

Floreat Athena Football Club

Parents Handbook



| WELCOME

Welcome to the Floreat Athena Football Club. We are a semi-professional football club with a rich and enduring history. Like most football (soccer) clubs established in Australia at the time, Floreat Athena's origins are founded in ethnic migrants who had a passion for football.

We have players in our MiniRoo's, Junior NPL, Junior League, Girl's and our Senior NPL teams. We look forward to seeing you all at the club during the 2023 season.

| ABOUT

The Athena Club was established in 1951 as a place for the local Greek community to unite around football. It also became a place for Greeks to socialise and promote their culture to the broader Australian population. In 1953, the club entered a team into the third division of WA's State League and by 1960 Athena was playing in the top-flight competition.

The club has been a stalwart in the State League Premier competition, in all its incarnations, for the past 6 decades.

During the 60's the club became one of the founding clubs in the newly formed Soccer Federation of Western Australia. Floreat Athena remains one of the few founding clubs still in existence today.

By the 1970's, Athena had outgrown its temporary home of Wellington Square and moved to Perry Lakes Stadium in Floreat. The Club added Floreat to its name and so became Floreat Athena Football Club.

In 1977, Floreat Athena won its first major trophy by clinching the First Division Premiership.

But it was during the 1980's that the Club enjoyed its golden era, dominating the State League, winning numerous trophies across all age groups, and building its new clubhouse on the site of the Lake Monger Velodrome.

With the introduction of Perth Glory into the National League in the mid-1990's, interest in the local State League began to wane, however, Floreat Athena managed to maintain its strong supporter base and continued to draw big crowds.

| CODES OF CONDUCT

The behaviour of players, parents, spectators, officials and administrators is absolutely critical in ensuring that young players enjoy an appropriate environment in their formative years of playing football. The major focus should be on letting the children play with minimal instruction and plenty of encouragement.

The Player and Parent Code of Conduct can be found [HERE](#). Please make yourselves familiar with the Codes of Conduct and ensure that you abide by them at all times. Failure to comply with the Codes of Conduct may result in the Club serving notice with suspension from training, match days and or removed from the Club's leased grounds.

| AGE GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

Our Age Group Co-ordinators are available to answer any questions you may have in relation to the Club, registration, which age group to register your child etc. Please email your age group co-ordinator at junioradmin@floreatathenafc.com.au.



U6 & U7 – To be appointed

U8 & U9 – To be appointed

U10, U11 & U12 – Carl Franchina

Girls & Women's Teams – Kelsey Hayes

U13 Junior League, U13 to U16 NPL Juniors – Trent Smith

If you are interested in becoming an Age Group Co-ordinator please let us know at junioradmin@floreatathenafc.com.au. Please refer to the [Age Group Coordinator job description](#) for what this role entails.

| MEMBER PROTECTION FRAMEWORK

The main objective of the [Member Protection Framework](#) is to ensure that core values, good reputation and positive behaviours and attitudes are maintained in football. It outlines our commitment to a person's right to be treated with respect and dignity, and to be safe and protected from discrimination, harassment, and abuse.

The Member Protection Framework informs everyone involved in our club of his or her legal and ethical rights and responsibilities and the standards of behaviour that are expected of them. It also covers the care and protection of children participating in our club's activities.

Our Member Protection Information Officers are available to provide guidance on your rights, responsibilities and options when considering making a complaint or raising a concern, as well as support you during the process. They will give you information on the process and offer solutions. They do not investigate the complaint or concern. This is managed by our Complaints Officer.

Member Protection Information Officers:

Lesa Thomson

e: lesathomson23@gmail.com

m: 0408 641 741

Complaints Officer:

Ken Smith

e: kenandjulz@inet.net.au

m: 0428 949 078

| GIRLS FOOTBALL

2022 saw us for the first time have a girls-only team in the U16 Football West all girls' competition. With the Women's FIFA World Cup coming to Australia and New Zealand in 2023 we are actively expanding our girls' teams and hope to create more pathways for girls and women at the Club. In 2023, we will be fielding teams in the U10s, 12s and 14s Football West all girls' competitions.

