



Fun Football (7 - 8 years) – 7/8th Grade

Please read and keep this information to refer to later as it may answer many of your questions throughout the season. The 7/8th grades are combined; children of both grades play together.

Children at this age aren't very aware of team involvement and are still very focused on personal achievements. Fun Football is a programme designed with the developmental stage of the children in mind and focuses on developing core physical skills and technical foundations in a fun and motivational environment.

Focus

- Develop dribbling and shooting skills
- Having fun and develop a love of football
- No set teams – mixed teams each week.
- Mastering the ball

Training / Practice

During the football season Fun Football players have training once a week, your training is as follows:

Tuesday
5:30-6:30pm
Jim Cooke Park, Nimmo Ave, Waikanae

The training involves the children being split into groups and rotating around game stations. Each station focuses on a different element of football; General Movement, Football Coordination, Football Technique, Small Sided Games.

You are able to leave your child unattended at training and collect at the end if you wish. Please be aware that if your child is causing significant disruption your child may be asked to sit out during the session; you will be informed if this occurs.

All our coaches are volunteers and are not expected to manage disruptive behaviour that distracts them from their coaching role.

Games

During the football season Fun Football players play games once a week, your Game Day:

Saturday
8:40-10:00am
Location varies – see below

Each week the Fun Football grade play in a "Football Festival", this is when the local clubs meet at one of the grounds and the teams play against other clubs. The "Football Festival" rotates around 4 different grounds:

- Campbell Park, The Parade, Paekakariki
- Mazengarb Reserve, Scaife Drive, Paraparaumu
- Jim Cooke Park, Nimmo Avenue, Waikanae
- Haruatai Park, Mill Road, Otaki

The games are a simplified football game with 5 a side, no off-side, no goalies, and no score keeping. The games last 10 minutes each with no half time and a 2 minute break between games to have a drink and move to the next field.

On Game Day the children are lined up and sorted into teams of up to 7 players to allow 1 or 2 rolling subs per team providing a break during game play. Each team has a coach who runs a warm-up then referees their games. The coach will be allocated his own child's team so that they can also watch them play, unless requested otherwise.

We do not have set teams in Fun Football. Your children will get to play with different children and coaches each week, allowing them to make more friends and get to know more people. This model has worked very successfully for the last few years.

Please note that while the warm-up starts at 9:00am we ask that you arrive NO LATER than 8:40am in order to be put in a team. It is very difficult to allocate children to a team once the allocation is complete and teams have

been sent off with the coach. Bear in mind that coaches and coordinator volunteers have their own children to sort out also.

Parking availability varies between the grounds and at each Football Festival there will be in excess of 100 children playing at the same time so you must allow yourself time to find a park and get onto the field. Parking is particularly bad when playing at Jim Cooke Park so aim to arrive by 8:30am because you may have to walk a fair distance to the field.

Game day format:

- 8:40 Arrive at the correct grounds, allow for difficult parking
- 8:45 Sorted into teams and allocated coach, and shirt (if required).
- 9:00 Warm-up with coach
- 9:10 Games start
Games last 10 minutes each.
Air horn signals end of game, to get a drink and move fields.
- 10:00 Games finish and Player of the Day certificates awarded. Home time.

Spectator Behaviour

It is expected that you **positively** encourage your children from the sideline. The sideline of children's sport is no place for negativity or ugly behaviour – children model what they see. We want the children to love football and to want to keep coming back to play.

Technique criticism is also unwarranted and unwanted from the sidelines. We respect that you have been taught to play football a certain way but please let us teach them when on the field.

In the unlikely event that you witness unsporting behaviour on the field or sideline please inform your Grade Coordinator and this will be communicated to Capital Football.

Uniform

Your child will be issued with a club shirt to wear for Saturday games, these **MUST** be returned at the end of the season.

Additional uniform that you will need to provide is plain black shorts, club socks, shin pads, and football boots. Club socks can be purchased for \$14.

Training – Shin pads and football boots must be worn otherwise child cannot train.

Game Days – Full uniform must be worn, shirt, shorts, socks, shin pads, football boots.

Cancellations

- *Training* will be cancelled by 4pm on Training day. Notification will be made via email to the address you have provided at Registration. Training will be cancelled if the grounds have been closed by the Council or in adverse weather.
- Occasionally the location of Training may be changed if Jim Cooke Park is closed and Waikanae Park is open – this will be notified via email by 4pm on Training day.
- *Game Day* will be cancelled if the grounds are closed on in adverse weather. Cancellations are announced on NewsTalk ZB, on www.foxsportspulse.com search Capital Football Cancellations, or Facebook www.facebook.com/waikanaeafc by Friday 6pm or Saturday 8:15am.

Absences

If your child can't play on Game Day please let your Grade Coordinator know by 8:00am on Saturday. It helps to know how many children we are expecting to make up the teams.