



Frequently ask questions for winter season 2023

Q. What programs do Dunbar Rovers offer for mini-roo and junior age groups?

- **For boys and girls turning 6 and 7 in 2023 –**
- Dunbar Rovers provides a program which includes a weekly Wednesday training session at Gunyama Park (Zetland) commencing 1st March from 5pm to 6.30pm until mid August AND a weekly Saturday morning training/ match day program from 8.30am – 9.45am which is also held at Gunyama Park (Zetland) commencing 29th April until end of August (except for the 8th July school holiday break)
- all players will also play in some pre-season matches on either Saturday or Sundays in March plus 3 x ESFA Gala days throughout the season at various grounds.
- No matches will be scheduled for the April school holidays, Easter and Anzac day weekends being the 8/9th, 15th/16th and 22nd /23rd April OR July school holiday weekend 8th/9th July.

- **For boys or girls turning 8 to 12 in 2023 playing in social teams –**
- Dunbar provides a program which includes one training session a week and matches on the weekend. Your child will be ability matched into a team or can play with his/ her mates in a team which will play in the local ESFA Mini Roos non-competitive league which commences Saturday 29th April and ends in mid August. These social teams will play their home matches at Gunyama Park with away matches played at opposing Club grounds across the Eastern Suburbs. All matches will be played on Saturday mornings (except against Maccabi Sunday teams) at the same fixed kick-off times each weekend throughout the season as follows:
- 9am (U8's), 10am (U9's), 11am (U10's), 12 noon (U11's) and 1pm (U12's).
- U8's and 9's play 7 a side matches and U10's, 11's and 12's play 9 a side matches.
- Training will be held every Wednesday from 5pm to 6.30pm at Gunyama Park commencing March 1st to the end of the season in mid August.

- Pre-season matches will also be arranged every Saturday or Sunday in the last 3 weekend of March and early April.
 - No matches will be scheduled for the April school holidays, Easter and Anzac day weekends being the 8/9th, 15th/16th and 22nd /23rd April OR July school holiday weekend 8th/9th July.
 - The ESFA comp starts on the 29th April and ends in mid/late August.
- **For girls only mini roos teams turning 8 to 12 in 2023 –**
 - Training will be held every Wednesday from 5pm to 6.30pm at Gunyama Park commencing March 1st to the end of the season in mid August.
 - Pre-season matches will also be arranged every Saturday or Sunday in the last 3 weeks of March and the 1st April.
 - Competition matches will be played on Sundays commencing 30th April to mid August. Our home games will be played every second week at Queens Park Field 12 between 11am – 2pm and away games at any time from 9am – 1pm.
 - No matches will be scheduled for the April school holidays, Easter and Anzac day weekends being the 8/9th, 15th/16th and 22nd /23rd April OR July school holiday weekend 8th/9th July.
- **Friday's only – Dunbar School of football** – is designed as an introduction to football for boys and girls aged 6 to 10 who would like to learn to play football. These sessions will be held each Friday commencing the 5th May until the 11th August from 4.30m to 5.45pm at the new synthetic soccer field called Getiela Park which is located inside Alexandria Park Community school on Buckland St, Alexandria.
- **The Under 10,11 and 12 ESFA/ SAP development teams** - Dunbar will also select a development team for ages Under 10, 11 and 12 who will train twice a week (Monday at Gunyama Park 5pm to 6.30pm and Thursday at Getiela Park from 4.30pm to 6pm) commencing in the first week of March until mid August and play in the ESFA SAP division. Trials for these teams will commence on Monday 6th and 13th February at Gunyama Park.
 - Pre-season matches will also be arranged every Saturday or Sunday in the last 3 weeks of March and the 1st April.
 - No matches will be scheduled for the April school holidays, Easter and Anzac day weekends being the 8/9th, 15th/16th and 22nd /23rd April OR July school holiday weekend 8th/9th July.

The Under 13, 14 15,16 and 18's Championship development teams

- The U13 and U14 play on Saturdays between 3pm – 6pm at Gunyama Park and the Under 15, 16 and 18 teams play on Sunday's mornings from 9am to 1pm at Moore Park synthetic or the NCIE in Redfern.
- The ESFA season commences on the 1st/2nd April until August.
- These teams train twice a week at either Gunyama Park, Getiela Park OR Alexandria Park with the Under 18's training at Chifley Reserve.
- Pre-season matches will also be arranged every Sunday commencing the 26th February and through March.
- No matches will be scheduled for the April school holidays, Easter and Anzac day weekends being the 8/9th, 15th/16th and 22nd /23rd April OR July school holiday weekend 8th/9th July.

Q. Can my child play with his friends?

A. At Dunbar we will grade (ability match) all players from Under 8 up but we will try and keep mates together unless their ability determines otherwise, this way the coaches can run training sessions at the standard of a given team otherwise it becomes hard to deliver good training sessions if some players are not at similar standard.

Q. At what age can I start playing?

A. Generally your child needs to be turning 6 years of age in 2023, we are happy for younger kids to come and try it out before deciding to join (some kids are too shy to engage at age 5 and others just love it) so we are happy for your child to do a couple of free sessions before deciding to join up.

