



Macquarie Dragons Football Club

Information Sheet – Winter Season 2021

Macquarie Dragons Football Club is your local grassroots football club serving the Macquarie Park and Marsfield area. We play in local competitions run by the North West Sydney Football Association (NWSF). We have strong relationships with local schools such as St Anthony's Catholic Primary School and Eastwood Heights Public School.

Macquarie Dragons is a community-run club that relies on the work of volunteers and family members. There are roles for players, coaches, managers, referees and committee members. All member families are asked to support the club by participating in canteen, dressing the field, supporting the chocolate drive fundraiser and attending the club annual social night.

REGISTRATIONS

Registrations can be made online or at the club registration days.



Online registration <https://www.playfootball.com.au/> from 4th January 2021.
Choose Macquarie Dragons as your local club or follow links on our website directly



Register in person after school.
St Anthony's 3rd Feb.



Register in person after school.
Eastwood Heights 4th-5th Feb.



Pay the competition fee for your package including any special discounts



We have a strict policy of "no pay, no play" because there is no insurance cover unless you have paid the registration fee.
If we cannot place you in a team due to insufficient team numbers then we will give a full refund.

ACTIVE KIDS \$100 REBATE

From 1 January 2020 parents across NSW can create and redeem their next \$100 Active Kids voucher for each school-enrolled child to cover registration, participation and membership costs for Macquarie Dragons Football Club. www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-active-kids-voucher

RESPECT

NWSF has implemented a RESPECT program (refer <http://www.nwsf.com.au/respect-program.html>). Players and participants are subject to the direction of referees and officials plus the disciplinary tribunals of the football associations.

Macquarie Dragons has an excellent disciplinary record and is known for our sportsmanship. The executive committee will not tolerate abuse of any officials, players, parents, spectators or referees. Please refer to our code of conduct on our website for further information regarding disciplinary actions.

Our club is run by volunteers, who like you have work and family commitments in addition to their role in Macquarie Dragons. Best efforts can be frustrated by external factors beyond their control, such as ground availability, weather and late registrations by players.

With over 16,000 players NWSF discourages club players and parents from contacting them directly. If you have any concerns or comments, please feel free to contact any of the Macquarie Dragons officials. Please offer your services along with your suggestions ... because any help is gratefully accepted.



www.macquariedragons.com.au



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WINTER SEASON COMPETITIONS

Macquarie Dragons enters teams in a number of different competitions for the winter football season. These competitions commence in April (10th April 2021 for Premier League and 17th April 2021 for all other competitions) and end in August. Each competition has a slightly different structure.

Premier League

Macquarie Dragons runs a squad of two teams in the NWSF Premier League competition.

Trials for this squad are conducted in December 2020. For more information contact our Premier League Convenor Mitch Tracey (premierleague@macquariedragons.com.au)



Mini-Roos's Small Sided Games (u6-u11)

Competition Structure - Mini-Roos is a non-competitive small sided game format on a small field with simplified rules. The mini-roos organizers will try to keep friends playing together in the same team. Teams will be graded into Divisions to ensure that matches are evenly balanced and kids have fun. Mixed teams play on Saturdays and Girl's teams play on Sundays.

U6 and U7 – is a four aside game for teams of 5 to 7 players. There is no individual grading of players for mini-roos at Macquarie Dragons.

U8 and U9 – is a seven aside game for teams of 9 to 11 players. There is no individual grading of players for mini-roos at Macquarie Dragons unless the club decides to field a "Division 1" team.

U10 and U11 – is a nine aside game for teams of 11 to 13 players. Macquarie Dragons grades players between teams but players may choose to not be graded and to play with their friends. Grading is conducted on the 16th February 2020 (times and location TBC). Details to be supplied to registered players prior to the date.

Mini-Roos's Trial Days - U6-U9 players need to attend the pre-season team days on 14th and 21st March at Fontenoy Park to meet your team and get organized.

Mini-Roos's Gala Day - U6-U9 teams are invited to play in a football round robin with neighboring clubs at the Gala Day on 28th March at Fontenoy Park. Parents and Grandparents are welcome to come & meet others in your child's/children's team. All new U6-U9 Dragons registrations will receive a Dragons football kit prior to the gala day. This includes: training shirt, black club shorts, club socks & soccer ball.