We appreciate that girls need to be provided with choice in terms of whether they wish to play in mixed or all girls competitions, and we plan to accommodate the choices our girls make in 2023. Within the Play Football registration, you will find selections for girls only or mixed teams.



| SKILLS PROGRAMS

Floreat Athena FC will be providing an optional SKILLS Program. There will be three groups to train with: MINI's 6s – 8s, Skills Acquisition Program 9s – 12s and GIRLS. These sessions will take place on Friday afternoons at Litis Stadium. The SKILLS sessions will be available to book per term at a cost of \$15 per session.

| COACHES

If you are interested in coaching a team, please email junioradmin@floreatathenafc.com.au to advise which team you are interested in coaching. Please refer to the [Coaches job description](#) for what this role entails. The Club will support our Coaches with training and regular catchups to exchange ideas and/or assist with any challenges.

Thank you to the parents who have already volunteered to take on the very important job of coaching our kids!

Please support your coaches during both training and games by ensuring you arrive on time, supporting their decisions and by understanding that they are volunteers.

| TEAM MANAGERS

If you are interested in being the team manager for your child's team, please email junioradmin@floreatathenafc.com.au to advise which team you are interested in being Team Manager for. Please refer to the [Team Manager job description](#) for what this role entails.

Thank you to the parents who have already volunteered to take on the very important job of keeping your team organised!

| TRAINING AND MATCH DAYS

Your child's safety and behaviour while at training and on match days remains your responsibility.

Please ensure that if you are leaving your child at training or a match you have asked another parent to take responsibility for them and tell your coach/team manager if someone other than yourself will be collecting them.

Please make yourself familiar with our [Picking up and dropping off Children Policy](#).

TRAINING

Team training will commence mid-February 2023 one or two nights per week to be determined by the coach. Training days and times are subject to coach and training area availability.

An optional but highly encouraged SKILLS session will be offered each term (refer Skills Program above). All teams will play and train at Britannia Reserve for the 2023 season.

Throughout the season, we will have our senior teams come down and assist your coach with training.

MATCH DAYS

Our MiniRoo's play on a Sunday morning. Your team manager will communicate match times and locations for your child's matches.

Team fixtures can also be found through the Squadi app. Please understand that fixtures are likely to change, especially in the early weeks of the season as teams are added and leagues adjusted.



Half-time oranges/watermelon and post-match treats are traditionally provided at every match. Your team manager will advise how this responsibility will be shared/rostered.

ATTENDANCE

Please remember that your child is a member of a team and much time and effort go into organising training sessions and match days.

Coaches put a lot of time in to ensuring that each child has their fair share of field time, and this can be thrown when people arrive late or don't turn up to a match. A pre-match warm up is also a very important part of match days and gives the children adequate time to warm up and for the coach to conduct a team brief prior to kick-off.

Where your child is absent due to illness or travel, please make your team manager aware as soon as possible.

| PARENT GUIDE TO MINIROOS (U6s TO U12s)

For more information and an outline of the MiniRoo's curriculum we follow, please click [HERE](#).

| VOLUNTEERS

We are a grassroots community club and almost all our officials and staff are volunteers. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our game and an important part of our football community. Football is extremely fortunate to have tens of thousands of capable, hard-working and dedicated volunteers working on and off the field to support the players who play football week in, and week out in the community. Football wouldn't be football without volunteers. Without them we wouldn't be able to run our club as efficiently and smoothly as we do.

We all have busy lives, and it can be hard to find time to volunteer, but did you know, the benefits of volunteering can be enormous. Not only are you helping your local community club provide a safe place for our children and families to come together and play football but also an avenue for connection to your local community.

