

# SOUTHERN EAGLES FOOTBALL CLUB INCORPORATED



## Junior Player & Family Handbook (Football)

2024

<https://www.southerneagles.com.au/>

## Welcome

Dear Player & Southern Eagle Family Members,

Welcome back to all our players and families returning to the Southern Eagles Football Club for another season of football in 2024. We also extend an extra special welcome to all our new players and families who will be joining our club for the first time this year. We are sure you will enjoy being a part of the Southern Eagles and that our existing families and volunteers will make you feel very welcome.

This handbook is designed to provide you with the information that you may require for the 2024 season. While we have aimed to cover all required information, should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact our Junior Coordinator, Miriam Honner or your Team Manager.

We look forward to the 2024 season ahead and will endeavour to support you all in having a safe, fair and inclusive year of football. Most importantly we hope it is a fun and exciting season for all our players, volunteers and spectators.

Kind regards,

General Committee

### **The 2024 Management Committee consists of:**

Jack Barlow (President)	Garry Weekley (Vice President)
Wendy Ault (Secretary/Treasurer)	Will Murdoch (Coach Coordinator)
Miriam Honner (Junior Delegate)	Tom Barlow (Game Day Treasurer)
Luke Hoare (Football Player Rep)	Jo Taheny (Social Media & Sponsorship)
Shan Weekley/Tyson Matthias/Dan Player (Netball Reps)	Anna Phasey (Volunteer Enquiries)
Kathleen Slade (Website Updates & Games Roster)	Peter Barlow (Trainer Liaison)

Please feel free to contact one of our Committee Members for further information regarding the structure of our committee, the roles of the committee members, strategic direction/focus, Club policies and procedures, and any enquiries relating to football or club operations.

### **Fee structure for 2024:**

The junior playing fees for the 2024 season are \$125.

All players must be financial and registered before Round 1. Any players who have not registered and paid their playing fees by this time may not be able to participate.

**Player Registrations:**

Players will need to register online via the PlayHQ website at:

<https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/f90310>

At the time of registration, you will be required to pay the playing fees to register as a player. If you have any issues with the registration process, please contact your team manager or our Secretary/Treasurer Wendy Ault via email at [southerneaglesfnc@gmail.com](mailto:southerneaglesfnc@gmail.com).

**Auskick:**

The Auskick fee for the 2024 season is \$100. Auskick sessions will commence in Term 2 on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2024 commencing at Yorketown and will follow the Southern Eagles training blocks from town to town for 10 weeks with the last session Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2024. Sessions will run from 4pm to 5pm. Luke Buchanan will be the coordinator this year and can be contacted with any queries you may have on 0411101679.

Auskick is for boys and girls aged 5 – 12 years old as at 31/12/24.

Auskick registration is online via the PlayHQ website at:

<https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/9a00ad>

**Age Brackets For Junior Football:**

Age brackets for junior football 2024 season:-

Under 9's - Under 9 as at 1/1/24

Under 11's - Under 11 as at 1/1/24

Under 14's - Under 14 as at 1/1/24

Under 17's - Under 17 as at 1/1/24

Auskick - Under 8 as at 1/1/24

**Social Media:**

Southern Eagles regularly use various forms of social media to communicate to our members and promote the Club. We endeavour to take photos and footage of our players in action and use this on social media. If you do NOT provide permission for your child's image to be used please advise your Team Manager directly who will notify our social media officer. Our media team will ensure that your child's image is not used on any social media platforms.

**Sports Vouchers:**

The Sports Vouchers program is a Government of South Australia initiative administered by the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing. The program provides an opportunity for children aged 5 to 15 years old (inclusive) to receive up to a \$100 discount on sports registration fees.

If you are eligible for a Sports Voucher you can use this voucher to cover the cost of the player fees at the point of registration through the PlayHQ website. You will need your Medicare details to use the Sports Voucher. Please note that the Sports Voucher can only be used once per calendar year.

### **Uniforms:**

Football guernseys are supplied each game day and players return them at the end of the game. We're always looking for a helpful parent who is happy to wash the guernseys each week so we encourage you to offer your services if possible. Shorts and socks are available for purchase from SYP Surf & Sports Store at Yorketown.

