



# FERRY GROVE & DISTRICTS JUNIOR AFL CLUB Inc.



## 2013 PARENT HANDBOOK



**Ferry Grove Falcons**  
Tramway St (next to bowls club)  
**falconsfooty.org**





# HOME OF THE FALCONS



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## WELCOME PACK

This package has been provided for the benefit of new players and families to the Ferry Grove & Districts Junior Australian Football Club, as well as existing families that may find the information useful.

While we make every effort to cover all your questions in relation to participating in Junior Football at Ferry Grove Falcons, if you require further clarification please contact any of the following committee members or refer to information published on the club's website

[www.falconsfooty.org](http://www.falconsfooty.org)

Committee members			
Position	Name	Mobile	Email
President	Pete Randall	0438 110 896	fernysgrovejuniors@aflbj.com
Vice President	Russ Nicholas	0477 426 691	
Secretary	Michelle Young	0411 028 748	
Treasurer	Peter Konecny	0411 028 748	
Registrar	Karen Cairns	0438 385 109	
Football Coordinator	Russ Nicholas	0431 365 718	
Grants Officer	VACANT		
Equipment Officer	Darren McLucas	0402 784 432	
Groundsman	Kev Lingard	0412 150 521	
Groundsman	Damian Tebbutt	0406 675 058	
Umpire Coordinator	Sam Somerville	0433 408 599	
First Aid	Pauline Nicholas	0409 489 218	
Communications	Jas Jones	0412 201 369	
Fund Raising	Neisha Bessell	0424 261 117	
Canteen Coordinator	Selinda Randall	0407 110 896	
Sponsorship	Neisha Bessell	0424 261 117	
Auskick Coordinator	Chris Paterson	0402 538 339	
Volunteer Coordinator	VACANT		



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## WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 2013 Football Season at Ferry Grove & Districts Junior Australian Football Club Incorporated otherwise known as "The Falcons".

Welcome to all those returning for another season at the Club - a warm welcome to those coming up from Auskick and to those who are new to our club and perhaps AFL football.

We have a brand new committee this year with a vision to make our club the most enjoyable and successful in the Brisbane Juniors Australian Football League.

To achieve this we want you, the parents, to get involved in the club whether it is volunteering to coach or manage one of our junior teams; or perhaps be the First Aid Officer for your team. We want you to wear one of our polo shirts and support your child's team as they move through the club from the most junior Under 6 side through to Under 16's where football is really starting to get serious and skills and fitness become paramount.

Our club relies on fundraising and social activities to fund the maintenance on our oval and new equipment for our junior players. Please support our club, do what you can to get to our social activities and assist with the fundraising. You will meet some great people and help your child and the team at the same time.

Next year, for the first time, we are considering introducing a volunteer levy which would be returned to you at the end of the season if you assist with our volunteer events. Our volunteer committee will be reviewing this mid year dependant on how volunteer support is tracking.

You will notice a number of signs around our oval and companies in this handbook that help our club with financial or in kind support. I ask that if you require some of the services our sponsors offer that you support them for supporting us. It's a win-win for us as a club and for you as you get to know local business owners.

I look forward to seeing you all around the club.

*Pete Randall*



## OUR VISION

To be acknowledged within the local community and by AFLQ / BJAFL as a respected sporting club, focusing on the principles of player development and participation, in a family friendly environment.

We want the Ferry Grove Falcons represented in every grade and junior Falcons to progress through our club into Senior football.

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPALS

- ✓ To provide an environment that develops player skills and fitness and allows them to realise their full potential.
- ✓ To provide a pathway for players to play senior football.
- ✓ To develop mateship and comradeship through team participation.
- ✓ To offer all players and their families the opportunity to learn, develop and improve their skills and knowledge in a family orientated environment that is fun and safe for all.
- ✓ To liaise, communicate and cooperate fully with other community stakeholders to ensure the continued development of the club, its aims and facilities
- ✓ To encourage members and supporters to participate in on-field and off-field roles.

## THE FAMILY CLUB

Since our first season in 1992, we have prided ourselves on being a family-friendly club rather than a club that wants to win-at-all-costs. Our culture is about playing a brand of hard but fair, team-based footy, above all making sure the players and their families enjoy themselves.

Last year we had 189 players from many surrounding suburbs around Ferry Grove which included both boys and girls, from Auskick (Ages 6 – 8) through to Under 16s. And it's our small size that's also our strength, allowing us to focus on player development and provide a fun, social atmosphere for our players and their families.