Q. In what Age Group will my child be playing in 2023?

A. The age your child turns in 2023 is the Age Group they should play in. (e.g. if your child is turning 8 in 2023, they should play in the Under 8's Age Group) unless they wish to play up with their friends in an older age group (in this instance their ability must be of a standard that they can play up)

Q. How do I find out more about the playing rules?

A. Please view -

[http://www.footballnsw.com.au/fileadmin/user_upload/Rules_Regulations/Competitions/20150222 - LEG - 2015 Competition Regulations V2 TMc .pdf](http://www.footballnsw.com.au/fileadmin/user_upload/Rules_Regulations/Competitions/20150222_-_LEG_-_2015_Compensation_Regulations_V2_TMc_.pdf)

Q. What is the inclement weather policy?

- Training and matches on grass fields can be cancelled when the grounds are closed due to wet weather. The club will inform you via teamapp if training is cancelled but please check the ESFA social media weather information at 8am on match days to confirm any match day cancellations. Matches scheduled on synthetic grass fields will not be cancelled.
- As we mainly use artificial grounds most training sessions and home matches all sessions will proceed unless we have lightning or really torrential rain in which case you can receive cancellation updates via teamapp.
- Team communications and scheduling of matches will also be handled through teamapp – instructions on how to log in will be provided once your child has been assigned to a team.

Q. What playing equipment does my child require?

A. You will need to purchase boots and shin-pads for your child. At these age groups we recommend you do not purchase expensive boots as you child will grow out of them quickly. Players need to wear their boots & shin-pads to both training and the games. Children who forget to bring either will not be permitted to participate - so please don't forget.

Please also bring a water bottle and sunblock.

Goalkeepers will need to purchase their own gloves/ cap. All players will be provided with a ball which they must bring to training each time.

Q. When does the Season start & finish?

- Pre-season training will commence on the Wednesday 1st Feb for Under 13-18 development teams and Monday the 6th February for the Under 10, 11 and 12's SAP team trials. Social teams will commence training on Wednesday the 1st March. The ESFA comp will commence on the 1st and 2nd April for the Under 13 to 18's and the 29th April for the Under 10- 12 SAP teams and Under 6 to 12 social teams, the season ends in late August.
- Dunbar Rovers will also hold its annual mini-roos and juniors end of season Gala day, trophy presentation and luncheon on the last Saturday or Sunday in August to end the season.

Q. How many games are there per season?

A. 15 – 18 rounds have been scheduled depending on the age group but any washed out games will not be replayed for the U8 – 12 non-competitive leagues. Only teams playing in competitive leagues from Under 13 to 18 will have washed out matches re-scheduled. All U13 to U18 development teams will also play in the FNSW State Cup (on Sundays commencing in May) and

possibly the Kanga Cup in Canberra in the July school holidays plus the end of season Champions of Champions if they win their local league, as such we expect these development teams to play up to a 25 - 30 game season including pre-season trial matches in March. For social teams we expect the season to include up to 20 matches including pre-season matches.

Q. Who organizes and maintains the competition?

A. The local league is run by the Eastern Suburbs Football Association (ESFA), ESFA co-ordinates the competition and each of the club administrators/ volunteers manage the day to day operations.

Q. Is my child allowed to wear their glasses?

A. Players are only permitted to wear approved SPORTS glasses when playing or training. Normal glasses must not be worn. No jewellery or watches are to be worn.

Q. What size ball do they play with?

A. Under 5's to 9's use a size 3 ball and the Under 10's, 11's, 12's, 13's boys and girls all use a size 4 ball. From U14's up they use a size 5 ball. Each player receives a new ball (which you keep) at the beginning of the season which you are required to bring to all training sessions (pls don't bring your ball to matches, only training). Please write your name on your ball using a indelible ink pen, thanks

Q. As a parent, what do I need to provide?

A. You will need to provide studded soccer boots, shin-pads, water bottle, transportation and lots of positive support. If you would like to sponsor your child's team or assist in a volunteer capacity (team manager, barbeque, fundraising, half time oranges supplier, raise sponsorship etc) please let us know, thanks

Q. What are the fees per child for each program?

A. The fees are:

- \$450 per season for kids turning 5, 6 and 7 – who train once a week and play on Saturdays from March to mid August.
- \$575 per season for every player aged from Under 8 – 12 who train once a week and play in a social team on the weekends – March to mid August
- \$250 per season for kids aged 6 to 10 who train/ play once a week in our Friday only school of football from May to mid August.

- \$1000 for the Under 10,11 and 12 development teams – train twice a week and play matches on Saturdays – February to mid August
- \$1200 for U13 to 18 development teams – the development teams play a longer season and train twice a week and play matches on the weekend.

The above costs can be reduced by uploading an Active Kids voucher when you register on www.playfootball.com.au – pls apply to Service NSW for your \$100 rebate on all sports registrations paid, this will effectively reduce your total outgoing by \$100. The link is <https://sport.nsw.gov.au/sectordevelopment/activekids>.

