

The crest of Fencibles United AFC is a shield-shaped emblem. It features a red and white saltire (X-shape) on a blue background. The shield is topped with a red and white collar and flanked by two white wings. A blue ribbon scrolls across the bottom of the shield, containing the text 'Fencibles United AFC'.

**Fencibles United Junior  
& Youth Girls Football  
Handbook  
Travelling Teams  
Season: 2024**

# YOUTH GRADES TRAVELLING HANDBOOK 2024 SEASON

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## JUNIOR & YOUTH GIRLS FOOTBALL

Junior and Youth grade girls football comprises grades U10, U12, U14, and U16. Players are placed in these grades according to their age on January 1st – e.g. if you are 13 years of age on 1st January (turning 14 sometime in 2023) you would play U14 grade. Girls can choose to play in a girls-only team if they wish or remain in the mixed teams if they prefer. In certain circumstances a player may play up a grade, in which case the club will apply for dispensation from NRF.

GRADE		
U9 & U10 Girls Only	(Combined Age Groups)	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2014 to 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2015 inclusive
U11 & U12 Girls Only	(Combined Age Groups)	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2012 to 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2013 inclusive
U13 & U14 Girls Only	(Combined Age Groups)	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2010 to 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2011 inclusive
U15 & U16 Girls Only	(Combined Age Groups)	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2008 to 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2009 inclusive

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## SEASON DATES

The NRF Junior U10 and U12 leagues will start on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Youth community leagues will start on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April and NRFL Youth Leagues will start on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March. The season will continue until the 21<sup>st</sup> of September and games will be scheduled (weather and ground conditions permitting) on all weekends, including Queen's Birthday weekend. There will be play on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July being the last weekend of the July School Holidays.

KEY DATES	
15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Registration Opens
13 <sup>th</sup> February	NRFL U14 & U16 Girls Trials Start
TBC	NRFL U14 & U16 Girls Teams Announced
9 <sup>th</sup> March	NRFL U14 & U16 Girls First Game
13 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> March	U10, U12, U14 & U16 Girls Trials Start
TBA	NRF U10, U12, U14 & U16 Teams Announced
27 <sup>th</sup> April	NRF U10, U12, U14 & U16 First Game
13 <sup>th</sup> July	No Game (Middle Weekend of School Holidays)
21 <sup>st</sup> September	Last Game

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## TEAM OPTIONS

There are a few different options available. More details on each is available on our website [www.fencibles.org.nz](http://www.fencibles.org.nz)

Girls U10 play 7 aside format while the U12 play a 9 aside format.

Girls U14 grades and U16 play an 11 aside format.

Those players selected to the U14 or U16 Girls Red team (our top graded team for those grades), will participate in the NRFL competition which may include teams from Northland and/or Hamilton area.

- **Development Plus Squad Teams (Development Plus Programme)** – These are the top talent teams for each of our youth grades and are for players that wish to play and train two or three times a week with a dedicated professional coach. Age groups covered are U14 and U16 Grades. Players will need to attend open trial and or be invited by selection from our Summer Academies. Our accredited NZ Football Talent Development Programme is contained within our Development Plus Programme.
- **Youth Social Teams** – for players who aren't selected for one of the Development Plus Squads or who would prefer to play a more social level of football. These teams will play grading games at the start of the season and subsequently be placed in an appropriate league to deliver a fun level of competition.

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## TEAM SELECTION

Fencibles hold pre-season gradings for players in the U10-U16's age group. These trials form part of process whereby the Club will endeavour to ensure players play in a team and at a level, appropriate to their skills, commitment etc.

For players to have the opportunity to be selected for top graded Youth teams, they need to attend the Fencibles NRFL open trials or alternatively be invited by selection from our Summer Academies. Players attending the summer academy will be automatically assessed within the academy and do not need to register or attend the open NRFL trials.

### Team Gradings

Remember that attendance at the trials does not constitute registration and you will still need to register online before the registration deadline date of Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023, in order to be included in a team. Registrations after the deadline date will only be accepted if there is space in a team for the appropriate age grade. A separate reminder will be sent to everyone before the first trial date of your appropriate age group.

