



# INFORMATION re JUNIOR/YOUTH TRIALS 2018

The following information details the requirements and processes for 2018 trials at Ellerslie AFC. This year trials are being held for 9th to 19th grades (ie, for 2018, 9th grade players are born in 2009, 10<sup>th</sup> grade players are born in 2008, etc...)

Check our [Trials Calendar](#) for details of day/times for each grade

**Cancellation information - Please check the news section on the front page of this website, download the club app or check our [facebook page](#)**

NOTE: Trials are not held for 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams. All players registered for these grades will be placed in teams.

## Key Trial Information

- All trials last between 1 and 2 hours depending on the grade and numbers attending.
- Please arrive 20-30 minutes before the scheduled start of the trial so you can register for the trial, be allocated a trial bib and prepare yourself to play.
- Bring football boots, shin pads, playing attire and a drink to the trial.
- In order for players to be considered for the top Club teams, players MUST trial on the dates and times stipulated on the [Trial Calendar](#). Special circumstances will be considered if prior notice is given. ([email us](#)).
- Players not taking part in the trials should not expect to be placed in top teams at the club. In all cases, Ellerslie AFC will make every possible effort to group the players into teams at a similar ability level.
- Please note attendance at trials does not equate to registration to play for the Club and you must [register online](#) if you wish to play during the 2018 season.

## **Objectives of Trials**

Ellerslie AFC run trials for 9<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> grades to select players to represent the club in the top divisions of each age group.

The allocation of over 1,500 players to teams is a complex task and requires a considerable amount of time and resource to ensure players are placed in appropriate teams.

As children grow and develop at different rates the Club feels it is important to trial all players each year to give everyone the opportunity to demonstrate their ability.

In order to most fairly identify players, we will endeavour to utilise:

1. At least two assessors observing the trial games on each field.
2. Feedback forms and verbal feedback (given to the Club Coaching Department) from the previous year's coaches.

While some selection decisions will always be debatable, we believe our processes are robust and put us in a strong position to provide fair and credible trials and selections.

Some grades may assess players through pre-season training or continue to assess after trials via squad training. The trial organisers/coaches will provide details after the grade's initial trials.

Players in 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grades are placed into teams and play in our in-house Tamaki League and are not required to trial. These teams are announced at our Muster Day (Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March – 3.30 pm Michaels Ave Reserve).

Selected teams from 9<sup>th</sup> grade play in Auckland-wide competitions and therefore it is from this age group we begin the trial process.

Players selected for teams in Auckland Football Federation competitions will be advised via email when the teams in their grade have been released on the Club's system and how to find this information. We expect that this information should be available around the middle of March 2018.

The size of the playing squads for each grade are as follows:

- 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade squads normally have 10 players
- 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade squads normally have 12 players
- all other squads normally have 14 - 16 players.

## **Players to Play in Correct Grade**

Historically the Club has requested dispensations from the Auckland Football Federation (AFF) and had some players playing in grades above their age group.

AFF has informed clubs within the Federation that it will be encouraging all players to play in their age-appropriate grade and that dispensations will only be given in exceptional circumstances. The Club is in full agreement with this policy.

If need be, please feel free to contact the Coaching Department to discuss this matter in detail.

## **Female Members**

Depending on numbers, the Club will formulate girl's only teams from 7<sup>th</sup> grade and above.

There will be trials for the girls from 9<sup>th</sup> grade and above.

It is highly recommended that all female players, whether playing in a mixed team or in a girl's only team, attend the appropriate girls' trial.

If you are unable to make the trial please notify the Club via email.

## **Specific Grade and Trial Information**

### **Trials for 9th - 13th Grades (Boys/Mixed)**

Two trial days have been scheduled for each of these grades. All players should attend both trials if possible. At the end of the first trial players will be advised regarding plans for the second trial.

### **9th Grade - Players born in 2009**

The top 9<sup>th</sup> grade teams play in the Auckland Football Federation 9th Grade competitions. Please note selection into these teams will involve travel throughout the Auckland Region.

Players not attending trials or not selected in a team playing in an Auckland Federation competition will be placed in the 9th Grade division of our in-house Tamaki League. This grade may include teams from Onehunga Sports and Onehunga-Mangere and requires some away travel to games

### **13th - 19th Grades**

Players born in 2005 play in the 13th Grade.

Players born in 2004 play in the 14th Grade.

Players born in 2003 play in the 15th Grade.

Players born in 2002 play in the 16th Grade.

Players born in 2001 play in the 17th Grade.

Players born in 1999 and 2000 play in the 19th Grade.

Girls born in 2005 play in the Girls 13th Grade.

Girls born in 2004 play in the Girls 14th Grade.

Girls born in 2002 & 2003 play in the Girls 16th Grade.

Girls born in 1999, 2000 & 2001 play in the 19th Grade.

The 13th - 17th Grade Metropolitan and Conference competitions are the highest level competitions in the Federation and are all played on Sundays. The remainder of the 13th -17th grade competitions are played on Saturdays.

Please advise the Coaching Department if you are not able to play on Sundays so that you can be considered for an appropriate team.

Players selected for Metro, Conference or Girls Premier teams are expected to be available for a minimum of two training sessions per week and be available for the whole season. If a player is likely to be absent for an extended period during the season please let the Coaching Director know as this may affect the size of the squad for each team.

### **Further Information**

If you need any further information about trials please [email our Coaching Department](#)