



# 2022 Normanhurst Eagles Development Squads Information

This document contains information around the process and requirements for participation in the NEFC Development Squad Program.

## **BACKGROUND, CULTURE AND PHILOSOPHY**

Normanhurst Eagles Football Club has been in existence for 64 years and during this time we have strived to create a community football environment that has thrived on the following principles:

1. Football accessible to **all**; irrespective of gender, race or capability
2. Development & enjoyment above winning at all costs
3. Respect towards football, club, opponents and self
4. Offering a pathway to allow players to develop to their full potential.

Club football is occasionally seen as a second or third tier within the development pathway for players, resulting in talented players often having to choose between playing for the local club with friends, or following a development pathway with Association Skills Acquisition Programs (SAP) or Representative teams. The outcome of this is that the quality of club football drops off rapidly as talented players move to the development programs or players with strong prospects choose to stay with their club and are not developed to their full potential.

**The single purpose of the NEFC Development Squads is to remove obstacles that can inhibit talented community football players from developing to their full potential within their local community club.**

Some of these obstacles include cost, convenience, locations and the playing culture associated with representative organisations. Through the development programs, NEFC is looking to build a love for the game in all our players and to be competitive within the NWSF Competitions, as well as building a pathway for players to proceed to Representative Football if they desire at a later stage.

It is of critical importance to the club that the values and principles of the entire Normanhurst Eagles Football Club are maintained with the Development Squad program. The purpose of the program is not to develop an elite team to win competitions but to ensure that players are given the opportunity to maximise their football potential while maintaining their connection to Normanhurst Eagles.

While playing ability and skills are a key part of selection into the Development Squads the following criteria are considered:

- Respect for the game, referees, opposing players and coaches
- A fair, competitive and positive attitude during both training and games.
- Respect for the learning process at training and games
- Support for the club and volunteering



## **TRAINING AND COACHING (MIXED DEVELOPMENT SQUADS)**

The NEFC believes the best way to advance the development of young players is for them to play against and with players of an equally high standard. The Development Squads will be run as the highest graded team within each Mixed age division (this does not automatically mean Division 1). Players wanting to play in the top division are expected to take part in the Development Squad program.

The expectation from the Club is that the teams will train twice per week - once as part of the Development Squad program and once as a team based training under the team/club coach.

Players will train under the Development Squad program on **Monday or Tuesday Nights** alongside the other age division Development Squads at **Asquith Boys High**. This DS training has been moved to Asquith Boys to allow us to utilise the synthetic pitch in the event of rain and to ensure that players get the most out of the program.

Kano coaches will coach the Monday/Tuesday sessions alongside the Club Coaches. Based on our long-standing relationship with Kano, they have committed their most senior coaches to the NEFC Development Program with C- and B-license coaching certifications. These coaches will offer more advanced skills, match awareness and techniques that are typically only able to be accessed through Association level SAP programs and are more highly certified compared to the regular Kano coaches who train our mini and junior team training.

The Club Coaches will work closely with the Kano Coach to identify where the development in terms of skills, technique and game play are required through feedback from weekend games and team training. This will allow for a very personalised coaching program to be developed both for the individual players and for the teams.

For the second team training night, teams can elect to run their own training under the Club Coach, or choose to utilise Kano for a second session with the most suitable time arranged by the team. It should be noted that the costs for a second Kano session are not included in the Development Squad Costs.

Development Squad training is slated to commence at the start of March and proceed until the end of the 2021 Season with a break during the June School Holiday (18 Sessions). The team training sessions will commence prior to the start of the Season in April..

## **TRAINING AND COACHING (GIRLS DEVELOPMENT SQUADS)**

The Girls Development Squads will run as two combined age squads (U9/U10 and U11/12). Players in these squads will train as part of the Development Squads on Tuesday nights as per the Mixed Development Squads but will play as part of the highest graded team in their respective age divisions as part of the Sunday NWSF Competition. Their second training night will be based on how their age division team chooses to train (Kano or Club Coach).



