

RIVERSDALE SOCCER CLUB



JUNIOR
HANDBOOK 2022

1. INTRODUCTION



Welcome to Riversdale Soccer Club's Season 2022. The following pages provide information regarding the first part of the year including:

1. Registration
2. Grading & Team Selection
3. Pre-season Training
4. Transition to Teams
5. Season commencement

We trust that you find this informative and please let us know if there is anything else that you need to make your child's time at Riversdale the very best it can be.





2. RSC COMMITTEE 2022

- EMIL TURUDIA - President
- DOUGAL HEATH - Secretary
- MARY PURCELL - Treasurer
- ROB FAVATA
- SIMON NAKOS
- TANYA DAY
- CLAIRE DENDLE
- NICK HOLDSWORTH (CLUB ADMINISTRATOR)

We encourage day to day enquiries to be forwarded to: operations@riversdalesc.com.au or by phone on **0472 705 875**.

Executive members can be contacted at president@riversdalesc.com.au
treasurer@riversdalesc.com.au or secretary@riversdalesc.com.au



3. IMPORTANT DATES

7th February

Jr. Pre-Season Program Commences

3rd March

Registrations Open

24th April

Junior Leagues Start

Early September

Season Ends/Finals Start (older age groups)



EXISTING PLAYER CUT-OFF DATE IS APRIL 8th

4. REGISTRATION & COMMUNICATION

4.1 RETURNING vs NEW PLAYERS



To REGISTER, click the Riversdale SC PlayFootball link:

[RSC Football \(playfootball.com.au\)](https://playfootball.com.au)

The Club is committed to ensuring that current members have priority so we encourage you to register as soon as possible.

If returning players do not register by the time teams are formed in mid-late March, the Club will consider offering new players places to ensure we have full teams by season's commencement in mid-late April.

4.2 AGE GROUPS



All age groups are based on the Players' age as at the 1st January of the current year. The following table is intended to assist in determining the correct "Under-Age" group to select for each Player. Players are required to Register in their correct age group regardless of whether they intend to play in that age group

Birth Year	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Age Group in 2022	U05	U06	U07	U08	U09	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
Program	Micro Roos	Micro Roos	Mini Roos	Mini Roos	Mini Roos	Mini Roos	Mini Roos	Juniors	Juniors	Juniors	Juniors	Juniors	Juniors	Juniors	Juniors

If you have any queries about Age Groups, please contact registrations@riversdalesc.com.au



4.3 PACKAGES & COST

REGISTRATION FEES ARE LISTED/AVAILABLE ON THE CLUB'S WEBSITE. Click link: [RSC FEES](#)



How to Register

The Registration link here will take you to Football Victoria's Play Football website where you will register for 2022.

Registration Link: [RSC Football \(playfootball.com.au\)](https://playfootball.com.au)

Please make sure that if you are a 'returning' player that you select that option and not 'new' player. This is because the fee for returning players will reflect the Football Victoria refund from the shortened 2021 season as well as an additional small refund from the club.

We have set up the registrations so that everyone pays their registration via credit/debit card through the Football Victoria site. This will save us a lot of time consuming and costly behind-the-scenes administration to enable us to keep our fees as low as possible.

However, if you don't have the ability to use a credit/debit card to pay your registration fees or are finding it difficult for financial reasons, please don't hesitate to contact our Club Administrator Nick Holdsworth to organise an alternative payment arrangement. Nick is contactable via registrations@riversdaleasc.com.au or on **0472 705 875**.



Please note the following important information:

- Not all packages will appear as an option for each child as availability is predetermined by gender and age.
- Girls teams are partially subsidised by Football Victoria and by a number of Government Grants provided to the club to encourage growth in female participation.
- The Club offers a fee subsidy through a Volunteer Support Package to certain volunteer roles, calculated as follows:
 - Free Registration Fees for the children of Volunteer Coaches and Committee Members;
 - Reduction in fees club sponsors or those who bring in sponsors (please speak to a Committee Member for details);
 - As determined by the Committee in other circumstances.
- For volunteers, the subsidy is offered at the commencement of the season.
- Please note that the club adheres to a strict “no pay – no play” policy. However, members that need financial assistance are invited to write to the club at president@riversdalesc.com.au or call the Club Administrator on 0472 705 875 to discuss your circumstances and a suitable payment plan. Any payment plan must be agreed in writing by the club to be valid.