Volunteering can also reduce stress, combat depression, keep you mentally stimulated, and provide a sense of purpose. While it's true that the more you volunteer, the more benefits you'll experience, volunteering doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your busy day.

You will be asked at registration to select one of the following volunteering roles:

- Coach
- Assistant Coach
- Team Manager
- Junior Committee Member
- Sponsor
- Events co-ordination
- Social Media

In addition to the above, throughout the season we ask for volunteers to assist with match day duties (set-up/pack-up of goals, canteen duty and ground marshals). Please see **Match Day Responsibilities** for what each of these roles entail. Your team will be rostered on approx. four times

during the season. We would encourage you to share these duties within your team as many hands make light work. Coaches and team managers are exempt from these duties.

Your team/age group will also be rostered to volunteer at a senior's home game. A parent/guardian will be required to attend as a volunteer to assist on the gate, be a ground marshall or help in the canteen. Once the senior fixtures are finalised, your team will be allocated a single round (18s, 20s or 1st team). If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Club.

If you would like to find out how you can volunteer and the many different volunteering roles at Floreat Athena Football Club, please email admin@floreatathenafc.com.au.

| MATCH DAY RESPONSIBILITIES

MINIROOS AND JUNIORS

During the season we ask for volunteers to assist with a number of duties on match days at home matches only. These roles include:

Ground Marshall – responsible for ensuring that spectators and players are behaving in accordance with our [Player and Parent Code of Conduct](#), are available to answer questions from spectators and liaise with club officials.

Please also refer to the Ground Marshall's Rights and Responsibilities and our Spectator Code of Conduct available [HERE](#).

A high vis vest is available for collection from the canteen. A Ground Marshall's Rights and Responsibilities document is also available for reading.

Canteen – whether it's cooking a few sausages, serving coffee or taking orders, the canteen is a fun place to be and meet and engage with fellow parents.

Two people from each team will be needed and will generally be for one hour before your child's game but on the odd occasion it may be for one hour after the match.

Referee – it is the team's responsibility to field a Referee for all home games. The team manager or coach should not act as a referee. On-field support is required for the U6s and U7s matches both at home and away. MiniRoo's national formats and rules can be found [HERE](#), the rules are super simple!

If your team is unable to field a referee, then you must source one from outside the team and share any associated fee evenly between the families.

Set-up/Pack-up of the pitches – this involves returning the corner flags/posts and pitch numbers to the equipment storeroom and returning the goals to the side of the cricket nets outside the Britannia club rooms. (Note: Pitch 2 and 7 only require the nets to be removed and returned to the storeroom.)

U18s, U20s AND FIRST TEAM

During the season parents will be required to nominate a date that suits them to assist with a senior's match day. These roles include:

Ground Marshall – responsible for ensuring that spectators are behaving in an appropriate manner and helping with the security and safety of players, match referees and officials. Ground Marshalls must escort the referees to and from the pitch, collect balls that are kicked out of the pitch area and returned to the pitch and ensure the three match balls are retrieved at the end of each match.



Please refer to the Ground Marshall's Rights and Responsibilities and our Spectator Code of Conduct available [HERE](#).

Gate – this involves taking payment for entry to the ground via cash or EFTPOS.

| EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

EVENTS

Aside from the football component we also want to bring the community closer and run events that both the players and players' friends and families can attend throughout the year.

These may include:

- Quiz nights
- Bogan Bingo
- Sausage sizzles
- Food themed nights
- Team dinners
- Attending senior NPL matches as mascots and or ball kids
- End of season presentation day

Please feel free to suggest any other event ideas to the junior committee at junioradmin@floreataathenafc.com.au.

FUNDRAISING

Our one major fundraising effort for the season is the Football West Raffle. There are some amazing prizes up for grabs with a car being the first prize. Every dollar raised by selling these raffle tickets comes back to the Club which helps us to provide upgrades to the clubrooms and any major equipment upgrades required. We thank you in advance for every ticket that you sell which benefits your Club.