Co-op Training - Macquarie Dragons uses co-operative or academy style training for non-competitive age groups to teach children ball skills and football techniques at a very young age.

The sessions are fun for the players and make it easy for team coaches and managers. Each cooperative training sessions will be led by the club appointed head coach who will organise the setup of all activities. Co-op for all U6-U11 (girls and boys) is at Waterloo Park. All Co-op participants will be given a club training shirt that should be worn to their team training. Co-op training starts 29th March 2021.

Skills Development Program - Macquarie Dragons run a 12 week advanced skills program in conjunction with our co-op training. This is for players in the u8 to u12 age groups and consists of professional football training sessions to develop the technical abilities of our young players. This program is optional and will attract a small additional fee with the majority of cost subsidised by the club.

Competitive Football – Juniors (u12-u18)

Competition Structure - Juniors is competitive 11 a side football for teams of 12 to 16 players played on a full field with only minor modifications to the Laws of the Game. Mixed teams play on Saturdays and Girl's teams play on Sundays.

Player Grading - Grading will only take place if there are a sufficient number of registered players in an age grade to form 2 or more teams. Players will be graded on skill level by an external experienced coaching company so that the team/division nominations forwarded to the NWSF will have players of a similar skill band. We are looking for junior players who want to compete in the higher divisions of each age grade i.e. Division 1 and 2. These teams will be focused primarily on ability and performance. Depending on numbers grading is conducted on the 16th and 18th February (time and location TBC). Registered players will be notified prior to grading sessions. Please note that Division 1 teams may grade at an earlier date. Separate information would be sent out to interested players prior to the date.

Pre-season trial games - with in-house teams and other clubs are held in late March subject to ground availability. You will be advised by your team manager if your team is scheduled for a trial game, including any special arrangements.

Training - Our training grounds are Waterloo Park and Marsfield Park. Training will start mid-March on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evening. Each team will be given a “spot” to train on. Your coach or manager will liaise with the age coordinator in regards to days and times.

Competitive Football – All Age, Over 35 and Over 45

Competition Structure - is competitive 11 a side football for teams of 12 to 16 players. The All Age organizers will try to keep friends playing together in the same team. Teams will be graded into Divisions to ensure that matches are evenly balanced according to the competition rules of each Association.

Training - Our training grounds are Waterloo Park and Marsfield Park. Your coach or manager will liaise with the age coordinators in regards to days and times.

Women's Football Competition and Venues

Most games are played on Sundays at Morrison Bay Park and Meadowbank Park. Non-competitive small sided games may also be played at other nearby venues.

Teams are expected to complete one canteen shift per season at either home ground given by NWSF. Your team manager will notify you once the allocations are set.

Goalkeeper training

A specialist goalkeeper program is available for aspiring U8-U16 keepers. Time and location to be confirmed. Spots are limited to 8 players per session.. If more than one player per team the manager will need to provide a roster.

GAME DAY

Wet Weather

Games and training is ALWAYS **ON** unless called off by the association, the local council or the club. Football is often played in the rain. Club executives will close grounds if deemed too dangerous to use. In the event of a wet-weather ground closure, an SMS notification will be sent out no later than 4pm to team managers. The team manager will relay this message to team members. The grounds will be re-assessed once again on Saturday afternoon for Sunday games.



Team Uniform/Attire

Players in all matches must appear in proper uniform, comprising Dragons playing shirt, black Dragons club shorts (or plain black shorts), Dragons club socks (or plain black socks), approved footwear and shin pads. A referee may prevent you from playing if not correctly dressed and the association may fine you, your team or our club. No jewelry is allowed.

The club issues a Dragons playing shirt to each player which is on loan for the season and must be returned at presentation day by your team manager in the team kit bag provided. For a strip clash (competitive teams only) the team manager will obtain a set of white alternate playing shirts from the canteen at Waterloo Park. You can purchase club socks and shorts as well as shin pads from the canteen on any Saturday during the season or via our online store or by contacting the club. For players safety, shin pads and approved football boots must be worn at all games and training sessions.

Canteen

The club relies on team volunteers to operate canteens at Fontenoy Park and Waterloo Park. These are valuable fund raisers which are popular with children and parents alike. Prior to the start of the season every team manager will receive a roster detailing their allotted schedule for opening, running and closing the canteens. Team managers will arrange a roster of parents to staff the canteen on each allocated day.