4.4 WHAT ARE THE REGISTRATION FEES SPENT ON?

Riversdale is a non-profit club that puts every dollar we receive into the running of the club and its football programs. We also source additional funds from the provision of advertising for our club sponsors, some government and private sector grants, through running a canteen on Senior and Junior match days and the occasional social function. All of this is coordinated through a Committee made up of volunteers.

Our aim is to provide a quality, fun football program at a reasonable cost.

The major expenses incurred every year are:

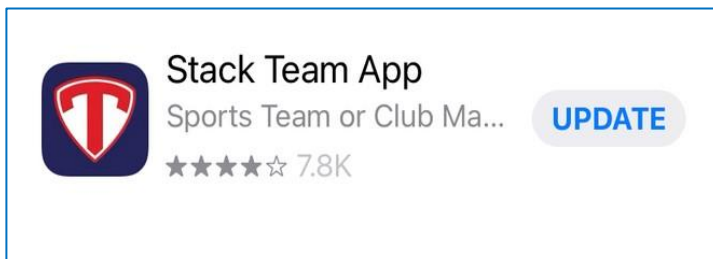
- Football Victoria and Football Australia player registration/insurance and team entry fees.
- Ground rental and running costs (utilities, cleaning, insurance, etc.).
- Funding the Skills and Player Development program and subsidising some paid coaches for teams without a volunteer coach.
- Referees fees for every Riversdale team's home games.
- Training and match day equipment (training balls, cones, bibs, agility poles, mini goals, portable samba and full-sized goals, match balls, first aid kits/supplies, etc.).
- Players end of year presentations/trophies.
- Staff and consumables for canteens on match days.



4.5 STACK TEAM APP

The Club uses Stack Team App and other channels including Whatsapp groups, Facebook, email and the Clubs website to communicate with its members.

Please download the Stack TeamApp at the Apple Store or Google Play Store and Search for 'RIVERSDALE SC' when prompted to find your team.



5. PRE-SEASON PROGRAM

5.1 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

February/March

- 10 weeks
- Skills Training (x1)
- Team training (x1)
- Player Grading
- Team Selection

April

- **Season Starts**
- Skills Training (x1)
- Team Training (x1)
- Weekend game



5.2 PROGRAM OUTLINE

All Programs (All Ages)

- Skills training and team allocations are conducted on Monday and Wednesday nights through February and March.
- We aim to finalise teams by mid-late March.
- It is planned for Skills Training to continue on Monday nights once teams are finalised through to the end of the year (during school terms). All players are encouraged to attend the Skill Improvement and Player Development sessions under the supervision of (Director of Football Development) Peter Sawan's School4Soccer Academy.
- Team training will commence on Monday nights in March and continue through the season, which runs from mid-late April to late August/early September (depending on age group and level).
- Some teams may choose/organise to train on other nights for player availability and ground logistics reasons. However most younger age groups will train on Wednesdays and changes to different training nights will have to be approved by the Committee.

6. PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

We are really thrilled to have Peter Sawan back as our Director of Player Development, along with his team from the School4Soccer Academy, to run our Junior Skills and Player Development and supply well-credentialed Coaches for some of our Junior teams. Although we pride ourselves on being a Community Club, we don't believe that should come at the expense of excellent skills coaching and player development.

School4Soccer's continued association with Riversdale is aimed at providing a really significant point of difference to other community clubs and all of this is provided at a price point that compares favourably with local clubs in our area. So please make sure that you avail yourselves of the free specialist skills sessions we will be running right throughout the year.



7. GIRLS' PROGRAM

The Club's Strategic Plan identifies Female Participation as a key strategic imperative in order for the Club to realise its vision of "A community that loves the game" and its corresponding mission to "To provide an enjoyable and safe environment where players develop a love of and lifetime connection to the game".



7.1 GIRLS' PROGRAM TARGETS

- Fielding an open age women's team by 2023
- Fielding at least one team in each available female league by 2025
- Having a female participation rate of over 40% by 2024

7.2 CURRENT INITIATIVES – GIRLS' PROGRAM

- Establishing a Female Participation Task Force to oversee the implementation of the Strategic Plan with respect to the Female Participation Targets.
- Running an ongoing schools' Football Discovery Program through the year to introduce the game to young girls in their formative years.
- Subsidising the Girls' programs through the securing of Government Grants to encourage participation.



