



## FAQs

### ***At what age can I play?***

Players need to be turning 5 in that calendar year. There are lots of age groups and divisions starting with the Under 5s and going through to Under 18s then the teams become All Age which is for those turning 19 and above. There are competitions too for the overs 35s and over 45s.

### ***When does the season commence?***

The season kicks off on the first full weekend in April. The season runs until August for the younger age groups known as MiniRoos who do not compete in finals football and September for the competition teams that do. We usually have some trial games during the lead-up to the season to help us sort out teams and get to know one another.

### ***Where are the games played?***

There are 24 clubs in our association (Central Coast Football) and you will be most likely be playing approximately 8 or 9 different ones in a year depending on how many teams are in your grade. They range as far as Gwandalan in the North to Umina in the South and Mangrove Mountain out west. Don't despair yet! You may not have to go too far at all, (hopefully). Also, the MiniRoos (U5s - U11s) usually play in hubs that keep them closer to home.

### ***What times are the games played?***

The MiniRoos (Under 5s - U11s), Junior mixed teams (U12s - U14s), Men's 15s, Men's 16s and Men's 35s and 45s play on Saturdays. The Girls only teams (U12s - All Age) and Men's All Age play on Sundays. As a rule of thumb, the little ones play early and as they get older they play later in the day however this isn't always the case. Soccer football continues to grow and there aren't enough playing fields to get all the games completed on Saturday mornings so there may be some later games for the young ones too.

### ***How big are the teams and fields?***

The MiniRoos include age 5 through 11 and the teams gradually get bigger, the fields bigger and the games longer as they grow up. The under 5s, 6s and 7s have 4 players on a little field with two reserves. Under 8s and 9s have 7 players on a slightly larger field and 2 or 3 reserves, Under 10s and 11s have 9 players on a  $\frac{3}{4}$  size field with 2 or 3 reserves and finally at Under 12s and up there are 11 players on a full sized field with usually two reserves.

### ***How long are the games?***

The MiniRoos game times are as follows. Under 5s, 6s and 7s two halves of 15 minutes each. Under 8s and 9s two halves of 20 minutes each, Under 10s, 11s and 12s two halves of 25 minutes each. The Under 13s and 14s play two 30-minute halves, the 15s and 16s play two 35 minute halves and the senior or all age competitions play two 40 minute halves. Our Premier League teams play 45 minutes each half.

### ***Is it competitive?***

Football Australia sets out a strict curriculum that we are obliged to follow and it mandates non-competition for the MiniRoos who are in the Under 5 through to Under 11 age groups. When the kids are little the focus is purely on having fun, learning how to play and developing a love for the game and one of the most important ingredients is playing with friends. The team sizes, playing fields and length of the games gets bigger and longer incrementally until the kids are turning 12 and at this point they are playing competitively for the first time on a full sized field.

### ***Are the players graded?***

Football Australia mandates that in the Under 5, 6 and 7 year age groups there is to be no competition and no grading. Children are encouraged to learn to play and develop a love of the game with their mates in a non- competitive environment in a small sided format. We attempt to do a 'soft grading' in the Under 8s to put like ability teams into various competitions to keep things as even as possible. At age 9 we start to group players based on ability and start forming teams on that basis. As children's ability develops at different rates it is important that we identify this and place them in appropriate teams. The grading becomes more serious as they make the transition from 8s and 9s through to Under 12s.

### ***Can teams stay together every year?***

Still playing with friends is ideal but as team sizes go from 6 to 9 players it is inevitable some players will have to change. For instance; if we have 18 players in the Under 5, 6 or 7 year age groups then we have 3 teams. When those 18 players are turning 8 the team size changes from 6 players to 9 players so now we have two teams of 9 instead of 3 teams of 6. So for this reason it is simply impossible to keep everyone together forever.

### ***How do I sign up?***

Central Coast Football is planning the introduction of a new registration portal to replace the Football Australia *Play Football* portal. Visit the Central Coast Football website from 4 January to learn more.

### ***Ok, I'm registered, what happens next?***

When you visit us on either of our two official registration information days (usually the first two Saturdays in February) you will receive a handout which will tell you what we have planned for grading and trial games etc. We typically have an orientation day for our first team get-togethers for the MiniRoos which will be in early March.

### ***What if I can't make it on the two official registration days?***

It is important to make every effort to come and meet us but if you can't you have to let us know so we can correspond via email to keep you informed of next steps, upcoming events, team allocation and so on. In most cases we can reserve a place, but we can't if we are not notified and places can fill quickly.

### ***What team will I be in?***

Team selection will take place over the coming weeks. As the littlies are learning the game, there is an emphasis on having fun and playing with their friends. As they get older there is still the emphasis on having fun but there also becomes a need for grading so similarly talented players can form competitive teams.

### ***Who will be my coach?***

Coaches are usually a parent of a player in the team. We are always looking for volunteers for coaching positions. At this early stage of the season, we often get enquiries from coaches who enjoyed last year so much they are raring to go for another season. While we don't have a pool of "ready to go" coaching staff, we anticipate many will return from last season and we'll see some new faces volunteer too. If we don't have any volunteers locked in by orientation day, we will call for volunteers from the parents.

### ***What do I have to buy?***

Each player is to provide their own shorts and socks\*, boots and shin pads. Each player is provided with a playing shirt that remains the property of the club. The coach or manager will organise a roster for the parents to wash them each week and return them ready for the next game. *\*Socks and shorts only available from the club.*

### ***Does it cost money each week?***

From the Under 10s, referee's fees must be paid and this will be built into your initial registration fee. Younger teams often contribute a dollar or two each week throughout the season to go towards a party for the kids at the end of the season or a gift for coach and manager to say thanks. This needs to be agreed by the coach and or manager in consultation with the parents but it isn't compulsory.

### ***Is it ok if I miss a game from time to time?***

Yes. However please consider that it is a team sport and each team usually only have two reserves so a very casual commitment with lots of missed games would let the whole team down. In the higher graded teams such as A grade and the senior Premier League teams, missed games are very undesirable.

### ***Can I get a refund if I don't want to play anymore?***

Generally, once the season commences no refunds are possible. However, during pre-season, the club may offer a full or partial refund on a case by case basis at its discretion.

***Are there girls-only teams?***

Yes, they start from Under 12s and go through to all ages. The girl's and women's games are played on Sundays.

***What time is training?***

Training times are usually set by the coach, he or she is the one volunteering their time and it will have to fit in with their schedule. The coach may well offer some options to try to accommodate everyone. We only have access to the grounds on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so it will be one of the two.

***Are there mixed teams with boys and girls?***

Yes. From MiniRoos through to Under 14s, the teams can be a mixture of boys and girls. These games are played on Saturdays.

***Who can I talk to if I have an issue?***

Each club has a Member Protection Officer whose role is to provide advice on where to go and who to talk to if there are any issues.

If you haven't found the answer to your questions here please contact us at [info@eastgosfordfc.com](mailto:info@eastgosfordfc.com)

Best regards

EGFC Committee