



## **REGISTRATION UPDATE - SEASON 2012**

November 11th, 2011

Dear Parents and Players,

The Beaconsfield Junior Football Club has gone through an unprecedented growth period over the past decade. In season 2011 we fielded 18 teams and had over 400 registered players on our list. Having a club of this size presents its own challenges in ensuring that the management of the club maintains the high standards we have become accustomed to over many years.

Over the past two seasons, we have had a large number of players enter the Club at Under 9's – 3 teams in 2010 and 3 teams again in Under 9's and 10's in 2011. If this growth was to continue at the same rate with three teams at every year level, by 2017 we could potentially have over 600 registered players in the Club! We have also been discussing the emergence of girls football, and we are very keen to establish a female team in 2012. This could potentially see us with 26 junior teams within 6 years.

I am sure that you will appreciate the fact that as the player numbers grow, the intricacies of managing venues and club resources also grows more complex. Whilst we are fortunate to have access to a number of venues for training and matches, those resources will simply not cope with the demands such a large number of teams would place on them. We hope to have the Holm Park Road facility up and running at some stage during the 2012 season, but we will then lose O'Neil Road the following year.

One factor that has been complicating things over the past few years has been the increasing number of young players playing out of their correct age group. Our policies currently allow for this, but it is putting increasing pressure on available places and can create difficulties later on when players try to move back to their correct age group. This can also hinder the natural development of many players and place unnecessary pressure on their young bodies, as well as leading to a lack of competitiveness in some areas. As they progress through the age groups, these players can often be overlooked for involvement in the Development Squads (SEJ Interleague, Stingrays, etc), as they may not stand out as much as they would if they were in their correct age group. Our focus needs to remain on providing a positive football experience for all players right through their junior career. Playing in the correct age group is an important part of that focus, so that all players are matched in skill, maturity and level of competitiveness.

The Club Executive has recently discussed the best way forward in what is a difficult and important area in managing the Club. We have agreed that we need to make changes in the way that we are operating to ensure that we get the best out of all of our players and give them every opportunity to become the best footballers they can be. We are also aware of the need to change the way players are registered within the younger age groups to allow the Club to flourish without becoming too unmanageable.

As a result of these discussions, several important decisions have been made which will impact on the structure of the younger age groups.

How will this affect your child / children in 2012?

- Any player who registers successfully with the Beaconsfield Junior Football Club will always be guaranteed a place until they exit after Under 16's (assuming that they abide by the Club's Code of Conduct). This is consistent with our Club philosophy of valuing every player, regardless of his or her ability.

### **UNDER 9'S (2012)**

- Our registration policy will be changed from 2012 onwards for the intake at Under 9's. Priority will be given to players aged 8 as of January 1<sup>st</sup> for each particular season.
- There are 32 players from 2011 who will be eligible to play Under 9's again next season. The Club will insist that they play in the correct age group, meaning another year of Under 9 football for them. There are already a number of players on the waiting list and it is expected that there will be further interest during the off-season. As a result the Club will once again offer 72 places at Under 9 level.
- If this will cause you significant concern, there is the option of applying to the Club for an exemption. This must be done in writing and addressed to the Registrar via email: [registrar@beaconsfieldjfc.com.au](mailto:registrar@beaconsfieldjfc.com.au). All applications for exemption will be given due consideration by the Executive.
- If there are vacancies at Under 9's once all 8 year olds have been offered a place, then places will also be offered to 7 year olds according to our priority system. Any such offer will only be made following the Club Information Day (Registration Day) in early February. Any 7 year old playing under 9's MUST remain in Under 9's for a second season (2013) and will not be permitted to play above their correct age group. In doing so, the Club will ensure that no correct age players wishing to register (dependent upon vacancies) miss out on an opportunity to play with us at Under 10 or 11 level in subsequent years.
- In season 2013, it is anticipated that we will be able to offer 48 places in Under 9's to new players moving through from Auskick (assuming all 8 year olds have moved on to Under 10's), which will then follow on for each subsequent year. This provides a clear and unambiguous pathway for young players and families transitioning from Auskick into the Club in future years.
- AFL JUNIOR MATCH POLICY – this policy is in place for all South East Juniors matches and is enforced across all clubs. For Under 9's in 2012 this will mean:
  - no premiership points, match scores or ladders will be kept
  - modified ground size
  - "hold and release" tackle only
  - only one bounce permitted
  - no kicking off the ground
  - club supplied umpirealong with other modifications as per the AFL Policy  
<http://www.beaconsfieldjfc.com.au/download/file/afl-sej-match-policy-implementation-2011.pdf>  
This policy will be eventually be enforced by the AFL across all junior leagues in Australia.

