



**Fencibles United Junior
Football Handbook
9th-12th Grade
Travelling Teams
Season: 2024**

JUNIOR GRADES TRAVELLING HANDBOOK 2024 SEASON

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Junior grade football comprises grades U9, U10, U11 and U12. After U12, players move onto Youth football. Players are placed in these grades according to their age on January 1st – e.g. if you are 9 years of age on 1st January (turning 10 sometime in 2024) you would play U10 grade. Girls can choose to play in a girls-only team if they wish or remain in the mixed teams if they prefer.

GRADE	
U9 Mixed	1 st Jan 2015 to 31 st Dec 2015 inclusive
U10 Mixed	1 st Jan 2014 to 31 st Dec 2014 inclusive
U9 & U10 Girls Only (Combined Age Groups)	1 st Jan 2014 to 31 st Dec 2015 inclusive
U11 Mixed	1 st Jan 2013 to 31 st Dec 2013 inclusive
U12 Mixed	1 st Jan 2012 to 31 st Dec 2012 inclusive
U11 & U12 Girls Only (Combined Age Groups)	1 st Jan 2012 to 31 st Dec 2013 inclusive

SEASON DATES

The 2024 football season will play over term 2 and term 3 of the school calendar. Start date is on 27th April and will finish 21st September. There will be no football in the middle weekend of the July school holidays (13th July) but there will be football on the first and last weekend of the holidays (6th July and 20th July respectively).

KEY DATES	NOTES
15 th Jan	Registrations Open
11 th & 16 th March	Team Trials
TBC	Teams Announced
27 th April	First Game
13 th July	No Game (Middle Weekend of School Holidays)
21 st September	Last Game

TEAM OPTIONS

There are a few different options available. More details on each is available on our website www.fencibles.org.nz

- **U9 Grade:** Two options; Meadowlands Inhouse or NRF Travelling Leagues. Please note there will only be three NRF Travelling Teams selected at this age.

- **U10 Grade:** Three options; Junior Development Teams (Development Programme), Junior Travelling Social Teams, and Meadowlands Inhouse (9th & 10th Grade only)
- **U11 & U12 Grade:** Two options; Junior Development Teams (Development Programme) and Junior Travelling Social Teams

TEAM SELECTION

Pre-season all registered U9 - U12 Grade players will be invited to attend grading sessions. You can choose whether to attend the trials or not. Players selected into a development squad will be required to train twice per week and will play in the NRF (Northern Region Football) League on Saturday mornings. Selection into the NRF League requires the ability to play on Saturdays around Auckland.

- **Junior Development Programme Squads** – These are the top talent teams for each of our Junior grades and are for players that wish to play and train two times a week. Players will need to attend trials and be selected to play in our Development teams.
- **Junior Social Teams** – for children who are not selected for one of Development Programme squads or who would prefer to play a more social level of football. Teams will be put together based on school friends, requests to play with friends and team from prior years (if played before). These teams will play grading games at the start of the season and ultimately be placed in an appropriate level of competition.

TRAVELLING TEAM TRIALS - All Trials At Riverhills Park, 168 Gossamer Drive

DAY	DATE	TIME	GRADE
Monday	11 th March	5pm-6pm	U9 Mixed Trial #1
Monday	11 th March	5pm-6pm	U10 Mixed Trial #1
Monday	11 th March	6.15pm-7.15pm	U11 Mixed Trial #1
Monday	11 th March	6.15pm-7.15pm	U12 Mixed Trial #1
Wednesday	13 th March	5.15pm-6.15pm	U9 & U10 Girls Only Trial #1
Wednesday	13 th March	5.15pm-6.15pm	U11 & U12 Girls Only Trial #1
Saturday	16 th March	9am-10am	U9 Mixed Trial #2
Saturday	16 th March	9am-10am	U10 Mixed Trial #2
Saturday	16 th March	10am-11am	U11 Mixed Trial #2
Saturday	16 th March	11am-12noon	U12 Mixed Trial #2
Saturday	16 th March	12noon-1pm	U9 & U10 Girls Only Trial #2
Saturday	16 th March	12noon-1pm	U11 & U12 Girls Only Trial #2

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 8th March 2024, 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.

FEES (SUBSCRIPTION)

The Junior Football subscription is U9 & U10 Grades \$190 and U11 & U12 Grade \$215. For those selected to play in one of our Junior Development Programme squads there may be additional coaching fees to cover coaching costs. These fees are communicated upon team selection if applicable.

WHERE & WHEN ARE GAMES PLAYED

All Junior grade teams play on Saturdays mornings and play against other 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. Junior grade games are usually played at the same time each week (mostly between 9am and 11am kick off) 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 minutes prior to kick off so teams can have a warm up and team talk prior to kickoff.

GRADE	Format	Game Length	Pitch Size	Ball Size	Offside	GK	Goal Size (Min)
U9 Mixed	7v7	2x 25 mins	¼ of Full Field	4	Yes	Yes	4m x2m
U9 & U10 Girls	7v7	2x 25 mins	¼ of Full Field	4	Yes	Yes	4m x 2m
U10 Mixed	7v7	2x 27.5 mins	¼ of Full Field	4	Yes	Yes	4m x 2m
U11 Mixed	9v9	2x 27.5 mins	½ 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
U12 Mixed	9v9	2x 27.5 mins	½ of Full Field	4	Yes	Yes	4m x2m

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.

COACHING

Fencibles Junior 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.

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.

PRACTICE TIMES

The Development Programme squads generally practice twice a week with their coach. There is a Head Coach that also oversees each age group and works with each team coach. In the U9 Grade there are three Development Programme teams and U10 Grade there will be four Development

Programme teams.

Fencibles Junior social teams generally practice once a week however this is totally dependent on coach and team availability. Times for these practices will be agreed by each team coach and shared with players by the team manager.

In addition to any team practice session, Fencibles will be offering optional open mid-week training sessions with our club coaches over terms two and three, which is available to all our Junior players, bookings essential.

We also offer additional training namely the Fencibles Skills Centre and is coached by qualified coaches. This will run in terms 2 and terms 3 (8 week terms).

WEATHER & CANCELATIONS

For the Junior grades, games will only be canceled if the Council has closed the fields. This means that the children 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 club shirt. Base layer garments are a good choice as they are warm and do not restrict movement but please choose preferably navy colours. In all cases the cancellation will be communicated by the club using our social media sites as well as your team manager and/or coach.

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.

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.

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.

SETTING UP & CLEARING PITCHES

For home games, you (parents and players) will need to help set up or clear the pitch, including ensuring goals are positioned correctly, nets are attached properly and setting up retreating lines. If you are the last 7v7 or 9v9 game at William Green then please return the retreating line disks to the canteen. Please also support your team's coach and manager by volunteering to help with this as needed.

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.

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.

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 if you would like to help with one of the above roles

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 club shop 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.

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 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

For admin enquiries including fees, registrations please e-mail: admin@fencibles.org.nz