Ground-setting

The first team playing on game day at each home ground is responsible for setting up the ground.

For the mini teams at Fontenoy Park all field equipment is stored in the right side change room. Ground settings and all field numbers are located inside the canteen wall. You will need to setup all mini goals, all nets on the bigger fields and all corner flags. Your mini committee coordinator will give further instruction to all mini team managers at the start of the season.

For Waterloo Park and Marsfield Park, the last team to play on Saturday or Sunday is responsible for taking down the nets, rope, and flags. At Marsfield Park please place all field equipment in storeroom at the rear of the canteen amenities building. Your manager will be contacted with all the details and will need volunteers. Full instructions on how to dress and undress the fields are located in the canteens.



OFFICIAL ROLES

Working with Children Check (WWCC)

It is a requirement of Football NSW that all technical directors, coaches and managers working or volunteering with children under 18 years of age obtain a WWCC and provide their Club with a valid number. Referees over 18 years of age and volunteer parents or close relatives coaching or managing their own child's or close relative's team are NOT exempt.

www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-working-children-check

Team Manager and Assistant Manager

Every team needs a manager to coordinate the logistics, communications and records of the team. No special football skills or knowledge are prerequisites.

Team Coach and Assistant Coach

Every team needs a coach to organize training and coordinate how the team plays the game. Coaching young people of any age gives you the opportunity to have a massive and important influence on the future of your community and can be full of challenge and rewards. No special football skills or knowledge are prerequisites. Macquarie Dragons offer all coaches the opportunity to attend training courses throughout the season free of charge. Please note that in 2021 all coaches will need to obtain the grassroots certificate as a minimum.

Coaching Courses

FFA recommends that all coaches from Grassroots through to U18 attend a football coaching course during the season to learn and understand the new coaching curriculum and how to implement it to players of all levels. Macquarie Dragons arranges coach training via NWSF free of charge. In 2021, NWSF require all coaches to have a grassroots coaching certificate as a minimum.

Coaches and Managers Information Meeting

The coaches and managers information meetings will occur in March 2021 and will be run at our fields. This meeting is compulsory for ALL the clubs coaches & managers as it's the only occasion in the season where we cover all the new and important information for the upcoming season and show how to set up each field. We also have each teams gear handed out on this night together with a complimentary club polo for all new coaches and managers to wear at their training and game day. More information will be given regarding this information meeting in early March.

Referees

Macquarie Dragons members are encouraged to serve as match referees and assistant referees from age 14 and above. A football refereeing course is available to all players from U14 and above, the Club will pay for your attendance costs. Boys and girls interested in becoming a referee can earn some useful money on a Saturday or Sunday. Please contact one of the committee members. Macquarie Dragons encourages senior referees and has a number of current and former players refereeing at senior or higher levels.

Club Organizers

Our club is run by volunteers. Every aspect of organizing the club and age groups has to be done by somebody. That somebody would welcome an assistant. This is especially the case with age group coordinators, ground marshals and canteen coordinators.

Macquarie Dragons is managed by an executive committee elected at the Annual General Meeting in October/November each year. Players above 18 years old and parents of younger players are members of the club entitled to vote at the AGM.

Important dates 2021

January:

4th Registrations open

February:

3rd St Anthony's Catholic School Registration Day
4th Eastwood Heights Public School Registration Day
5th Eastwood Heights Public School Registration Day
7th Try Football Day at Waterloo
16th Grading night
18th Grading night

March:

14th Minis (u6-u9) meet and greet
18th U10-11, youth and AA coaches and managers information session
21st Minis round robin and coaches and managers information session
28th Mini gala day
29th Co-op training start (u6-u11)
TBC Training for all other teams
TBC Coaching courses

April:

10th Premier League season start
17th All other mixed competitions start
18th Girls/Women's competitions start
TBC Goalkeeper training start
TBC Skills development program start

May:

22nd Photos and chocolate fundraising (1st day)
23rd Photos and chocolate fundraising (2nd day)

June:

19th Social night

August:

21st Regular season ends
28th Grand final day (mixed competitions)
29th Grand final day Women's and last round of girls competition

September:

4th Premier League Grand final day
TBC Presentations