

# U9 REGISTRATION PACK



<b>CONTENTS OF THIS PACK</b>	<b>PAGE #</b>
<a href="#"><u>Overview of the Under 9 Grade</u></a>	<b>3</b>
<a href="#"><u>Key Dates (Tamaki League and NRF)</u></a>	<b>3</b>
<a href="#"><u>Subscription Fees</u></a>	<b>3</b>
<a href="#"><u>Eligible Ages</u></a>	<b>3</b>
<a href="#"><u>Playing Formats</u></a>	<b>4</b>
<a href="#"><u>Trials</u></a>	<b>4</b>
<a href="#"><u>Season Dates</u></a>	<b>5</b>
<a href="#"><u>Fixtures</u></a>	<b>5</b>
<a href="#"><u>Trainings</u></a>	<b>5</b>
<a href="#"><u>Playing Uniform</u></a>	<b>6</b>
<a href="#"><u>Player and Coach Development</u></a>	<b>6</b>
<a href="#"><u>Volunteers</u></a>	<b>7</b>
<a href="#"><u>Financial Support</u></a>	<b>7</b>



## U9 Overview

Players in the Under 9 Grade have two different competitions, one called the Tamaki League Under 9's and one called Northern Region Football (NRF for short) Under 9's.

Ellerslie AFC run the Tamaki League, it's our "inhouse" league and it means all games will be at Michaels Ave each weekend and you will play a variety of other Ellerslie teams as well as some local school teams.

NRF U9's is the Auckland wide competition and Ellerslie AFC will enter four teams into this grade, our U9 Red, Black and Gold mixed teams and our U9 Red Girls team – the players in these teams will be selected by the club after our trials (more information on those later in this document)

## U9 Key Dates (Tamaki League)

KEY DATES	NOTES
19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Registrations Open
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Muster Day
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	First Game
21 <sup>st</sup> June – 12 <sup>th</sup> July	No Games (Matariki and School Holidays)
13 <sup>th</sup> September	Last Game

## U9 Key Dates (Northern Region Football)

KEY DATES	NOTES
19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Registrations Open
TBC	Teams Announced
5 <sup>th</sup> April	First Game
5 <sup>th</sup> July	No Game (Middle Weekend of School Holidays)
6 <sup>th</sup> September	Last Game

## U9 Subscriptions

For 2025 the season registration fee will be **\$222**, this includes a team photo and the club will supply a playing shirt for the season via your team.

A prompt payment discount of 10% will be available if you pay in full before the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.

For Players who trial and make the U9 Red team there will be additional costs to cover extra coaching and equipment supplied by the club, this is called a Talent Fee.

**2025 Talent fee for U9 Red: \$200**

## U9 Eligible Ages

For 2025 players wishing to play this grade must be turning 9 in 2025. Please note NRF requires and the club recommends all players play in their correct age grade and we will make every endeavor to



place all players in their correct grade. In certain circumstances a player may play up a grade, in which case the club will apply for dispensation from NRF.

GRADE	
U9 Mixed	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2016 to 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2016 inclusive
U9 Girls Only	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2016 to 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2016 inclusive

## U9 Playing Formats

For 2025 the club continues to implement the playing formats suggested under the NZ Football plan – you can find this plan on our website.

### Northern Region Football

GRADE	Format	Game Length	Pitch Size	Ball Size	Offside	GK	Goal Size
U9 Mixed	7 v 7	2 x 25 mins	¼ of Full Field	4	Yes	Yes	4m x 2m
U9 Girls Only	7 v 7	2 x 25 mins	¼ of Full Field	4	Yes	Yes	4m x 2m

### Tamaki League

GRADE	Format	Game Length	Pitch Size	Ball Size	Offside	GK	Goal Size
U9 Mixed	7 v 7	2 x 25 mins	¼ of Full Field	4	Yes	Yes	4m x 2m
U9 Girls Only	5 v 5	2 x 20 mins	⅛ of Full Field	3	No	No	1.8m x 0.9m

## U9 Trials

The Junior Division hold pre-season trials for players in the Under 9's age group. These trials form part of process whereby the Club will endeavor to ensure players play in a team and at a level, appropriate to their skills, commitment etc. If players want to continue playing in the Tamaki League with friends and school mates, they **DO NOT** need to attend trials.

For players to have the opportunity to be selected for top graded teams, they need to attend at least one of the trials scheduled. Please go to the [trials page](#) for further information and details including dates and times, what to bring etc.

If a player is likely to be unavailable for periods during the season (ie other sports, extended holiday etc) please let the Coaching Director, Ryan Shiffman by sending an email - [coaching@ellersliefootball.org.nz](mailto:coaching@ellersliefootball.org.nz) to ensure that teams have the appropriate number of players for the season.