# NORMANHURST EAGLES FOOTBALL CLUB

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## COMPETITIONS AND MATCHES

Players in the mixed U9 - U12 Development Squads will play as a team as part of the regular Saturday morning NWSF competition. Players in the girls U9/U10 and G11/12 development squads will train as part of the Development Squads but play as part of the highest graded team in their respective age divisions as part of the Sunday NWSF Competition.

While the Development Squad team would take part in the NWSF regular competition on the weekend, there is also the opportunity for the team to play in other competitions including the Kano Cup for ages up to U11. The cost for entry into these competitions is covered by the cost of the Development Squad Program.

In addition, we now have the opportunity for the Development Squad teams to play against other DS/SAP Squads outside of the NWSF association through the Kano network. We anticipate that the Development Squad will have the opportunity to play at least three games over the course of the season against opposition outside of the NWSF Association. These games will take place during the Development Squad training nights.

Finally, teams can elect to take part in other competitions that are announced throughout the course of the year including the Mongo Inter-Association Competition run by Macquarie Dragons. These costs are included in the cost of the development program.

## PROGRAM COST

The cost to participate in the 2022 Development Squads has been set at **\$100 per player** in addition to the registration costs. The Club has aimed to minimise family expenses as much as possible and have utilised club sponsor - Saliba Real Estate - as the dedicated Development Squad sponsor. These contributions have been used to directly subsidise the cost of the Development Squad program to allow the club to keep the costs of running the Development Squad program as low as possible, while giving as many opportunities as we possibly can.

The \$100 cost will cover the following:

- Entry in Kano Cup and other competitions outside of the NWSF competition
- 17 Sessions of Kano coaching with C- and B-licence level Kano coaches.
- Inter-Association Development Squad matches and any costs associated with extra games (referee costs etc.)
- New players to the NEFC Development Squad will also be provided with an Development Squad Alternate Strip to be worn to all DS Training and DS Games (the normal Normanthurst Strip is still worn at part of the Saturday Games).

Payment for the Development Squad will be required in July, to allow use of the second Active Kids voucher to be utilised to further reduce the cost.



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## **PLAYERS NOT SELECTED**

NEFC is working hard to strike the balance between community and representative football whilst remaining committed to our principals that have served us well for 64 years. We fully appreciate players unsuccessful in their application to the development program will experience some level of disappointment. In our experience young players develop at different speeds and non selection in one season does not exclude them from development squads in subsequent years. The Kano training programs already in place at Normanhurst will continue to run as per previous years and will play an essential role in the provision of a wide talent pool of players. Players at all levels will continue to have the opportunity to develop further through optional additional Kano sessions that can be arranged.

NEFC Committee  
Normanhurst Eagles Football Club



## QUESTIONS

### ***How many training sessions will each team have per week?***

It is expected that players in top graded side trains **twice per week**. Once as part of Development Squad training and one other evening based on the preference of the team.

### ***What does my child get for the Development Squad Fee?***

- Access to C-license and B-license accredited coaches who will be able to offer a higher level of coaching to teams and individual players
- Extra games against other Clubs with Development Squads on the Tuesday Night
- Entry fees covered into gala days and competitions

For comparison, the cost of T3 training in 2020 was approximately \$75 for per player for 15 weeks of training.

### ***Are there any other fees to pay as part of the Development Squad (outside of Registration Fees and Development Squad Fees)?***

This will depend on how a team chooses to run their second training session. If they chose to use Kano for their second session, they will need to pay the full Kano fee of \$10.35 per week (exact cost TBC). If a team chooses to run their second training session under the club coach, then no other fees will be payable.

### ***When is the Development Squad Fee due for Payment?***

The Development Squad fee will not be due until the second half of the year to enable the use of the NSW Government Active Kids Voucher. The process for payment will be communicated at that time.