

St Ives Junior AFL Club



As part of the planning for season 2010, the St Ives Junior AFL Club has prepared this information sheet to answer the Frequently Asked Questions for player moving from Auskick to the Under 9's competition. Please feel free to contact the people listed at the bottom of this sheet for more information...



What is the Club's Approach to the Game?

The focus of the St Ives Junior AFL Club is to maximise player participation regardless of ability or skill level. Within this philosophy, the Club has 3 aims: [1] developing skills, [2] playing as a team, and [3] having fun. This approach is no different to what you have experienced in Auskick

Overall, the St Ives Junior AFL Club is part of the Greater Sydney Juniors AFL Association and the Association, itself, has reinforced the focus on participation by removing ladders and finals from the competition. The end result is a more participation-friendly competition.

Is There a Lot of Travel Involved in Playing AFL?

As a general rule, the kids will play at home at Acron Oval every second Sunday. As part of the North Shore, the kids will play their away games in Forest, Pittwater, Manly, Mosman or Willoughby. Most games are played early between 8:30 and 10:30am.

The important thing to note here is that once the team gets to know each other, you will find that there will plenty of opportunities for car pooling and arranging lifts – and this is all part of the experience and building friendships beyond the footy field.

How Does the AFL Encourage Teamwork?

Apart from the focus on participation, the Under 9's play on a modified field a little bigger than what you see in Auskick so there is plenty of room to run and work as a team. (Each team can have a minimum of 9 players on the field with 12 players as the preferred number of players for a game so teamwork is paramount to the success of the team.)

The field is usually marked out with cones for the backs, centres and forwards. The forwards and backs will also wear different coloured arm bands to help them play position out on the field.

Ultimately, the players who can kick goals are the forwards and the kids learn very quickly about thinking as a team. Furthermore, the players rotate through the field positions each quarter ensuring that everyone has a crack at kicking a goal.

What Nights Do the Teams Train?

Training runs for an hour at Acron Oval and is a key part of developing skills and confidence as well as giving the players a sense of identity with the Club and their teammates. In 2009 the U9's train on Tuesday evenings from 5-6pm, but this may change in 2010 depending on the coach and ground availability.

Are the Coaches Qualified?

It is the intent of the club to ensure that all coaches hold a coaching qualification of Level 1 through the Greater Sydney Juniors AFL Association. It is important to note that the coaches are voluntary and they come from within the parent group. All attendance on coaching courses by our regular coaches are funded by the club.

At the end of the day, coaching is the key product of the Club and the St Ives Junior AFL Club has always believed and insisted that all our coaches are qualified. The Club encourages parents to participate wherever possible as you will find that the kids themselves respond better when their parents show an interest and get involved.

Is Under 9's a Safe Game to Play?

All age groups play with modified rules up until the youth grades at Under 13's and up. In Under 9's, the rules are designed to protect the player going for the ball to encourage the kids to get the ball. Ultimately, the rules also minimise the impact of tackling.

There is a also code of conduct that applies to parents and players and the Greater Sydney Juniors AFL Association is especially keen to ensure that everybody's behavior is moderate and consistent with decent standards. The club strongly enforces these rules and expects high standards of conduct from all players representing St Ives.

What Does a Typical Season Look Like?

A typical footy season starts in early Feb with a Registration Day and ends in mid September with the Presentation Day. Pre-season training starts around early March with the first round taking place in late March, early April. There are typically 16 rounds in a season with one week breaks in the April and July school holidays as well as the long weekend in June. The season ends in mid August and all up, it runs over a similar duration as Auskick.

How Can I Help The Team?

The success of club footy is attributed to the commitment, structure, and voluntary efforts of the parents. When registering your player in 2010, please flag to the registrar what support you can provide. There are the week by week jobs such as coaches, manager & ground manager. Then there are the other ad-hoc activities such as match reports, lollies/oranges, photo takers and so on, all which go to make a fun and successful season for the players and parents.

Ultimately, the Club can only encourage you to get involved with the team and the development of your child. The Club has plenty of experience on hand to support the people filling these roles.

How Can I Find Out More? Further Questions?

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