### **Merchandise:**

The Club has a large selection of merchandise available for purchase from SYP Surf & Sports Store at Yorketown. Merchandise items include Training Tops, Training Singlets, Training Shorts, Playing Shorts - Home & Away, Socks, Track Pants, Beanies, Hoodies, Polos, Hooded, zip jacket, Softshell zip jacket and Duffle bags. Some items may not be in stock all the time so may need to be ordered so get in early (allow 6 weeks for delivery if need to be ordered).

### **Trainings:**

Junior trainings are held each Thursday afternoon after school at the town ovals. Dates for training blocks are set at the beginning of each season and are rotated between the host clubs at Warooka, Yorketown and Edithburgh. Senior colts are welcome to attend additional training sessions with the senior players on Tuesday and Thursday nights if they wish. Hard copies of the game and training program are available around the clubs and various shops and pubs and are also published on the Club Facebook page and website.

### **Games:**

There are 18 rounds in the season with games played throughout the Peninsula – Bute, Kadina, Maitland, Paskeville, Wallaroo, Moonta, Ardrossan, Warooka, Yorketown, Edithburgh, Minlaton, Stansbury and Curramulka. Starting times are Under 9's 9am, Under 11's 9am, Under 14's 10am and Under 17's 11.20am.

### **Player Medical, Health & Wellbeing:**

At Southern Eagles we ensure that football matches at all levels will be played in good quality environments and that the safety of our participants is central to that environment. All teams/age groups are required to have a Sports Trainer or First Aider designated to that team during every game. For our younger age groups, the Trainer is required to have a minimum of a First Aid Certificate. For our Junior/Senior Colt teams the Trainer is required to have a minimum of a First Aid Certificate and Level 1 Sports Trainers Accreditation. During training sessions, a Trainer may not always be present. Therefore, we ask that if you have any specific concerns prior to a training session that you contact our Head Trainer

for advice and speak with your Coach and Team Manager prior to the commencement of the training session.

### **Medical Forms:**

All players are required to complete a Medical Form prior to the commencement of the season. Please ensure that you complete this form via the following online link

<https://forms.office.com/r/3jLx8GXggN>

If you need help completing the online form there will be help available at the Season Launch or from your Team Manager or via links on Facebook and Messenger groups.

If you have any specific concerns or your child requires specific support or injury management please speak with your Trainer and/or the Head Trainer. If your child seeks professional medical attention for a specific injury during the season, please ensure that your medical professional provides an injury management plan or advice to our Head Trainer so that we can assist in supporting the player's injury management and return to play in line with their current health specialist's advice.

### **Player Safety & Hygiene (including COVID-19 restrictions):**

All players are required to obtain their own mouthguard, and this must be worn whilst participating in all games.

Please note that all jewellery must be removed prior to playing. Any jewellery not removed must either be securely covered with tape or it will be required that it be removed.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions players are required to bring their own drink bottle to training and games. Their drink bottle must be CLEARLY LABELLED with their name. No sharing of drink bottles is permitted.

### **Concussion Policy:**

Please note that we are legally bound to follow the Concussion Policy and processes endorsed by the SANFL. Any player with a suspected concussion will be IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM PLAY, and will not be returned to activity until they are assessed medically. Players and their Caregivers must complete a Return To Play Following Concussion Checklist Form as well as a Medical Clearance Form that must be completed by a medical professional. This form must be sighted by the Head Trainer prior to a player being permitted to recommence training or games. Links to the Concussion Management Policy, Return To Play Following Concussion Checklist Form and Medical Clearance Forms are accessible from the club website.

### **Becoming a Trainer:**

We are always seeking volunteers to join our Trainers group. Southern Eagles will cover costs for updating first aid certificates and obtaining Sports Trainers accreditation (if required). We will also provide you with training and support on game days from our fellow experienced Trainers. Being a Trainer is a rewarding role and an excellent way to participate in the team environment. Please contact our Trainers for further information or to express your interest:

Simon Taylor – Head Trainer 0419 850 699

Margie McIntosh – Trainer 0408 816 867

**Mental Health & Wellbeing:**

As a Club we are committed to supporting our players to develop not only on the field but off the field also. SEFNC acknowledges the importance that football plays in supporting players to develop physically, emotionally, and socially. SEFNC has now ensured that we have a volunteer who has been trained as a Mental Health First Aider and is happy to support and assist any players or families who may wish to discuss any concerns in this area. Please feel free to discuss any concerns with your Coaches, Trainers or Team Managers or alternatively you may wish to contact directly our volunteer representative who has been specifically trained in this area. Our trained Mental Health volunteer is:

Jo Rowe (0429 027 447)

**Alcohol and Other Drugs:**

Southern Eagles has a zero-tolerance policy in relation to all illicit drug use and any underage people consuming alcohol.