### UNDER 10'S (2012)

- There are 41 players who will move from Under 9's up to Under 10's in 2012. There were also a number of players who played Under 10's in 2011 that are still eligible to play in that same age group next year. The Club will strongly advise that those players remain in their correct age group and play Under 10's once again.
- With the large number of players expected to correct their age group for 2012, the number of teams entered at Under 10 level will be dependent upon registration numbers. At this stage it is hoped that we will field three teams once again in this age group.
- AFL JUNIOR MATCH POLICY – Under 10's in 2012 will play under the same modified rules as for the Under 9's, but each match will be played on a full size ground.

### UNDER 11'S (2012)

- The group that played Under 10's this season is unusually large and we will continue to field **three teams of 24** next season (72 players in total). There will be a number of vacancies that will be offered to new players according to our priority policy.
- AFL JUNIOR MATCH POLICY – Under 11's in 2012 will play for premiership points and all scores and ladders will be recorded and published. There will also be a finals series to conclude the season. There will be some other minor modifications that will be communicated to you as soon as they are confirmed by the league.

### UNDER 12'S (2012)

- We will continue to field two teams next season, with vacancies offered to new players according to our priority policy.
- AFL JUNIOR MATCH POLICY – Under 12's in 2012 will play for premiership points and all scores and ladders will be recorded and published. There will also be a finals series to conclude the season. As with Under 11's, there will be some other minor modifications that will be communicated to you as soon as they are confirmed by the league.

### UNDER 13'S – UNDER 16'S (2012)

- We will continue to field two teams at each of these age groups next season, with vacancies offered to new players according to our priority policy.
- Grading of teams will continue to be undertaken to ensure that all players are matched for ability and size as appropriate. The coaching development team will assist our coaches in this process to help achieve the best possible outcome for each individual player and also each team. The development of EVERY player is EQUALLY important to the Club.

### NEW INITIATIVE FOR 2012 – GIRLS FOOTBALL

- The emergence of girls' football has seen strong interest develop in the region and we have some outstanding female footballers within our Club. It is important that we explore the opportunity of fielding a team within the SEJ competition next season. We already have a significant number of girls interested in forming a Youth Girls (13 – 18 year old) team in 2012, along with volunteers willing to be involved in coaching that team. There is also the possibility that we could form a Junior Girls (9 – 12 year old) team for an SEJ modified

competition sometime in 2012. If you would like to register your interest in being involved in either of these girls' teams, please contact the Coaching Co-ordinator, Rod Hamilton, via email at [coachcoordinator@beaconsfieldjfc.com.au](mailto:coachcoordinator@beaconsfieldjfc.com.au). The girls' competitions are held at Casey Fields on Saturday mornings during the football season.

### **GENERAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION TO NOTE**

- The main change to the Club's registration policy is the priority for the intake of 8 year olds in the Under 9 teams. All other details regarding the priority system remain unchanged and can be viewed on the Registrations page of the Club website. All other changes are simply the Club enforcing aspects of the policy where required.
- The registration process for **CURRENT PLAYERS** does not commence until November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Information will be emailed to all families in the coming days with instructions on how to register for next season. If players are not adjusting their age group then there is no need to contact the Club Registrar regarding season 2012. Once registrations open, it is critical that you register correctly before the deadline – **FRIDAY DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> 2011**. There is strong interest from new players and if you do not complete your registration correctly by then you risk losing your place in the Club. Please ensure that your friends and teammates are aware of this deadline.
- **NEW PLAYERS** are welcome to contact the Club Registrar at any stage with an expression of interest. Details are available on the Club website – please read through this information first before making contact. A waiting list is common at many age levels and the priority system is strictly enforced. A place is not guaranteed until it has been confirmed by the Registrar.
- If you know that you will **DEFINITELY NOT** be returning to the Club next season, please advise the Registrar as soon as possible so that your place can be offered to the next player on the waiting list. Please ensure that this is only done if you are 100% CERTAIN you will not be returning – once your place is offered to another player, you may have to go on the waiting list if there are no vacancies.

I appreciate that change may cause some concerns for particular families. I would be happy to discuss those concerns with you at any stage. I do hope, however, that you can appreciate the need to make these important decisions now to avoid massive resourcing and logistical issues in future years. You are all an important part of our great Club and we value everyone's involvement. It is through making changes such as these that we can continue to be a vibrant and cohesive junior sporting body.

Thanks for your continued support and for your understanding with this critical issue.

Best wishes,



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