity for coaches to observe the skills and attitudes of players, share their knowledge about players and consider all the pieces of the puzzle that go into determining the eventual line up of teams. All efforts will be made to consider the needs of families and to ensure that each new player to the club will have one friend in his or her team.

A football club provides an excellent opportunity to establish new friendships at both a player and parent level. Take the opportunity to meet and mix with new players and parents. Aberfeldie Junior Football does not encourage or support the building of teams only around particular school or friendship groups.

## UNIFORM Essentials

Aberfeldie Football Jumper	Provided by the club and remains the property of the club. This is to be WORN FOR GAMES ONLY and NOT TO TRAINING, SCHOOL DRESSUP DAYS OR OTHER SUCH ACTIVITIES.
EDFL Shorts x 2	Blue shorts for 'Home' games & white for 'Away'.
Socks	Hooped football socks in club blues.
Club Jacket	All new players are provided with a club jacket. This jacket is part of the uniform and should be worn to game days, but can also be worn to training. Replacement jackets are available for purchase at the uniform shop.
Club Bag	All new players are provided with a club bag. This bag is part of the uniform and should be used on game days. Replacement or additional bags are available for purchase at the uniform shop.
Football Boots	Must not have metal studs, but can be purchased anywhere.
Mouth Guard	It is an EDFL & club rule that all players must wear a mouth guard to take the field on match day. We strongly recommend that players also wear mouth guards to all training sessions and practice games.

## Jumpers

All players will be issued with a club jumper prior to the start of the season. It is the responsibility of each player and/or parent to maintain and clean the jumper on a weekly basis. The jumper remains the property of the club and must be returned at the end of the season in a good, clean condition. **A register of jumper allocations is kept and any jumpers that are damaged through inappropriate treatment, or not returned, will incur a replacement fee of \$150.**

Permanent and semi-permanent adjustments to the jumper's length and sleeves by sewing or iron-on hem tape or other means is NOT permitted and should not be necessary. Each team set of jumpers has multiple sizes to accommodate all players. Jumper allocations will be made in an appropriate size rather than number preference.

### **Skins**

Skins are NOT a compulsory part of the uniform. However, if players do wear them on game days, only flesh coloured Skins may be worn under white shorts. Under navy shorts players can wear navy, black or skin coloured skins. Only navy tops can be worn under sleeveless jumpers. Any coloured Skins, or similar, can be worn to training.

### **UNIFORM SHOP**

In 2017, the ASC will be launching an online merchandise store for supporter apparel. The uniform shop is located in the clubrooms, through the main doors and in the rear right hand corner. It is open most Friday nights between 5.30 - 6.30pm. You can purchase socks, shorts and limited supporter gear for the whole family. Cash or EFTPOS accepted.

### **GAME DAY PREPARATION**

There is a number of important things to remember on game day. These include:

- CHECK FIXTURE FOR GROUND LOCATIONS – do not assume games will be played at a club's home ground or where they played last year. The EDFL website should be your point of reference.
- MOUTHGUARD - no mouth guard = no play.
- CORRECT PLAYING UNIFORM – see above. It is a requirement of the EDFL that all players are dressed correctly at all times or the club may be fined. Umpires will check boots and ask for jewellery to be removed.
- DRINK BOTTLE - All players should have a drink bottle clearly marked with the players' name and containing either water, cordial or a sport drink.
- MEDICAL EQUIPMENT - Ensure medical requirements (such as Ventolin) are on hand.

### **INABILITY TO PLAY / VOLUNTEER**

In the event that your child is unable to play, please advise the coach before the game via a phone call. Similarly, your team manager will need to be advised in advance if you are unavailable for a rostered duty so that other help can be arranged.

### **PLAYER DISCIPLINE & COACHING**

On-field discipline and player management is the responsibility of the coach. The clear intent of all Aberfeldie teams is to play the game in a spirit of fairness and mutual respect for teammates, opposition players and umpires. The coaches require that players attend training on time and with the appropriate training equipment and attitudes. Discipline at training is just as important as on game day.

Please leave on-field discipline, coaching and player direction to the coach and team officials. Advice from the sidelines may only serve to confuse a player or undermine a team plan.

## MEDICAL NEEDS

We need to know if your child has a pre-existing condition, which requires particular care or treatment – please discuss this matter with your team manager, first aid trainer and coach. In the case of asthma, we require a medical management plan to be completed by you and your doctor, prior to the commencement of the season. It is always the responsibility of parents to ensure that medication for any condition is available at EVERY session – training and matches. For all conditions, a parent must be on hand at both games and training to administer treatment if required.

