

First Kicks/Fun Football Information Sheet

Location:

Metro Park Millwater. RDS uses the area as per the below picture.



What Happens On a Saturday Morning:

- First Kicks/Fun Football sessions are Saturday mornings from 08:40 to 09:45.
- **Be there no later than 8:30.** It takes time for teams to gather together, attendance recorded etc prior to the start.
- **Allow time to find parking,** we have 250 families taking part this season.
- When you arrive, find the signpost with your child's Team Name on it. Their team name is in the welcome email you have received.
- Check the field layout map, to find which playing field your team is using on the day. You can also visit our web site prior to the day, where the field map will be published in the downloadable documents [here](#).

- Have your child's attendance recorded by your team's coach, or their assistant. If your child cannot attend because of sickness or another reason, contact your coach to tell them. **THREE FAILURES TO ATTEND, WITHOUT ADVICE, and your child could lose their place in the team to another who is on our waitlist. Discuss with your coach how they prefer to be advised of absences**
- Every player has a coloured bib to be put on, and every team in a grade has a different coloured bib. Please help them put these on. It helps the coach know when everyone has arrived. **Do not take bibs home with you.**
- While the children are having their warm up, please make your way to the field being used by your team. Their coach will remain with the team sign post, and bring the team over.
- All teams then have approximately 30 mins of fun based skill activities.
- Teams then divide into two groups of 5, 4 or 3, and play a game or games against 5,4 or 3 players from the teams on an adjacent field. Rules are few, and will vary according to the age grade of your child. Emphasis is on using the skills that have been shown (hopefully) 😊
- At the final whistle/siren/hooter, teams pack up. Your assistance is greatly appreciated with this.
- Put all bibs back in the bag provided.
- Collect all balls and put in the bag provided.
- Goals are folded, and all these items returned to the storage container area. RDS committee members will stack it away.
- Once everyone is familiar with this routine, typically 2 – 3 weeks, we will be introducing "Player Of The Day" awards at this time, before you depart.

Season Dates:

The 2024 football season starts on 27th April for First Kicks/Fun Football players. The season finishes in late September. If a lot of games have been cancelled due to bad weather; the season may be extended slightly.

First Kicks Players:

These are our youngest boys and girls, and are either 4, 5 or 6 years old. It's all about having fun with some very basic skill activities for them to join in on. Players are arranged into teams, usually of 10.

Fun Football:

Similar to First Kicks, but for 7 - 8 year old players. This remains all about fun, with slightly more advanced skills activities, are introduced. From 8 years on girls can elect to play in an all girls team.

Uniform:

Players must wear their uniform as supplied by the club. Shinpads and boots to be provided by parents or guardians. Socks are RDS Purple, and available from the club for \$15/pair, or two for \$25.

Coach/Manager:

Usually a parent or grandparent volunteer, so be kind, and we love offers to help!. Duties can be shared between several people, if needed. No qualifications or previous experience as a coach is necessary and you don't have to know all the rules to start.

RDS has a Technical Director of football, Mauricio Rogas, who is a level 1 qualified coach. Mauricio will run coach the coaches sessions which are a great way to gain an understanding of how to coach your team. He will be explaining how Saturday mornings will be structured, and the hour of time will be filled.

Cancellation:

Please do not phone or message RDS admin, coaches and managers of your team. Cancellation of Saturday morning training and games is the responsibility of RDS Football. We will notify cancellations via our [FB Group page](#) and the web site. It is rare that we will cancel, so be prepared to play rain or shine.

Friendly Manager System:

RDS uses an application (Friendly Manager) which all parents will access to, using the email address that you provided during registration.

1. To gain access simply go to www.rdsports.co.nz, Click on the log-in/register option on the top right-hand side of the page.
2. Enter you email address in the username followed by the default password provided in your registration confirmation email received (some parents have reported this going to their Spam folders, so please check).
3. Update your password if prompted.
4. Once logged in, you will be able to see:
 - Your child's player profile
 - Update contact details
 - See your child's team and if you click on team name you will see your child's team, coach and contact details.
5. If you have any issues logging-in, please email info@rdsports.co.nz

Setting Up:

Volunteers set the fields out early on Saturday mornings from 7am, and any assistance with this is always appreciated. We have 27 sets of goals to be taken out of the storage container and set out, and 27 sets of cones etc. Setting up starts no later than 07:00.

Packing Down:

At the end of the session, all the goals and cones are taken to the blue storage container. If you can assist by bringing these to the container, that would be great. RDS committee members will pack it away.

Equipment:

In addition to the above field equipment, RDS provides footballs and coloured bibs for each team. The team coach has responsibility for these, and will distribute **and collect**. Balls are kept in a purpose made bag. Player of the Day trophy and certificates, are for each team. Parent/Guardians to return the POD trophy the following game day when attendance is being taken.

Parking:

There is free parking at Metro Park and in the surrounding streets. Children must be supervised at all times, especially in the carpark areas.

Parking will be very limited this year. There are also a group of runners that start early, and use the car park before and during the early part of our Saturday timeframe.

Please allow time to park and walk to the grounds, so that you can be there **no later than 0830**.