Q. What if I can't afford the fees, is there a reduced price offering, payment plan or a way of working it off doing some work for the club?

A. Dunbar Rovers does not discriminate on price, instead we offer hardship cases whereby we offer reduced prices, payment plans or even “sponsored fee free” football for a small number of players to allow ALL young players to learn to play football, we can arrange for a limited number of parents or players to do some volunteer work instead of paying full fees if required. Parents are requested to speak with Gerry Frittmann (0413 647664) if they require relief, payment plan etc and can act as a volunteer capacity to raise funds (run the barbeque etc).

Q. Does my my child receive a playing kit from the club?

A. Each child receives a full playing kit (playing shirt, shorts and socks, wet weather jacket) plus a ball and end of season trophy (for kids age 5 to 12 only) included in the registration fee price. All FFA insurance/ registration fees, ground hire costs, coaching costs etc are also included in the annual fee. The Under 13 to 18 Development teams will also receive additional training kits. Additional items of clothing can be purchased as well.

Q. Will each team be provided with a coach?

A. Yes, our point of difference is that we provide a qualified coach for every team across every age group who will be available to take your team's training sessions and attend on match days. On the occasions your coach is not available we will provide a replacement coach who is also part of our program. All social and development teams will be provided with qualified coaches.

Q. Who leads the coaching team?

A. Our Technical Director/Head Coach is Christian Soares who is also the Technical Director across Dunbar's NPL teams. Originally from Porto Alegre in Brazil, Christian oversees each training session and maintains the high standards required to effectively implement the FFA coaching curriculum, Christian holds a AFC B Licence and a degree in Physical Education, Christian oversees a team of experienced senior coaches and also nurtures our up and coming juniors coaches all of which have come through our playing ranks and are in the process of acquiring various levels of coaching certificates having played representative football in the NPL State Leagues over the past few years. All coaches have completed Working for Children checks. Generally, we do not allow parents to coach their own child's team unless they have a high-level coaching qualification and would like to coach a different team than their child's team. We would happy to hear from you – this can work if your child is playing and training at the same time/place as their son's team OR plays at a different time on the weekend.

Q. When does the season end and how does my child get his end of season trophy?

A. The season concludes in late August when the club holds its annual end of season event consisting of intra club Gala day matches, a lunch for players and parents as well as each team's trophy presentation, a small fee of \$25 per player/ parent will be charged to cover the cost of the hall hire, ground hire fees plus food (mixed meats and healthy salads) and drinks – this event is usually held at Easts Rugby club OR Gunyama Park. All kids playing in non-competitive team age groups (Under 6 – 12) will receive an end of season medal/ trophy, for all older competitive age groups only the 3 players selected for end of season player awards will be awarded with a trophy.

Q. If I am new to Dunbar how do I register my interest to participate in any Dunbar Rovers juniors program in 2023?

A. Please fill in your details on the following link and you will then get weekly update emails leading up to the season with more details.

<https://forms.gle/hr7qeyMrQmy8JUs26>

A formal registration will be required through the new FFA platform at www.playfootball.com.au which will go live in February 2023 – each parent will be required to register their child, enter their Active Kids voucher and pay the fees through this portal.

Q. How can you help with fundraising, volunteering and sponsorships?

A. The cost of playing football in Australia has been a contentious issue for some time, Dunbar Rovers have attempted to address this issue by raising funds from sponsors to provide “fee free” football for all of its representative NPL teams but this has now stopped due to COVID as the sponsors dropped off. Unlike overseas where the clubs also run their own football schools which are called academies as part of their development pathway, in Australia, junior clubs have largely been community based and volunteer led whereby the level of coaching has not been up to the required standard sought by aspiring players/ parents – this is why private Academies have boomed in Australia and the cost of getting high level coaching has become expensive and unaffordable for some.

Dunbar Rovers attempts to reverse this trend and act more like clubs overseas who engage their own senior coaches and develop their own junior coaches thus providing an academy style service at a far lower cost than private academies, to assist us keep the price down we seek your support in:

- **Attracting additional club sponsors (minimum \$1000, \$2500, \$5000) sponsor packages are available**

Q. Does Dunbar also run a summer football program?

A. Yes, each year we also enter teams across all age groups (U8 to U18) in either the futsal competitions OR the Hensley Athletic Field summer 6 a side comp, we also train weekly through summer. The cost for summer will be \$695 per player playing in a summer team, the summer program will commence in early September and finish in early December.

Q. What is the difference between Dunbar Rovers model compared to other clubs?

A. Dunbar Rovers FC is a progressive club with teams playing across all levels of football including the FNSW National Premier League (NPL) starting from Under 13 boys up to All Age Men, local ESFA mini roo and juniors commencing at Under 6 to Under 18's and All Age Men and Women's teams playing in the local Eastern Suburbs Football Association. In total we have around 800 players.

Dunbar Rovers is a true development club which hires highly qualified coaches, quality training grounds and provides quality playing kits for all of its players, all within a reasonable price compared to other similar programs.

Even with our local junior teams we provide a coach for every team which no club has ever done, we are proud of our offering which attempts to put player and coach development first without the politics.