

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why you should read this document

These few pages tell you most things you need to know about playing for Abbotsford during the season, as well as what we expect of players and parents.

You should refer back to it regularly during the season as it will answer most of your questions during the season and you won't have to wait for us to return your call or answer your email. By registering as a player, or by registering your child as a player, you agree to observe these requirements.

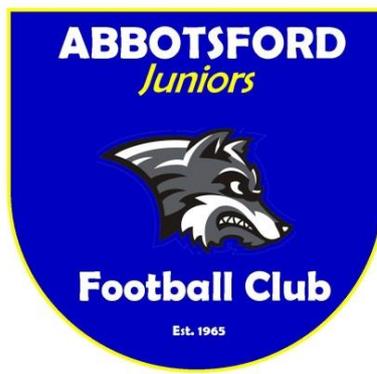
What happens next?

There will be grading sessions at Campbell Park in February (see our website for dates), a team formation day will also be held and we then register teams with the association soon after those are held.

Players in under 6 and under 7 (Small Sided Football) will attend a team formation session. The date will be posted on the website.

Is a playing kit included in the registration fee?

Free shorts and socks are provided for all first time players as part of your registration fee, as will a new playing jersey this 2016 season, because we had a one-off "50th Anniversary" jersey in 2015. Returning players will need to purchase replacement shorts and white socks. The club has kit, shin guards and a great range of club merchandise available for sale from the change sheds.



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What does the registration fee cover?

Your registration fee covers levies and payments for Football Federation Australia, injury insurance, Football NSW, the Canterbury Association (CDSFA), council ground hire & lighting costs, team kits (balls, jerseys, cones etc), ground equipment (e.g. nets, flags), referees fees, fees for coaching and referees' courses, and general administration costs of running the Club.

Each year, the Club makes a substantial donation to St John's Ambulance for their provision of St John's First Aid Officers for all our home games.

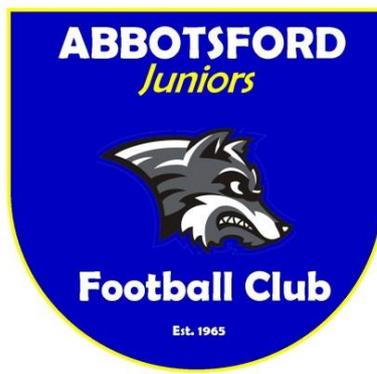
What gear do I need?

Club shorts and socks (provided free to first time players), shin guards, boots and a named drink bottle. Shin guards must be worn for all training and games - no shin guards, no play.

Jerseys will be handed out as part of the team kit. Your manager will distribute these to all team members. You then need to return your playing jersey at the end of the season to your manager.

How do I know which age group my child will be in?

Players qualify for their age group based on the birthday they have during the year. For example, a player who has their 10th birthday during the year will play in the under 10s.



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Can my child play with his/her friends?

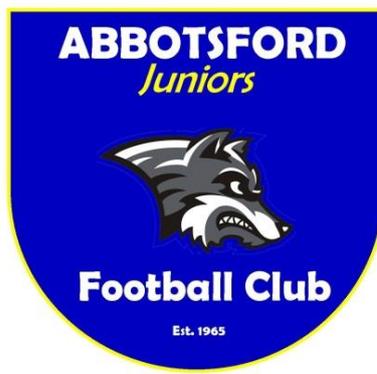
Provided that it does not disrupt the placement of other players, then generally your child can play with friends, but there are exceptions. Teams under 8 and older play against other clubs in divisions ranked according to "ability" (1st Division, 2nd Division etc).

AJFC, like most clubs, conducts grading sessions with the aim of putting players into teams of approximately equal ability/interest/motivation, etc and entering each team in a Canterbury District Division appropriate to their level. It is proven that players enjoy the game more if they are playing with, and against, players of equal ability, interest and motivation.

If you would like your child to be allocated to a team with a friend, please submit a written request to grading@ajfc.net.au prior to grading. We will do our best to meet your request, although it may mean allocating a child to a lower division team than may otherwise be the case.

Can my child play "up" or "down" an age group?