The grading process will be run the same way at both trials. Players should arrive at least 15 minutes before the trial starts to check in and receive a number from the trial registration desk.

Once they have received their number, they should head out onto the field to warm up. The trial will be a combination of small-sided games and some larger format games depending on the age group. There will be several assessors on hand who will be grading players on their footballing ability. The assessors will be looking for passing, first touch, dribbling, defending, vision/awareness, turning, shooting and game understanding from the players and scoring based on that criteria.

Some grades may have additional trials after the ones listed for each age group to further help determine the top teams in the age group.

### TRAVELLING TEAM TRIALS

NRFL February trials are at William Green Domain  
NRF March trials are at Riverhills, 168 Gossamer Drive

NRFL trials are over five days but you only need to attend two. If you

DAY	DATE	TIME	GRADE
Tuesday	13 <sup>th</sup> February	5.45pm-7pm	NRFL U14 & U16 Trial #1 **
Thursday	15 <sup>th</sup> February	5.45pm-7pm	NRFL U14 & U16 Trial #2 **
Friday	16 <sup>th</sup> February	5.45pm-7pm	NRFL U14 & U16 Trial #3 **
Tuesday	20 <sup>th</sup> February	5.45pm-7pm	NRFL U14 & U16 Trial #4 **
Thursday	22 <sup>th</sup> February	5.45pm-7pm	NRFL U14 & U16 Trial #5 **
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup> March	5.15pm-6.15pm	U10 Girls Grade Trial #1
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup> March	5.15pm-6.15pm	U12 Girls Grade Trail #1
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup> March	6.15pm-7.15pm	U14 Girls Grade Trial #1
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup> March	6.15pm-7.15pm	U16 Girls Grade Trial #1
Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup> March	12noon-1pm	U10 Girls Grade Trial #2
Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup> March	12noon-1pm	U12 Girls Grade Trail #2
Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup> March	12.30pm-1.30pm	U14 Girls Grade Trial #2
Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup> March	12.30pm-1.30pm	U16 Girls Grade Trial #2

**\*\* Please Note:** NRFL trials are over five days but you only need to attend two. If you are participating in the Summer Academy, you do not need to attend the NRFL trials as you will be assessed with the academy environment. If you are not participating in the summer academy then you must register before attending. Please use this link to register. <https://fencibles.org.nz/playing-information/gradings-days-and-times-for-2024>

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### FEES (SUBSCRIPTION)

The Junior Football subscription for U10 Girls is \$190 and U12 Girls is \$215.

The Youth Football subscription for U14-U16 Grade is \$225. For those selected to play in one of our Youth Development Programme (TDP) squads there may be additional coaching fees to cover coaching costs. These fees are communicated upon team selection if applicable.

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## WHERE & WHEN ARE GAMES PLAYED

Junior grade teams (U10 and U12) play on Saturday mornings against other clubs in a home and away format.

The top Youth league namely NRFL Youth League play early on Saturday afternoons against other TDP clubs in a home and away format. The more social leagues play early Saturday afternoon also against local clubs in a home and away format. Northern Region Football administers the draws, which are available online. Any changes to this will be communicated by the team manager and/or coach. There is generally consistency in game times each week however, due to the challenges of pitch availability at some clubs game times sometimes vary, especially if there has been bad weather. Please double-check the draw on Friday nights and Saturday morning in case there are any late ground or kick off changes. Generally, coaches will want players to arrive 30-60 minutes prior to kick off so teams can have a warm up and team talk prior to kickoff.

The fixtures for matches played in NRF and NRFL competitions are published online for all grades approximately 1-2 weeks before the start of the season. These leagues are administered entirely by the local Federation and involve teams from throughout the Northern Region Football area. These leagues are competitive with teams initially placed in grades requested by their Clubs, then re-graded throughout the season.