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## BREEDING SUCCESS

Widely acclaimed as one of the best junior footy grounds in Brisbane, The Falcons Nest is a breeding ground for tomorrow's AFL champions. All coaches are fully qualified and our pre-season 'Exceed and Excel' program is setting the benchmark for footy skills workshops.

We also have strong links with Western Taipans, Northern Raiders and Wilston Grange Footy Club for those players who want to go on to senior footy. In fact a number of former Falcons are now playing representative football. We even have a connection to AFL club the Melbourne Demons through Falcons junior Rohan Bail.

## THE SEASON

The Brisbane AFL season generally runs from March until September depending on the player's age.

- Youth footy (U12 – U16) – Feb-Sept
- Junior footy (U8 – U11) March-August
- Auskick (U6 – U8) Feb/April.



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## YOUR VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

Our Club is committed to providing community based sporting opportunities for our children in a safe, competitive and supportive environment where they are able to develop both physically and personally. Family involvement is at the heart of the Club and we can only continue to build on our ongoing success with your generous volunteer participation. You don't have to wait to be asked - please step forward if you can contribute in any way.

The club will host a number of activities and events throughout the season. For these events to be a success we do require your help through volunteering.

Please feel free to put forward any suggestions to help us with fund raising activities as this is the club's main source of income.

We have listed a few key dates for club activities and events.

Please contact the person listed below to volunteer your help.

Date	Event / Activity	Contact
1 Feb	'An hour with Danielle' – Daniel Merrett (Brisbane Lions)	Pete Randall (Mob) 0438 110 896
9-10 Feb	Club sign-on 2013	Shane Carroll (Mob) 0431 365 781
TBC	Club BBQ – sometimes held at Bunnings, Harvey Norman etc. Good fundraiser for our club.	Neisha Bessell (Mob) 0424 261 117
TBC	Club Fun Day	Fiona Heery (Mob) 0416 188 211
Weekly	Canteen Duties	Selinda Randall (Mob) 0407 110 896
Weekly	Sausage Sizzle	Neisha Bessell
12 Mar 13	AFL Brisbane Lion Player at training (Tues night)	Pete Randall
TBC Mar 13	Season Launch – BBQ and Parents vs Players. AFL 9's demonstration.	Neisha Bessell / Chris Patterson
11 May 13	Trivia Night – The Grove	Fiona Heery
Mar May	Chocolate drive	Neisha Bessell
Oct	Club Presentation Day	Pete Randall
Nov	Exceed & Excel	Shane Carroll





## **STRATEGIC GOALS**

A number of strategic goals have been defined by both the current and former committee based on our member's feedback.

There are a number of goals the club would like to meet this year. Many of these will only be achieved through fundraising activities. These activities will require help from our club's families volunteering their time to help.

## **OVAL REVITALISATION AND SUSTAINABILITY**

The Club has committed this year to carry out work on the oval to ensure it can be kept in prime condition for the next season and beyond. This work will consist of aeration, fertilisation and removal of nut grass from the turf surface and a major overhaul of the sprinkler systems. The estimated cost will be in the vicinity of \$8,000.

## **NEW TRAINING FOOTBALLS AND GUERNSEYS**

This year the Club will purchase new training footballs and guernseys for our junior players. The estimated cost for this is \$2500

## **NEW CLUB LOCKS AND KEY PRESS SYSTEM**

This year the Club has to invest in installing all new locks for the club house as well as better security fixtures for the dongas containing our equipment. The cost for this is \$2000

## **CLUB HOUSE REDEVELOPMENT**

This year the Club will continue forward down the path of raising funds to finalise the plans for the redevelopment of the club house. The plans need to be reviewed by an engineer and also will need to be certified by a draftsman before we can embark on the timely process of requesting grants from various local and state government groups. The estimated cost is \$5,000 - \$6,000







## REGISTRATION

The Club offers two methods for player registration:

- The sporting pulse link emailed to current and Auskick players.
- Manual registration takes place at sign-on at the club house. This will generally happen in late January or early February. Please keep your eye open for notices posted on facebook, falconsfooty.org, Club newsletter or your local newspaper

We are pleased to advise that that the committee has agreed to keep registration costs the same this year as last, please refer to the costs outlined in the online registration portal.

The committee is considering, depending on volunteer support this year, the implementation of a volunteer levy to assist the club financially in the event there is a lack of support within the parent group. Whilst we are always reticent to add expenses so your children can play team sports; the Ferry Grove Falcons Football Club is not immune from volunteer support issues. Like other clubs, it may become necessary to implement this in 2014.