## U9 Season Dates

At the time of writing (information subject to change), the club will start the Tamaki League on Saturday 3rd May. NRF Under 9 leagues will start on the 5<sup>th</sup> April. The season will continue until the 13<sup>th</sup> of September for Tamaki League and the 6<sup>th</sup> September for NRF.

## **U9 Fixtures**

The fixtures for matches played in the Tamaki League or NRF competitions are published online for all grades approximately 1-2 weeks before the start of the season. This will also be updated to show if your match is cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, usually on Friday evenings.

Ellerslie Junior teams play in one of two different competition structures as follows:

### **Tamaki League - Fixtures published [here](#)**

These leagues are provided for our Under 9 players with teams taking part from various local clubs and schools. Emphasis is on participation, fun, enjoyment and the team environment. Games are competitive but no league tables are maintained for the Under 9 grade. Tamaki League teams in Under 9's are graded mid-season based on the number and margin of victories in an attempt to ensure matches are as even as possible in the second half of the season. Games are played at Michael's Avenue Reserve for home games and away at another local club.

After the February trials have taken place, any Under 9 players who are not included in Ellerslie AFC Red, Black or Gold teams, will be included in a Tamaki League team and advised by email.

### **Northern Region Football (NRF) Leagues - Fixtures published [here](#)**

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. No league tables are maintained for Under 9-12 grades, but scores must be recorded for grading purposes. Games will be played against [clubs from Northern Region Football](#).

## **U9 Trainings**

Most teams 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 with most teams training one night a week.

The Club is based at [Michael's Avenue Reserve](#) in Ellerslie. A number of teams train at this venue and at Liston Park but these spaces are not large enough to cater adequately for all Club teams. Team Coaches and Managers are encouraged to seek training facilities at local schools etc or [contact us](#) to discuss possible venues and times on Club controlled training areas.

In the event that a player in a Tamaki League team cannot attend a particular training day and time arranged by the team, the Club will attempt to find an alternative team that trains on an acceptable day. If this cannot take place, a full refund of fees can be arranged.

## U9 Playing Uniform

Teams are issued with a set of playing shirts including a goal keeper's shirt and gloves in the gear bag issued to the Coach or Manager at the start of the season. All items remain the property of the Club and **MUST** be returned at the end of the season or earlier if a player leaves the Club. The Club reserves the right to seek compensation and mark a player's national record with a red flag for any club property that is damaged or not returned. It is preferable that the team shirts stay together as a set and a washing roster is set up for the season for each family to take turns to wash and bring to the game each Saturday.

Players will need to provide the following items of their own:

- Football Boots (NO metal studs to be worn on artificial turf)
- Shin pads (players without shin pads will not be permitted to play)
- Black shorts
- Gold Football Socks

Shorts, socks, guard stays and supporters gear (caps, beanies, jackets etc) can be bought online from Score Sportswear (Lotto) via special online shops for Ellerslie players and supporters. Click [here](#) to get more information.

## U9 Player and Coach Development

The Football department at Ellerslie AFC is overseen by Fred de Jong our Director of Football, Fred holds an NZF B Coaching Licence and has worked as the high-performance manager at New Zealand Football previously, as well as being a former First Team player at the club. Supporting Fred is our Director of Coaching Ryan Shiffman, Ryan holds an NZF A Coaching Licence and was an assistant coach for the Women's U17's at the World Cup in India.

There are two different player development courses for U9, the first one is our Friday skills programme which is our open skill acquisition course, with a focus on individual skill building for both outfield and GK's.

For more information please check [this page](#).

Our second player development course is our PDP courses, these are by invite only and typically involve Red and Black team players – please check [this page](#) for more info, including who to contact if you wish to discuss a possible invite.

The Club run a number of free Coaching courses for Junior coaches, please check [this page](#) for more info

We also run Holiday Programmes in each school holidays – please check [this page](#) for more info and how to register for those courses.

## **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 [info@ellersliefootball.org.nz](mailto:info@ellersliefootball.org.nz) if you would like to help with one of the above roles

## **Financial Support**

In common with most community based sporting organisations, the demand for and desire to, improve services to our members is often constrained by funding shortfalls. There is continual pressure to maintain an appropriate balance between reasonable subscriptions and fees and providing more and improved quality services for members.

In the past three years, the club has committed to employing a full-time Director of Junior / Youth Coaching, part-time Football Director and professional coaches and Operations administration staff. We are certain these moves will continue to have tremendous benefits for player and coach development at all ages in the Junior / Youth division, enhance the opportunities for our older teenagers as they progress into Senior football and enhance the way the club delivers services to our members with the experience the current staff provide.

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**
- **New Clubrooms Funding Appeal - [Further information](#)**
- **Becoming a Club Sponsor and partnering with Ellerslie AFC - [Contact Us](#) to discuss**