GRADE	Forma	Game Length	Pitch Size	Ball Size	Offside	GK	Goal Size (Min)
U9 & U10 Girls	7v7	2x 25 mins	¼ of Full Field	4	Yes	Yes	4m x 2m
U11 & U12 Girls	9v9	2x 27.5 mins	½ of Full Field	4	Yes	Yes	4m x 2m
U13 & U14 Girls	11v11	2x 35 mins	Full Field	5	Yes	Yes	Full Size
U15 & U16 Girls	11v11	2x 40 mins	Full Field	5	Yes	Yes	Full Size

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## CLUB UNIFORM

Each player needs to purchase his or her own Club shirts, shorts and socks, as well as boots and shinpads. That is all that is needed to play football. Uniform items including Club shirts, shorts, socks and other branded on-field items such as training tops, track pants and undergarments, and off-field items like hoodies, tracksuits, and jackets can be purchased via our new Club Shop upstairs in the clubrooms at William Green Domain or the Inter Football online shop. You can find the link on the front page of our website under Club Shop. Buying Fencibles gear supports the club financially and helps us fund the coaching and facilities we offer, so please do check them out. Deciding on the right size uniform can be challenging so with the introduction of our new club shop at William Green will allow you to order the correct sizes of uniforms.

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## **COACHING**

Fencibles Junior and social Youth teams are coached by volunteers, usually a parent or grandparent. There will be a series of coaches training sessions led by our professional coaches at the start of each season. We encourage coaches to have an assistant coach or even co-coaches. Coaching handbooks containing instructions for games and activities which develop specific football skills are also available. No qualifications or previous experience as a coach is necessary and you don't have to know all the rules to start. It's a lot of fun once you get up and running and a perfect opportunity to help your child (and others) grow.

Fencibles U14 and U16 Youth teams are coached by paid academy coaches with C Licences to meet the entry criteria of these leagues. Additional fees apply to these teams and they will be communicated upon team selection.

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## **TEAM MANAGER**

Fencibles encourages that every team appoints a team manager. The team manager deals with the administrative side of the team ensuring that everyone knows when and where they need to be. This is a volunteer role. Each age group has a Grade Convenor and they are there to help and support our volunteers.

A summary of the important role of the manager

1. Support the coach and liaise with matters relating to the team.
2. Ensure team members know who, when and where they are playing.
3. Communicating cancellations or if the game is still on even though it's raining
4. Communicating training times
5. Coordinate transport arrangements.
6. Ensure the results of matches are passed to the grade convenor.

Most teams communicate via an app to share information like Heja, Teamer, Facebook Messenger or Whatsapp.

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## **PRACTICE TIMES**

The Development Plus programme squads generally practice three times a week with their paid coach on the turf at William Green Domain. Paid coaches train our NRFL Youth league teams.

Fencibles Youth social teams generally train weekly by volunteer Coaches who freely give their own time to assist the players and the Club. For this reason, training days and times are normally decided by the Coach in discussion with the members of the team. Most teams train one night a week.

The Club training facility is based at William Green Domain but we will also have our new turf at Riverhills Park available for training as well. Team Coaches and Managers are encouraged to contact the club to discuss possible venues and times on Club controlled training areas.

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## **WEATHER & CANCELATIONS**

For the Youth grades, games will only be canceled if the Council has closed the fields. This means that the players will frequently play even if it is wet and cold. Please dress accordingly and ensure that they do the same. If your child feels the cold, they can wear another top under their uniform shirt. Sports undergarments are a good choice as they are warm and do not restrict movement. In all cases the cancelation will be communicated by the club using our social media sites as well as your team manager and/or coach.

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## **FACILITIES AT THE GROUNDS**

**William Green Domain** - There are toilets inside the clubrooms, and there is a block of toilets next to the playground by the carpark. Water is available at the clubrooms from taps.

**Riverhills Park** – There are toilets inside the clubrooms downstairs just off the foyer. Water is available at the clubrooms.

**Greenmount Reserve** -There are public toilets located in a standalone building beside the changing rooms.

On Saturdays, the club runs a canteen selling drinks including coffee, hot chips and other food options at William Green Domain. At Meadowlands Inhouse there is also a sausage sizzle every Saturday morning.

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## **SIDELINE BEHAVIOUR**

Parents are asked to read and agree to the Fencibles Code of Conduct as part of the registration process. Inappropriate sideline behaviour will usually be dealt with on the spot by a team manager or coach, or by a club representative. If you are concerned, please approach your grade convenor or one of the club officials.