## CLUB SPONSORS AND SPONSORSHIP

The Club last year was lucky enough to have secured regular sponsorship from a number of local business and individuals. These sponsors are:

Keperra Physiotherapy & Sports Injury Clinic	see Chris Cameron
BRL Electrical Services	see Wade Lynch
Repco Enoggera	
Uptiles Strathpine	
John Dawson Homes Pty Ltd	see John Dawson
Black & White House Raising and Restumping	see Jeff & Raelene
Tradesmen on time	see Gary Somerville
McLean Motors	see Cam & Gina
Atomic Signs	Darren & Fiona Eaton
The Grove Sports Club	see Michael - <b>MAJOR SPONSOR IN 2013</b>
Keperra Meat Centre	see Wade for all your meat requirements
Trade Builders Supplies - Geebung	see Paul Crooks
MGS Geological Services Pty Ltd	see Pete & Kim Mapstone
Valvoline	





The Club is always looking for opportunities to secure new sponsorship and has a number of packages available. Please contact Neisha Bessell on 0424 261 117 to find out more about the Club's sponsorship opportunities.

## TEAM NUMBERS

Our Club has always practised a philosophy of providing every child an opportunity to play sport and this has not changed. However, in team sports it can become frustrating for those involved if there are too many players, which means that individual game time is cut short. This year we have decided that team numbers will be limited to two reserves in our most junior teams and 4 reserves in our youth teams. We will readily add more teams if there are too many players in a particular age group, provided we have willing parent volunteers to fill the team roles required!

Additionally we will be endeavouring to have our players play within their own age group. Evidence gathered for the AFL by the Queensland University of Technology has shown that children enjoy it when they are competitive within their own age group as opposed to playing in higher grades with different size and strength children. At the Falcons we want your child to get the most out of team participation and progress from junior to senior football.



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## TRAINING

As in past years, training will be discussed with parents and based on your team coach's availability, a suitable time will be agreed to. Any changes to the regular schedule will be communicated through to you by Team Managers & Coaches.



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Find us on  
Facebook



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1.1 Is my child ready to play Junior Competition Football?

Unfortunately there is no correct answer to this question. The Ferry Grove & Districts Junior Australian Football Club Inc prides itself on running a professional program that provides young sports-people and our Club's Auskickers with a pathway to continue playing football, and developing their football skills, playing competition football. However, risk is present in everything we do and our Club and League manages this by adhering to the AFLQ Policies and Rules.

<http://www.aflq.com.au/index.php?id=866>.

Here are a few questions and answers which may assist you and your child in making this decision.

### 1.2 Is my Child insured when they train and play matches?

Football is a contact sport and the risk of sustaining injury is something that all parents and players need to consider. Therefore the Club always recommends players have private health insurance. That said, players, officials and spectators are insured under the League's insurance policy issued by JLT Sport National Insurance [www.jltsport.com.au/afl](http://www.jltsport.com.au/afl)

### 1.3 How old does my child need to be to participate?

There is no minimum age restriction however the youngest competition age group is for Under 6 children. Therefore a 5 year old child may be playing against 6 year old children. This is the choice of the parent, and we would encourage parents to also seek the advice of their team coach should they require any guidance.

### 1.4 What is the maximum junior age group?

The Ferry Grove & Districts Junior Australian Football Club Inc runs teams from Under 6 up to Under 16. We also provide a pathway for our players to play Reserve and senior grade football through affiliated Clubs, which plays in the reserved competition.

### 1.5 Can my daughter play?

Yes absolutely, girls can play in mixed competitions; however it is strongly recommended that girls aged 13 to 14 years participate in a structured youth girls' competition conducted specifically for females.

### 1.6 What age group will my child play?

The date of determination of a player's age for the purpose of determining in which age group the player shall be eligible to play is the first day in January of the year in which the player is to play.

**Example:** A player who turns 12 years of age on or after the 1st of January 2013 shall be eligible to play in the Under 12 age group.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1.7 How are teams selected?

Please note that should you or your child have any special circumstance that requires you to be in the same playing group as another family please advise our Football Manager who will try and accommodate your requirement.

### 1.8 If I have a dispute with team selection, or any other matter what do I do?

In the first instance, please contact the team manager or coach directly to discuss. If the issue is unresolved, the Football Coordinator should be approached. Our club rarely has disputes in this area however where ongoing issues arise, our Football Manager is best placed act toward resolution. Our Football Coordinator reports where appropriate to the Management Committee when resolution has failed and management intervention is required.