Playing down an age group is not permitted by Association rules, except for extreme situations, such as medical disadvantage or disability. Playing up may be considered from time to time depending on several factors such as player numbers, individual skill etc. This will be at our discretion. Occasionally in the older age groups, players may be invited to play up an age group to ensure appropriate numbers in teams.



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Who coaches my team?

In the younger age groups, each team will need to provide an interested parent or relative as Coach. Advice and assistance will be provided by AJFC's Coaching Coordinators. No experience is necessary but a 'Give it a Go' attitude means everyone has fun.

In the older age groups (U9 and older) we encourage coaches, whether parents or other interested community members, to undertake an accredited Football NSW (FNSW) coaching course. AJFC funds this training.

In accordance with FNSW Regulations all coaches are required to complete a Working with Children Check Form.

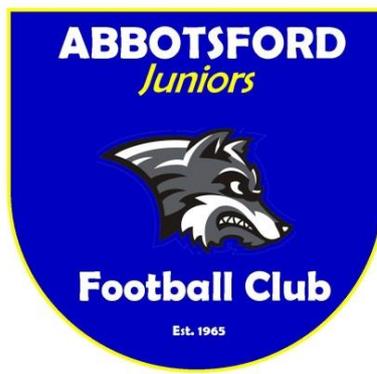
There will be a coaches and managers induction session during March. The date will be posted on our website.

Who organises the team during the season?

Each team will need to appoint a team spirited parent as Team Manager to undertake administrative duties for the Team. Depending on the Age Group, this will include:

- Handling communications between the Club and your team members.
- Ensuring that all team members know the times and locations of weekend matches (including last minute changes that may be needed if grounds are closed in wet weather)
- Picking up match sheets prior to the game from Campbell Park change sheds.
- Organizing referee and linesmen payment (and claiming it back from the Club)
- Submitting results sheets to the Competition Secretary.

In accordance with FNSW Regulations all Team Managers are required to complete a Working with Children Check Form.



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When do we train?

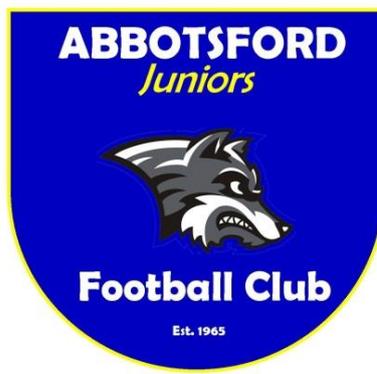
Typically team training will be at least one night per week on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. We do not have use of the grounds on other nights. The night selected for your/your child's team will be determined between the team members/parents and the Coach.

U6s training will be on Wednesday afternoons, 4.30 - 5.30pm. U7s training will also be on Wednesday afternoons, 5.30 - 6.30pm.

Do parents have to do anything if they're not coaching or managing?

We do not require parents to work in the canteen or run raffles, but on game day, parents are required to help with setting up (first game) and packing away equipment (last game). On a few occasions, a parent may be required to be a referee or be a referee's assistant..

Also, each home game must have two ground officials, visible at all times during the match, who wear orange 'high vis' vests. The club may be fined if this is not followed.



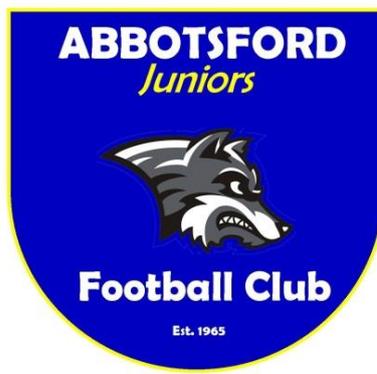
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When are matches played?

- Under 6 games are played on Saturday mornings 9am to 10am at Campbell Park
- Under 7 game are played on Saturday mornings 10am to 11am at Campbell Park, apart from occasional gala days when we play non-competitively against other Clubs at other fields. You will be advised of these games as they are arranged throughout the season
- Under 8 – Under 11 matches are played on Saturday mornings
- All age and Over 35 play Saturday afternoons
- Under 12 – Under 18 play on Sunday
- Girls and Women play on Sunday
- Games for U8 and older are played on a home and away system at grounds throughout the Canterbury district, in an area between Abbotsford, Marrickville and Roselands – check the link on the AJFC website for details

Pre-season games may be organized in March. The season proper runs from April until the end of August. The draw, results and league tables are published on the Canterbury District website. The AJFC website has a link. Check the website for last minute changes, particularly if it has been raining, as grounds may be closed and games re-scheduled.