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## **TEAM EQUIPMENT**

The Club supplies each team with balls, cones, bibs, goalkeeping jersey and goalkeeping gloves.

If you would like to sponsor jackets, other clothing items or additional equipment for your child's team or the club more generally, please do consider it. This is a big help to the club (and a big encouragement to the children). Our teams play all over Auckland and host teams from all over Auckland, so it's a good opportunity to advertise your business and give something back to the community. Please contact the club to learn more about this. With our partnership with Inter Football we can assist with sourcing of clothing, including personalisation with player names, team names and of course adding your sponsor branding.

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## **SETTING UP & CLEARING PITCHES**

For home games, you will need to help set up or clear the pitch, including ensuring goals are positioned correctly, nets are attached properly. Please also support your team's coach and manager by volunteering to help with this as needed.

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## **TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS**

There is no fee for Team photographs as they are part of your season subscription. They are usually taken during the first half of the season in the clubroom at Riverhills Park. Each team is asked to arrive at a specific time, in full club uniform (ie. playing shirt, shorts and socks) excluding boots and shinpads. The whole process takes about fifteen minutes. All team photos are usually held in one week during late afternoon to the evening. Photo times are arranged not to conflict with any training sessions.

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## **CLUB PRIZEGIVING**

This is held after the season finishes. Actual venue will be communicated towards the end of the season. There are separate times for the different age groups. Team awards are 'Player of the Year', 'Coaches Award' and 'Most Improved' prizes. These are chosen by the team coach and manager, often in consultation with the parents.

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## **VOLUNTEERS**

Like any organisation dealing with children's activities, the Club relies heavily on adult involvement. The vast majority of teams are coached by a parent or somebody connected to players in the team. In order to organise teams this year, your club must have coaches and managers for all teams. Please help your Club help your children by indicating how you can help (you will be asked during the online registration process). Your family's involvement in the activities for your child, would be greatly appreciated.

The Club runs specialised training sessions for new coaches and support coaches who wish to up skill through various training programmes run both internally and by Northern Region Football.

If you would like to help and coaching or managing isn't your forte, please consider volunteering in one of the following roles:

- Grade Co-ordinator
- Ground setup
- Photos and Match Reports (for your team)

Please contact us on [admin@fencibles.org.nz](mailto:admin@fencibles.org.nz) if you would like to help with one of the above roles

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## **FUNDRAISING**

Fencibles is a not for profit club and always in need of funds for maintenance and replacement of equipment and facilities, and to fund coaching staff. The purchase of club clothing and



merchandise via our online store contributes to this, as do the canteen at William Green, sausage sizzle at Meadowlands, Summer Soccer and the Holiday Programmes. Each player is asked to participate in any club wide fundraising activities that are taking place and we are always looking for volunteers to help with fundraising activities.

We urge all members to financially support these initiatives by:

- Paying subscriptions in full and on time
- Adding a donation at registration time if able
- Becoming a Club Sponsor and partnering with Fencibles United - Contact Us to discuss

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## DOGS

Auckland City by-laws state that no dogs are permitted on playing fields at any time. Therefore, please refrain from bringing your dog with you to watch your children play.

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## FURTHER QUESTIONS & STAYING UPDATED

We are proud of our website and trying to build our social media awareness. The club puts a lot of effort into maintaining our website and updating social media channels. Please ensure you bookmark [www.fencibles.co.nz](http://www.fencibles.co.nz) and 'follow' and 'like' us on your preferred social media channel(s).

- For general club updates – check out the website or our social media channels. Things like news and announcements, events we are running, major cancellations or changes in game schedules, fixtures for our competitive teams and their results are posted here.
- For information about your child and their team – Use your personal Friendly Manager login to the club website. This will give you access to the events schedule specific to your child(ren) including practice sessions, game dates, locations, times, etc. If in doubt contact your team manager.

Website: <http://www.fencibles.org.nz>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fenciblesunitedafcofficial/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/fenciblesutdafc?lang=en>

E-mail: For general enquiries please e-mail: [admin@fencibles.org.nz](mailto:admin@fencibles.org.nz)

For admin enquiries including fees, registrations please e-mail: [admin@fencibles.org.nz](mailto:admin@fencibles.org.nz)