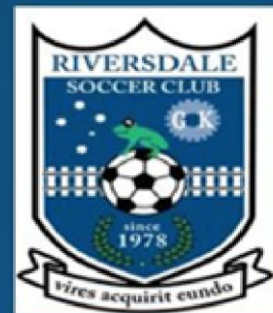
8. TRAINING SCHEDULE



Pre-Season Schedule (February until end of March):

RIVERSDALE SC 2022 JUNIOR TRAINING			
TEAM	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
U5-U10	MON	5-6PM	Camberwell High School
	WED	5-6PM	Hartwell Sports Ground*
U11-U12	MON	6-7PM	Camberwell High School
	WED	6-7PM	Hartwell Sports Ground*
U13+	MON	7-8PM	Camberwell High School
	WED	7-8PM	Hartwell Sports Ground*

Note* - No boots to be worn at Hartwell Sports Ground (Council Request)



From April 1st : ALL Junior Skills Development Sessions and Team Training will be at Hartwell Sportsground. You will be advised of your team's training day/time as soon as possible during pre-season.

9. CODES OF CONDUCT

9.1 RIVERSDALE SC CODE OF CONDUCT

Participants should be encouraged to enjoy the sessions but please ensure that your child is behaving and contributing to a positive club and team culture. Club coaches provide leadership and a meaningful learning environment. However, you are responsible for your child's behaviour.

- Be your child's best fan and support them unconditionally.
- When you take your child home after a match or training session, please be supportive and always focus on the positive aspects of their game.
- Develop a responsibility in your child to pack their own kit, clean their boots and take a water bottle to practice and games.
- Respect the facilities at our grounds and also our opponents' grounds.
- Do not criticise your child's Coach to your child or other parents. If you are not happy with the coach you should raise the issue with the Coach.
- Encourage your child to speak with the Coach. If your child is having difficulties in training or games, or can't attend training etc. encourage them to speak directly to the coaches. This "responsibility taking" is a big part of becoming a mature person. By handling off the field tasks, your child is claiming ownership of all aspects of the game.
- Help your child to focus on the performance and not the result. Remember – winning is not as important as the performance.
- Support all the players in your child's squad. Do not criticise anyone.
- Remember – children don't mean to make mistakes.
- Do not criticise the opponents, their parents or their officials.
- Never audibly dispute a referee's decision. They will make mistakes occasionally. We all do. If you abuse or shout at the referee you are breaking the rules of the game and risk generating a fine or other disciplinary action for the club. One of the major issues for the game is attracting and retaining referees so please don't contribute to a referee giving the game away.
- Parents must not coach from the touchline during matches or training. Leave this to the Coach or you may cause confusion and erode your child's confidence.
- Parents must not enter the field of play.
- Please remember – the game is for the children. It is not for the glory of the Coach, Team Manager or parents.

The club's player philosophy is segmented by age.

From the youngest players to those playing at the Under 12 age group, the club recommends the following:

- Squad numbers be maintained at the minimum squad requirements and minimum +2 reserves



- Each player in the squad will be afforded equal game time where possible
- There will be no set position unless there is team agreement
- No goal scorer trophies are to be awarded in these age groups

From Under 13 onwards:

- The Riversdale Committee will almost never involve itself in squad selection or playing matters.
- The management of the squad will be the responsibility of the appointed Coach (with possible input from the Director of Football Development, if requested or required). No one else should be involved.
- Uninvited parent involvement or direction regarding squad matters is not acceptable and will not be tolerated by the club.
- However, there are certain general values and expectations which the Committee will outline to Coaches, to ensure fairness in team selection, reasonable game time, etc.

9.2 FOOTBALL VICTORIA CODES OF CONDUCT

Football Victoria (FV) also has a number of Codes of Conduct, which are available via the FV website. Riversdale Soccer Club abides by and recommends these Codes of Conduct for all members, staff and supporters of our club.

Links to the FV Codes of Conduct are available below. Please take the time to read and familiarise yourself with the content of the Codes of Conduct relevant to you.

[Code of Conduct - Administrators and Committee Members](#)

[Code of Conduct - Coaches and Team Managers](#)

[Code of Conduct - Players](#)

[Code of Conduct - Ground Marshalls](#)

[Code of Conduct - Spectators and Parents](#)



10. TEAM SELECTION

Team selection for those playing competition soccer (excluding Seniors) will be according to the Team Selection Policy.



11. COACHING LEVY



Many of the teams at Riversdale are coached by dedicated volunteers who are supported by the Club's Director of Player Development.

However, there are some teams that are coached by Paid Club Staff Coaches or have Paid Staff Coaches assisting a volunteer coach.

A Paid Staff Coach may be appointed where a Volunteer Coach is not available or where the majority of the team's parents/players express the wish to have a Paid Staff Coach or a coach with higher technical qualifications/experience to help out.