## INJURIES

There may be occasions during the season when injuries occur. All teams will have a Sports Trainer. At least one parent or guardian of each child should be in attendance at training and during games to attend to any off-site medical attention that their child may need. The cost of ambulance transportation and/or treatment is the responsibility of parents/guardians. Refer to Aberfeldie Sports Club – Junior Football Policy.

## INSURANCE

Although the club does carry sports injury insurance to cater for the more serious injuries that occasionally occur in junior football, the policy does not cover out of pocket expenses. We encourage families to maintain private policies as a back-up. All players play at their own risk and acknowledge that Australian Rules football is a contact sport where injuries may occur from time to time. Should your child be injured during a game and you may potentially wish to raise a claim, please see the Junior Club Secretary and request that an incident report be lodged with the insurer. This incident report must be lodged within 24 hours and is the important and essential first step to any subsequent claim.

## MILESTONE GAMES & BANNERS

We encourage parents to make 'run-through' banners to celebrate their child's milestone games, eg. 50 games. Teams are also encouraged to make banners for special occasions, eg. End of season or finals. Team Managers can confirm the number of games played. It is expected that individuals will delay running through personal milestone banners that clash with Grand Finals. If you would like to purchase a banner, contact **Sam the Banner Man on 9382 7717.**

## GAME DAY AWARDS

It is a tradition at Aberfeldie to provide different players each week with recognition of their efforts and teamwork at the conclusion of the game. Rewards such as chocolate bars or a voucher from local retailers for a free treat or discount generate a lot of interest and are greatly appreciated by the players. If you or your business can contribute in this area it would be greatly appreciated – it is a great opportunity to promote your business – please approach your team manager. The club also provides a weekly award to a player in each opposition team to encourage respect for the opposition.

## TEAM FUNCTIONS

Throughout the season each team usually has a function. This is a great opportunity for families to get to know the coach, team manager and other families in the team.

## TEAM PHOTOS

Team photos are organised each season. All players are required to be dressed in the club jumper, shorts and boots. Both team and individual photos are available for purchase and need to be paid for on the day. Details will be distributed in due course, however in 2017 they will occur in late May, over 3 midweek sessions.

## PRESENTATION DAY

The Club Presentation Day is held at the end of the season after the completion of the Finals Series – with Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> of August the planned date at this stage. This is an exciting day for players and their families and officially marks the end of a busy and fun season. Individual team presentations are held in the clubrooms, Tennis and Bowling Club rooms at rostered intervals. All families are invited to general club celebrations and a BBQ held throughout the day.

## YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN THE CLUBROOMS

The club offers a great social atmosphere to be enjoyed by all family members and players. In particular, during and after training on Friday night, the Clifton Park clubrooms provide an opportunity for an enjoyable end to the week and “build up” to the excitement of the weekend. Parents and their children, players and non-players, are encouraged to socialise and enjoy themselves, but we do ask that you assist in keeping the enthusiasm and behavior of your children under control.

It is everybody’s responsibility to do their bit to be a responsible club person by:

- **Ensuring your child not to wear boots or play with balls in the clubrooms.**
- **Cleaning up after yourself and encouraging your child to do the same by putting all rubbish in the bin, leaving the tables clear and picking up any food dropped on the carpet.**
- **Being respectful of neighbouring properties.**
- **Encouraging your child to play safely in groups away from surrounding roads.**
- **Supervising your child adequately.**

## SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

The club organises a number of social functions over the year at both a senior and junior level to build a positive and welcoming club atmosphere. These events also raise funds to assist in the financial operation of the club. Your support is vital to the ongoing success of the club and we hope you will feel free to invite non-club members to participate. Please watch out for these events via the website and e-mails.

## GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Questions or concerns about your child’s participation in the team should be directed to the coach in the first instance. If the concern cannot be resolved at that level, parents can approach the Age-Group Coordinator. Age-Group Coordinator details are on the website. Failing that, the issue will be elevated to the committee. Resolution will be based on relevant club policies. Full details of club policies in relation to team selection, player rotation and finals selection are available on the website.

## JUNIOR FOOTBALL COMMITTEE

Committee contacts are available on the website as well as information about the Annual General Meeting and how you can become a committee member. The Committee welcome any support, suggestions or skills you can offer. There are no paid positions in the Junior Football Section and all committee members, coaches and team manager positions are voluntary. These people are giving freely of their time to ensure a great football experience for your child. Please keep this in mind in your dealings with the club. We are constantly looking for ways to improve how we do things and your feedback is always welcome.