### 1.9 What competition does the Club participate in?

The name of the League is Australian Football League Brisbane Juniors (AFLBJ)

### 1.10 Does the Junior Football Competition have modified rules?

Yes, but only in and up to Under 11 competition. Further details can be found at the BJAFL website

The team coaches will run through these and teach the children all modified rules.

### 1.11 When does training start?

Training will usually commence early to mid March; Team Managers will communicate this to families. The Club will also issue general communications regarding this.

### 1.12 When and where does the team train?

(a) Junior teams train at the Falcon's Oval

(b) Training for Under 15s to Under 17s will be set by the team coach.

Training for Under 7 to under 14 players run for approximately 60-75 minutes.

### 1.13 Do parents need to be present at training?

Yes, for our most junior grades. No, for our older grades. Our restrooms are located across the carpark and our coaches cannot watch our smallest Falcons use these across the carpark while conducting training. Feel free to sit and chat with other parents or become a parent helper and assist the coach.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1.14 When and where does the team play matches?

Games are played on Saturday anytime from 8.00am to 1.00pm for the junior teams with older teams playing on Sunday. There maybe one or two night games played, generally this will happen on a Friday night.

Playing venue is determined by the competition fixture and a list of playing grounds can be sourced from the Club's website.

### 1.15 Do parents need to be present at games?

While it is not mandatory, there are a number of tasks that are required to be assigned to parents at home games on the day. These roles are typically assigned in advance by the Team Manager and are generally rotated. These include:

- Goal Umpire
- Timekeeper
- Boundary Umpires x 2 (youth football U12 – 16s)
- Drinks Carrier
- BBQ Helpers (Home Games)
- Canteen Assistant
- First Aid Officer
- Ground Marshall

### 1.16 What are the Team's Official Roles?

All teams must have a maximum four officials present and these are the only parents/helpers allowed inside the boundary fence on game days. These people are:

- Coach
- First Aid officer CPR qualified
- Team Manager or Assistant Coach

Please note all team Coaches are required to be Level 1 Accredited with the AFL and also hold a blue card. Our club pays for volunteer parents to attend this training and for Blue Card applications.

### 1.17 How is the Team Coach appointed?

Every year the Club calls for coaching nominations. These applications are reviewed by the Club's Football Coordinator and recommendations are made to the Committee for their decision.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1.18 What about helping out around the Club?

There are times when many hands make light work. We always encourage our parents to help out where they can, whether it is emptying a full rubbish bin, picking up litter they see lying around, carrying equipment, chairs etc.

A helping hand is always appreciated and you don't have to wait to be asked.

### 1.19 What other responsibilities do parents involved have?

All Parents, Officials and Spectators are required to adhere to the League's "Code of Behaviour", Incorporated in the League's Rules & By-Laws on the <http://www.aflq.com.au> website

### 1.20 What communications can I expect to receive?

The most common form of communication within the Club is via email. It is therefore important that when you register that you include your family email addresses. If you do not have email then you need to advise the Club's registrar.

The communications you will receive will be via:

1. The Falcons Flyer Monthly Newsletter from the Club
2. Regular emails from the Team Manager of your child's team.

### 1.21 How much does it cost to register for Junior Football?

This season's registration fee remains the same as last season.

Player Registration Fee ~ includes Umpire fees

Under 6	\$88.00
Under 8	\$100.00
Under 9-10	\$160.00
Under 11	\$240.00
Under 12-16	\$280.00

For those parents with more than one child playing within the club, we offer the following discounts.

\$10 discount for second child, and 30% discount for third or subsequent child.

\$20 discount off club fees for players who also register for Auskick.

These discounts are not available online and must be applied for through the club email address: [ferrygrovejuniors@aflbj.com](mailto:ferrygrovejuniors@aflbj.com). Your electronic Account Name, Account Number and BSB are required so electronic refund can occur.

If payment of fees presents any financial difficulties, please speak to your Team Manager who will raise the matter with a committee member.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1.22 Can my child try out before registering?

Yes. However, please note that as team numbers are typically restricted, should this cut off be reached before you register your child to play; there may not be a position available straight away. Our club will however always try to find resolution to this issue.