Where a paid Coach is arranged/supplied, the cost of the Coach will be shared by all members of the team in the form of a Coaching Levy. This fee may be reduced where the team members are able to arrange some sponsorship of the team/club. The club may also contribute up to 20% of the cost of a paid Coach to reduce the size of the levy but this is not automatic and is subject to club finances and a number of other factors.



12. COACHES, TEAM MANAGERS AND TEAM VOLUNTEER ROLES

“This is a club and everyone needs to do their bit”



Each team is led by a Coach and Team Manager that report to their respective Program Coordinators and the Director of Football Development. The Club’s operating model assumes that teams are coached by volunteer coaches that are usually sourced from the parent group. Similarly, Team Managers are drawn from the parent group.

For Junior teams, the Coach is generally responsible for the guidance and development and care of the players throughout the season. The Team Manager is primarily responsible for the organisation of the team and so is usually more in touch with the parent group.

The Team Manager also provides a conduit for communication between the Club, the team, and the Coach. It is the Team Manager that is responsible for identifying the Team Volunteer Roles and appointing families to fill those roles on a weekly basis through a roster. The Team Manager is also responsible for ensuring that the team’s Team App account is up to date so that everyone knows when and where they need to be.

The Team Volunteer Roles will vary slightly from team to team. However, they usually include organising:

- Ground Marshal,
- Referees, Linesmen (if required)
- Oranges, fruit and/or lollies for players at half time / full time
- First Aid Duties (call Triple 000 for emergencies)
- Set-up and Pack-up Duties

Assistant Manager Duties including updating Team App, Team Sheets or Scores





- Please consider if you can assist in the running of the Club by volunteering as a Coach, Team Manager or in one of the many small but vital volunteer roles that support the activities of the club.
- Once your child's team is finalised, the team will require a volunteer parent Team Manager. This role is summarised in Section 14 (below).
- Please note that at the very least, you will be called on to assist the Team Manager with training and match day duties from time to time during the season.



13. UNIFORMS

13.1 MICROROOS, MINIROOS and JUNIORS (U12 and BELOW)



- The Club provides an initial uniform to all U05 to U07 players when they first register with the Club.
- The uniforms are supplied by Only Sport and will be provided to players at their first Session or soon afterwards.
- Replacement uniforms can be purchased through Only Sport and via the Stack Team App Store (select store bottom right shown above).
- All small-sided football (Mini Roos – U7 to U11) players will wear the Club's Only Sport uniforms
- Uniforms Cost \$45 and it is anticipated that players would only replace these as needed.
- Subsequent orders can be made during the pre-season program
- This uniform is yours to keep and will be used again in subsequent years.
- Replacement uniforms can be purchased directly through Only Sport, the Club's supplier.
- Shirt Numbers will be allocated by the Club and advised to Only Sport.



13.2 JUNIOR TEAMS (U13 and ABOVE)



- All Junior team players (U13+) will wear the Club's Nike Uniform which will be supplied again in 2022 through Ultra Football.
- Returning Players that already have the Nike kit should re-use their uniform.
- New Players and players wishing to update their uniform for any reason should order their uniform through the Ultra Football website.
- Uniform sizing will be conducted through the Pre-season Program.
- Shirt Numbers will be allocated by the Club and advised to Ultra Football.
- Returning players upgrading their uniform should seek the same number as their previous shirt.

14. Interested in being a Team Manager?

Here's a summary of the role:

Position Designation	Team Manager
Reports in	Team Volunteers
Customer Contacts	Club Members and families, Participants and visiting club members and families
Works With	Coaching Director, Coordinators; Coaches; other Team Managers; Officials and ground staff.
Key Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a conduit for communication between Club, Coach and Families;• Key contact for opposition and other club Team Managers;• Update Team Training and Match Schedules in Team App and other club endorsed applications;• Update player data, Match Results and Player Statistics in Sports TG or other endorsed platform;• Allocate and oversee weekly Team Volunteer Duties including updating the Team App Duty Roster;• Promoting Club Events and Initiatives within the team environment and generally supporting the Club's efforts.
Time Commitment	Approximately 1 Hour per week
Systems Used	Team App; Sports TG; Email, other
Must Have	Access to own phone, PC & WiFi; A desire to engage young children in sporting activity; an ability to be objective and delegate responsibilities; an appreciation of the club's Vision and Mission; Working With Children Check
Employment Status	Volunteer

For further details please contact Club Administrator Nick Holdsworth:

operations@riversdalesc.com.au

0472 705 875



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