**Smoking & Vaping**

Our Club encourages a smoke and vape free environment. Smoking and vaping is not permitted within our changerooms or club rooms. Smoking and vaping is only permitted at our home grounds in designated, signed areas.

**Weather Policy:**

In extreme weather conditions the Southern Eagles Football Club may decide to modify the schedule of relevant training sessions to protect players, officials and other participants from exposure to the elements or physical stress. The Coach, Junior Delegate and Club President has the authority to direct the postponement or cancellation of training, if conditions pose an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of participants, officials or spectators.

In the event of hot weather, the Club's policy is to cancel training where a temperature of 32 °C or higher at 4.30pm on the Willy Weather website has been forecast. If a training session is cancelled, the Head Coach and Team Manager of each team are responsible for communicating this to all parents and/or players of their specific team. Southern Eagles will also endeavour to publicise this information via social media at the earliest possible convenience.

**Codes of Conduct & Expectations:**

At Southern Eagles we have high expectations of our Coaches, Volunteers, Players and Spectators when representing our club both on and off the field. We expect that all people associated with the Southern Eagles behave in a respectful, fair, and inclusive manner. Codes of conduct provide clear behavioural guidelines and promote a quality environment in which the game and participants can flourish. We expect that all people associated with our club follow the Player & Officials Code Of Conduct and Parent &

Spectator Code Of Conduct which can be found at our website [www.southerneagle.com.au](http://www.southerneagle.com.au). In brief the Codes expect the following:

**Players:**

- Be a 'good sport' player
- Play by the rules.
- Don't argue – if you disagree with anyone or any decision please discuss this with your Coach first.
- Control your temper – you will gain real respect.
- Be a team player – teams (not individuals) win games.
- Treat all players fairly – as you would like to be treated.
- Work with your coach and teammates – not against them.
- Play for enjoyment and to improve your skills.
- Don't lower yourself, your coach, your parents or your team by making any remarks based on race/gender/sexuality/age or use any disrespectful or degrading use of language. Our club is led by the AFL Gender Diversity Policy, Respect & Responsibility Policy, and Complaint & Investigation Guidelines, all of which are available for access online at <https://www.afl.com.au/policies>

**Parents / Caregivers / Families and Spectators:**

- Be a 'good sport' parent and spectator.
- Encourage participation but don't force it.
- Teach the message that it's not whether you win or lose but how you play the game.
- Encourage an understanding of the rules by showing a genuine interest.
- Never ridicule mistakes or defeats – you will destroy confidence quickly.
- Remember you are there to support the children's enjoyment before your own.
- Lead by example and respect all players, coaches, umpires and spectators.
- Personally recognise all volunteers who are giving their valuable time.
- Never publicly criticise umpires – raise your concerns calmly in private.
- Lead the way in stamping out all racial, verbal or physical abuse.

**\*\*\*As soon as a player is registered to Southern Eagles they are committed to the Southern Eagles Player & Officials Code Of Conduct. As soon as a parent registers their child as a player to Southern Eagles they are committed to the Southern Eagles Parent & Spectator Code Of Conduct. On entry to the oval grounds at Yorketown, Edithburgh and Warooka for training or match day all parents and spectators are committed to the Southern Eagles Parent & Spectator Code Of Conduct.\*\*\***

**Incident Management:**

When any player is registered and is financial and considered as representing the Southern Eagles Football Club, they/the family is committing to the above codes of conduct.

Any players, families, spectators, or associated members of Southern Eagles who are not abiding by the Codes of Conduct will be approached by a Southern Eagles Committee Member to discuss and resolve any behaviour that is deemed to be outside of our reasonable codes of conduct.

Any incident that occurs is to be reported immediately to a Committee member. Our Committee Members will endeavour to resolve any incidents in a timely manner in line with our club's and the AFL policies and procedures.

**Spectator / Parent / Family Volunteering Expectations:**

Our club's success is based on our player and family participation and engagement with the club.