### 1.23 What Uniform, equipment and accessories do I need?

Players will be required to provide their own:

Playing Shorts (1 x Green) – Junior & Youth Falcons

Details for ordering can be obtained from your team manager or coach

Playing Shorts (1 x White) – Youth only, U12 – 16 for away games

Details for ordering can be obtained from your team manager or coach

Playing Socks - Details for ordering can be obtained from your team manager or coach

Football Boots

Mouthguard (Compulsory for Training and Matches)

Headgear/ Helmet (Not mandatory but recommended)

A handy “**Player GameDay Checklist**” has been produced by the Club to assist.  
See Appendix

### 1.24 How do I get a mouthguard for my child?

A cost effective mouldable mouthguard with dental warranty can be purchased at Struddies, Amart Sports, SportsCo and Chemists also have a mouldable options or alternatively a properly fitted one (which is recommended) can be made by your family dentist.

### 1.25 Is additional merchandise available?

Yes, Struddies at Everton Park is our local supplier for season 2013. Our club is in the process of negotiating a greater range of fashionable merchandise for your purchase.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1.26 How long will the season run for?

<b>Juniors</b>	The season starts with Round 1 on Sat 20 Apr 13 with a break in the middle for school holidays in Jun/Jul. This years junior season has 15 rounds concluding on Sat 17 Aug 13.
<b>Youth</b>	The season starts with 2 weeks of grading games for youth football starting 13 Apr 13. Round 1 kicks off for youth football on 28 Apr 13 and concludes with Round 14 on 11 Aug 13. Four weeks of finals football then follows.

Details with regard to your weekly games are provided on the AFLBJ website, additionally your Team Manager may assist with weekly reminder of where games will be played; a fixture will also be available via the clubs website.

### 1.27 Does my child have to attend every training session and match?

Ideally, yes. The Coach and Club expect our players to be available for all training sessions and games, but we understand this is not always possible. As a courtesy you should always advise your Team Manager and/or Coach if your child is unable to participate.

### 1.28 What is the Club's theme song?

Sung to the tune of the Geelong Cats victory song

[http://www.sportingpulse.com/club\\_info.cgi?c=1-3928-59021-0-0&sID=271456](http://www.sportingpulse.com/club_info.cgi?c=1-3928-59021-0-0&sID=271456)

See our website for a copy of the club's theme song or ask your team manager.

### 1.29 Can parents volunteer help?

Absolutely and in many ways. Aside from the important game day assistance provided to your Team Manager you are very welcome to help the coach/es at training – just ask.

In addition there are particular skills required by the Club's Junior Football Committee who always need volunteers to be involved in many administrative (database), representative (at League meetings) and pro-active (i.e fundraising) roles. If you would like to volunteer or even come along and see what it is like to be on the committee, please email your contact details to:

[fernygrovejuniors@aflbj.com](mailto:fernygrovejuniors@aflbj.com)

If you can't volunteer please remember that a simple "thank you" here and there to our volunteers never goes astray!

### 1.30 Does the Club hold social events?

Yes we do. Stay tuned to regular Newsletter communication regarding Club and team social events. Our social events are well attended, some with and without the children.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1.31 If my business is interested in sponsoring a team, or the Club, to whom do I speak?

Please call the Club's Sponsorship coordinator Neisha Bessell.

Mobile 0424261111 or

Email: [fernygrovejuniors@aflbj.com](mailto:fernygrovejuniors@aflbj.com)

We ask all members to please support our sponsors as they support our Club. There details are available at the Club's website and we can assure you, they love to hear from club members.

### 1.32 First Aid at games

It is an AFLQ regulation that there must always be a fully qualified first aid officer with CPR accreditation in attendance at all games. Should no first aid officer be at a game, the club will be fined and the game cannot proceed. Therefore it is very important that anyone with these qualifications make it known to their team manager who can then schedule a roster. The club will offer parents opportunities to attend First Aid training at the clubs expense. For this, we expect you to be the nominated First Aid volunteer at your child's game. We will also supply you with a club polo shirt, so you look good too.

### 1.33 I still have some questions ... who should I direct these to?

Please email or contact any of the Club officials or committee members. Details can be found on the Club website [www.falconsfooty.org](http://www.falconsfooty.org)





## APPENDIX

### Player's Game Day Checklist

- ☐ Team Jumper
- ☐ Green Shorts
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Boots
- ☐ Mouthguard (mandatory)
- ☐ Headgear (optional)
- ☐ Sports bag (Optional)
  - ☐ Towel
  - ☐ Change of Clothes/ Runners
  - ☐ Medication (if applicable)
- ☐ Time of game
- ☐ Where the game is being played
- ☐ Location of game (if away from home)
- ☐ Team Managers mobile number
- ☐ Team Roster (Fruit, Guernseys, Flags)