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How do I know if training or games are cancelled?

Check our website, the CDSFA website (for games on weekends) our Facebook page, or Twitter, which we endeavour to update as soon as possible.

We train and play on grounds that are owned and maintained by Councils. In wet weather the Council may decide to close the ground to preserve its condition. Often a wet weather ground closure decision is not made by Council until mid afternoon on weekdays or at the last minute before games on weekends. This is complicated by the fact that Club grounds in the District are in different Council areas.

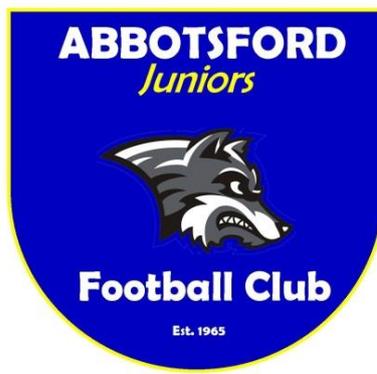
Team Managers should check these sources and communicate the news to their team.

If I decide to withdraw after registering, can I get a refund?

No full refunds are available subsequent to registration, unless there is a medical reason (doctors certificate required), due to the amounts paid out to third parties (see above).

What are the rules for on- or off-field behaviour?

CDSFA has published Codes of Conduct and Child Protection Policies for players, coaches, parents and spectators which are available on its website. Please take the time to read these. AJFC supports these Codes and, like the Canterbury District, has a zero tolerance policy towards inappropriate behaviour by anyone associated with our Club. Negative behaviour towards referees, other players, or spectators will not be tolerated.



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CDSFA has set penalties and sanctions that are applied for inappropriate behaviour. AJFC may also impose additional sanctions such as suspension of a player, compulsory forfeiture of one or more games, or expulsion.

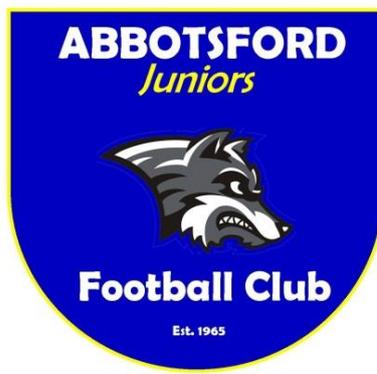
While we understand that it is easy to be caught up in the excitement of a game, we ask that parents refrain from excessive barracking for their children's team. Experience shows that shouting at children while they are playing has a negative effect, even if such shouting is meant as encouragement. **You wouldn't like your child standing next to you and shouting whilst you are doing something, so why would you do it to your child?**

AJFC takes the protection of its members seriously. If you have any concerns about the welfare or treatment of children, please contact the club's Member Protection Officer (contact details on the club website).

What if I have more questions?

As the pre-season period is extremely busy for the Club officials, please check the **club website**, **Facebook page**, or **Twitter** to see if the required info is available there. If it is not, feel free to contact info@ajfc.net.au.

Please also be aware that there are very few committee members and they all have jobs and families, and are involved in the Club on a voluntary basis. If it takes a little while for a response, particularly to email, please be patient.



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Who do I talk to if I have suggestions or complaints?

If you have suggestions, concerns or complaints, please follow the Club's Communication Policy (located on the website). In the preseason period, contact a relevant committee member directly. Please **do not** contact Football Canterbury direct, as they have made it clear that they will not respond to any communication unless it is via our Club Secretary. The Club has two delegates who attend Association meetings and represent the interests of our club members. Contact details are on the website www.ajfc.net.au under the "About the Club" tab, choose "Club Contacts".

Who runs Abbotsford Junior Football Club?

Abbotsford Junior Football Club (AJFC) is a voluntary community organisation run by a management committee of players, parents and interested community members. All tasks involved in organizing and running the Club are carried out by volunteers. As a player or parent, you are a member of the Club and your participation would be welcome. Contact us at our website.