***“The one characteristic that all successful clubs have is a culture of volunteering. Clubs who have created a culture of volunteering, year on year are much more likely to be successful, achieve their goals, be more fun and enjoyable to be a part of, have more social benefits and above all have a strong sense of belonging between the club and its participants.” (Sports Community Website, 2017)***

It is an expectation that all players and families contribute to our club by ensuring that they fulfil the requirement of assisting in the canteen and bar areas as requested/rostered by our home ground clubs Yorketown RSL & Sports, Western United Sports & Community Club and Edithburgh Sporting Club during the seasons home games. These volunteering duties are an excellent opportunity to not only contribute to the clubs but to also meet other players, parents, and families. If you'd like to volunteer your time in these areas but haven't been contacted by the Club(s) please liaise with your Team Manager, Committee Member or Anna Phasey.

Each Team will also require parents/families to assist with game day volunteering roles of Goal Umpiring, Scoring/Timekeeping duties etc. Your Team Manager will develop a roster for these roles and will communicate these to you each round. It is helpful if families can volunteer prior to the commencement of each round to assist our Team Managers with this rostering process. Our Coaches and Team Support Staff also greatly appreciate any players/families who are willing to assist with packing up equipment after games/training.

There are numerous other ongoing volunteer roles at the club that we are always seeking to fill. Some examples of these roles are; Trainers, Auskick coordinators / assistance, Senior Men's A & B Grade Goal Umpires, Umpires, Canteen helpers, Bar Staff, Social Club assistance, sponsorship assistance etc. If you have any specific expertise and want to volunteer but are unsure of what capacity you can volunteer in,



please do not hesitate to contact us and discuss how you may be able to contribute to the Eagle operations. We will provide any training required to confidently fulfil your roles.

For Volunteer enquiries please contact:

Anna Phasey – 0432 254 572 or email [anna.phasey@icloud.com](mailto:anna.phasey@icloud.com).

### **Working With Children Clearances:**

Please note that all Volunteers who are assisting in regular / ongoing volunteering roles are required to have a current Working With Children Clearance (WWCC). The cost of the WWCC is covered by Southern Eagles. If you have a current WWCC we can link your current WWCC to our club. WWCC are all conducted by the Department of Human Services and are in line with Government legislation regarding child protection. For WWCC information please contact our Secretary Wendy Ault on 0432 230 611.

### **Grievance Procedure / Conflict Resolution:**

Southern Eagles highly value its Coaches, Runners, Team Managers, Trainers, and other volunteers that contribute to getting players participating and the general running of our club and its facilities. All these people are VOLUNTEERS and make personal sacrifices to provide support to our players and the club. We expect that all Volunteers are treated with respect and support from players, families, and spectators.

Our Coaches and team support volunteers are dedicated individuals who make decisions not only regarding individual players, but also make decisions whilst considering the team, the club, and the league's expectations. This is not an easy task! Sometimes a decision may appear to have a short-term negative consequence for an individual but an overall positive outcome for the team. We encourage that you discuss this with your child and assist them in understanding and developing awareness of team decisions, managing success and failures, whilst also fostering resilience.

Please be supportive of our coaches and support team volunteers and provide any positive and constructive feedback or encouragement along the way. We also ask that you respect coaching decisions and allow our coaches and team support volunteers to be responsible for providing feedback to the players and teams during games and training sessions.

Coaching from the sidelines can be detrimental to player development and team cohesiveness. Coaching from the sidelines can also cause mixed messages to occur and interfere with game plans and confuse our players. We do encourage you to support the team and provide positive encouragement during games. We ask that you refrain from providing negative feedback directly to our coaches and support teams as they are volunteers and without them, we are unable to function. If, however you have any issues that needs to be addressed or resolved we require that the following process is adhered to:

We encourage that if any grievances arise that you take the time to process the issue and sleep on it first. Please do not approach our Coaches or Team Support volunteers directly during your teams allocated preparation and game day timeslots. Our Coaches and team support volunteers are encouraged not to deal with grievances during game day operations or training sessions.

All grievances should be directed to Junior Delegate, Miriam Honner via email ([mimhonner@bigpond.com](mailto:mimhonner@bigpond.com)). If there is a conflict of interest, then please contact a fellow Committee Member on the provided contact numbers on page 2.

The Junior Delegate or Committee Member will discuss the issue with all parties involved and endeavour to resolve the issue.

Any grievances that are of a serious nature will be escalated to the Club Management Committee for further discussion and to assess if further action above the attempted resolution is required.

