

Junior Newsletter and Information for the 2017 Season



We hope you are enjoying the beginnings of summer and looking forward to the festive season. This is to give some brief information before the end of year for the 2017 season.

Coach Information 2017 Season

FC Nelson is committed to creating the best playing environment for our junior and youth footballers, with special consideration for long-term player development, player participation and enjoyment of the game. After reviewing 2016 it is our intention to again organise trials for 11th to 14th grade players. This will be open to all those who are interested, and will take place late February after registration has closed. We encourage all players to attend trials so please keep an eye on our Facebook page for further information.

The Director of Football and an independent selection team, taking into account recommendations from coaches, will decide player placement for all 2017 teams after trials. Assessment criteria will be made available prior to trial. Only registered, paid players are eligible to trial unless by prior arrangement. For this reason, we are again opening our registrations early, from January 1st 2017. Unfortunately, after registrations have closed, we cannot guarantee a place in a team.

Coaches and parents will not be sanctioned to put their teams together outside of this placement process. If a parent or player approaches you directly please inform them of our process. Similarly, due to an agreement between clubs in the region, perceived poaching of players from other clubs is not condoned behaviour by the club.

For 9th and 10th Grade teams, these will be compiled from those players registered after the closing date, in consultation with a grade coordinator, coaches, the Director of Football and ratified by the Junior Committee.

Grade coordinators

Could anyone who may be interested in acting as a grade coordinator for all grades, both boys and girls, please let me know

Coaches

FC Nelson recognise that our volunteer coaches are integral to our Junior Club. For this reason, we would like to make sure that in the relevant grades, there is coach involvement. We are also focusing further on coach education to ensure we build on our already fantastic coach base. Coaching courses to upgrade knowledge and learning will be advertised in the New Year and will be held in house.

Although we already have a number of coaches who have expressed interest to continue in a coaching role next year, we would like to ask for expressions of interest from anyone else that would be keen to coach a team in 2017. Could you please email myself as early in the New Year as possible, including preferred grade.

Online registration will be now be open from **1 January 2017**. Go to www.fcnelson.co.nz and click on 'Registrations.' Alternatively select the "**Football**" tab at the top of the Home page, followed by "**Junior and Youth**" where you will find a link to the registration process. Reminders to register will be on our Facebook page and Website. Email reminders to all 2016 registered players will be sent.

Age Eligibility

Our philosophy in line with NZ Football and Nelson Bays Football, is that each player should play in the correct grade for their age; i.e. a player turning 10 in 2017 will play in 10th grade and so on (although there are exceptions where, consistent with the Long Term Player Development model, we may need to consider maturation vs chronological age). Each year the Junior

Committee consider requests for dispensations and forwards these to the Manager of Nelson Bays Football, who has the final decision on any dispensations. However, in the first instance, all dispensation requests must be first sent through to the FC Nelson Junior Coordinator, for consideration by the Junior Committee.

Squad Sizes

Our intention is that squad sizes are no greater than the NZF recommended numbers. When numbers in a squad exceed 3 subs (particularly for 9 – 12th grades) there are implications for coaches and players alike. Players lose the opportunity to get a reasonable amount of time on the pitch, less touches on the ball, too long standing on the sideline, as well as coaches having to manage very large squads which can be challenging. For these reasons, we will be reviewing the final squad numbers before submitting to Nelson Bays Football and making every attempt to minimise the squad numbers to maximise the playing time.

Rep Rule

This will remain in place for 2017. Nelson Bays Football has modified the restriction on the number of representative players allowed to play on game day. Through the trial process, we will structure the teams accordingly with the rep rule in mind.

Further development

We will continue to try and provide for every level of player. We intend to continue with our Skills Centre programme in 2017 for ages 7 to 11 with specific age groups being catered for in term 1. Please keep an eye on the website for details. These are great sessions for any player that wishes to have a little bit of extra coaching, regardless of ability and level.

In addition please also keep an eye on the website for a late January Holiday Programme

Have a great summer, we look forward to seeing you all back in 2017!

FC Nelson Junior Committee and Director of Football Andy Morris.