The Southern Eagles Committee is the highest level of escalation of grievance issues. Note that any issues that may occur that are at a higher level will be resolved in line with the YPFL, SANFL, SANFLW or AFL policies if required.

Please ensure that you follow this procedure as any issues or grievances raised outside of this may not be properly resolved. This procedure ensures that issues are managed appropriately and fairly and that communication is transparent with all required parties.

### **Junior Football Operations:**

#### **Senior Colts / Junior Colts level:**

1. All coaches are required to have a minimum of level 1 AFL coaching accreditation.
2. Players are expected to attend training and participate to their full potential. When players are unavailable to attend training or games, they are to advise their coaches directly.
3. Players are expected to attend game days in Eagles clothing and behave in a manner that represents the club positively.
4. Players are expected to Boundary Umpire / run water for the grade above and will be rostered on to do so.
5. Players are expected to assist with other volunteering duties where appropriate.
6. It is general philosophy that all players are encouraged to compete at the highest level at which they are required and deemed capable of playing.
7. When excess numbers of players exist within a team every effort will be made to ensure the fairest participation for all players.
8. Accurate records of training and selections must be maintained by coaches. Selection should be weighted in favour of older players but should endeavour to have all available players play at least 50% of all matches providing they abide by the Code of Conduct and training requirements.
9. In the event of insufficient numbers being available to fill a team, the best suited (stature / ability/emotional maturity) players from the next lower grade should be strongly encouraged to play up in the higher team on a temporary or permanent basis depending on the requirement. This decision will be made by a selection panel of both Coaches (lower and higher team level) and a minimum of two Colts Committee members. Any player that is selected to play in a higher level must have parental / guardian

consent to do so prior to the player being advised of the selection and permitted to play up – a 'Play Up' form will need to be completed by parents and the Eagles Club on the WEDNESDAY prior to the game.

10. Players who occasionally fill in for a higher-level team should not be penalised if the grade they normally play in is subject to a rotating player roster.
11. A maximum of six players are permitted to play up in a higher-level team on any given day.
12. Selection panels are not restricted when selecting teams for finals matches except that all available players for that grade must be selected prior to selecting players from a lower grade.
13. In exceptional circumstances, the Colts Committee and if required the Senior Committee will have the final decision (with the consultation of the players parent/s or guardians directly and player/s) regarding playing a player at a higher level in finals and exceptional circumstances. This decision will be made in line with our club's philosophy, strategic plan, and overall player wellbeing in mind holistically.

### **SANFL Selections:**

Consistent with the philosophy of encouraging our players to aspire to higher levels, players who are available for selection after playing with SANFL clubs shall not be discriminated against providing they have displayed appropriate conduct in relation to communication with selectors, attendance and attitude to training (where reasonable) and motivation to be a part of Southern Eagles teams.

### **Schools/College:**

Players who are required to play for their School/College who make themselves available for selection shall not be discriminated against provided they have displayed appropriate conduct in relation to communication with selectors, attendance and attitude to training (where reasonable) and motivation to be a part of Southern Eagles teams.

The intention of this policy is that as much as possible players should not be discriminated against or be given preferential treatment due to their participation in SANFL or school teams.

If players in these circumstances are not selected the onus is on the selection panel to be able to demonstrate justification as to their non-selection in accordance with club policy.

Selection panels are encouraged to seek clarification/direction from the Junior Delegate in relation to this policy.

**Under 11's:**

All coaches are required to have a minimum of level 1 AFL coaching accreditation.

Players are expected to attend training and participate to their full potential. When players are unavailable to attend training or games, their parents/caregiver are to advise their coaches directly.

Players are expected to Boundary Umpire / run water for the grade above and will be rostered on to do so.

Encouragement awards will be distributed evenly to all players throughout the season. These are based on; demonstrating club values, improvement, attitude and effort. Records will be kept of all awards issued to ensure that all players are evenly rewarded.

Any players identified as having their skills limited by playing at their age level will be required to play at least a minimum of 2 games in their selected age group to be observed and assessed by a selection panel of a minimum of 2 committee members.

For further information and direct access to all our Southern Eagles Club Policies, SANFL, AFL policies that we are governed by please refer to the following website:

[www.southerneagles.com.au](http://www.southerneagles.com.au)

<https://www.afl.com.au/policies>

<https://sanfl.com.au/communityfootball/policies/>