



## Te Atatu Association Football Club

### First Kicks and Fun Football (2023)

Te Atatu Football First Kicks and Fun Football is an in-house non-competition program based at Ramlea Park, Taikata Rd. It is for our 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade players.

We also offer an option for 8th grade players to play in teams that play in the NFF Western Junior Framework Competition.

We celebrate involvement, effort and success, and encourage parents to cheer the kids on, get involved and make it fun. The aim for our youngest club members is to not only develop in them some early football skills, but more importantly to develop in them a love for the game which will hopefully lead to a lifelong love of football. It's also a chance for you as their parents/guardians to get involved in football and learn a little about supporting your kids' football development while you're still likely to be a bit better than them!

Our Te Atatu Football programme is aligned with NZ Football's Whole of Football Framework which aims to allow players to experience age appropriate football games and coaching in a programme that is specifically tailored to meet their football wants and needs.

### Grades for 2023

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Grades are based on the year of the players birth, see table

Program	Date of Birth (Year)	Grade	Type
First Kicks	2019	4th Grade	In-house
First Kicks	2018	5th Grade	In-house
First Kicks	2017	6th Grade	In-house
Fun Football	2016	7th Grade	In-house
Fun Football	2015	8th Grade	In-house
Western Junior Framework (Fun Football)	2015	8th Grade WJF	External Comp

### Registration and Fees

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Football Registration Process – click here [www.teatatusoccer.org.nz](http://www.teatatusoccer.org.nz) to register online.

Fees for the 2023 season are \$75

You can pay online during the registration process or choose the Pay Later Option and pay via online banking (12-3037-0394449-00), or at the club using cheque/EFTPOS or Credit Card.

It will speed things up on Game Day if your player is REGISTERED prior to the season starting.

Registration Lists will be used as sign-in sheets each week and to keep track of players, numbers, and Player of the Days.

## Training and Game Days

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We train once a week on Tuesday afternoons and play small sided games on a Saturday morning.

Training is used to further develop football skills by a combination of fun exercises and small sided games. It is best if children can bring their own ball to training – size 3 please. The training exercises are easy for parents to lead with all coaching resources supplied by NZ Football.

Game Day is Saturday morning from 8am. The children are placed into teams on the day, within their age group and skill level. That means if you turn up you will ALWAYS get a game and if you are away then you haven't let your team down!

8th Grade players (born 2013) have the option of playing in-house OR joining one of our teams that play in the NFF Western Junior Framework (WJF) – see following section for more details.

Parent help is needed for both of these days to be successful each week. Please see following section for more info on how you can do this.

## Playing Days Calendar

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	<b>First Kicks (4th-6th Grade)</b>		<b>Start Dates</b>	<b>Holidays - No Training/Game</b>	<b>End Date</b>
<b>Intro FUN Day</b>	Saturday 1st April	9-11am			
<b>Training Day</b>	Tuesdays	4-5pm	Tues May 2nd	No trainings during school holidays or public holidays	End Term 3
<b>Game Day</b>	Saturdays	8-8:45am	Sat April 29th	No game days during school holidays or public holidays	End Term 3
	<b>Fun Football (7th - 8th Grade)</b>		<b>Start Dates</b>	<b>Holidays - No Training/Game</b>	<b>End Date</b>
<b>Intro FUN Day</b>	Saturday 1st April				
<b>Training Day</b>	Tuesdays	4:30-5:30 pm	Tues May 2nd	No trainings during school holidays or public holidays	End Term 3
<b>Game Day</b>	Saturdays	8:45am -9:45am	Sat April 29th	No game days during school holidays or public holidays	End Term 3

	<b>Western Junior Framework (WJF - 8th Grade)</b>		<b>Start Dates</b>	<b>Holidays - No Training/Game</b>	<b>End Date</b>
<b>Training Day</b>	Wed / Thurs TBC	4:30-5:30 pm	TBC	School Holidays	TBC
<b>Game Day</b>	Saturday	8-9:30am	Sat April 29th	School holidays	TBC

## Kit/Equipment Requirements

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- Shinpads – These are compulsory (per NFF & FIFA), Approx cost \$10. We may have some club sets so please see the sign in desk if you need to borrow a pair for the day.
- Ball – required for training, the smaller Size 3 ball is preferred (but any ball is better than none)
- Shorts & Socks – Royal Blue
- Shirt - TAFC First Kicks Shirt – The new design Shirt is stocked by Score Sportswear. [Click here](#)
- If you have the old design, this is still fine to wear, or a plain Royal Blue t-shirt.

- Boots – recommended once the grounds get softer. There are often second hand boots available.

The Lotto Shop on our club website has starter packs of Shorts, Socks, shinpads & ball.

## Summer Soccer

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If you can't wait until the winter season to start, we also have Friday evening Summer Soccer available to all.

Friday nights 5pm – 7pm (all welcome, no registration fee)

February 10th/17th/24th 2023.

## In-House Program – more detail

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### **First Kicks – 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Our First Kicks program teaches kids the basics of the game. This includes the concept of a team, how to dribble and pass, keeping the ball in the field of play, scoring goals, defending your goal – and the basics of “if I’m wearing a bib I’m heading in which direction?” For our youngest players, getting them involved and on the field is the primary goal, and sometimes that takes mum or dad holding their hand on the field until they’re happy (and that’s ok with us!)

When they graduate from First Kicks they’ll know the fundamentals of the game and be developing their skills.

In First Kicks football we have no goal keepers, and no throw ins (they kick in from the sideline). The kids never pick up the ball so that it becomes natural that they do everything with their feet.

First Kicks fields are small (to reflect the size of the players) and we try to keep the teams to 3 or 4 a side so that each player gets as many touches on the ball as possible.

### **Fun Football –7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

At this age the fields get a little bit bigger, but we still have no goal keepers, and no throw-ins.

Teams are typically about 5 a side. The numbers of kids involved starts to grow at this level so we try to group them by skill level so that each child has appropriate competition.

The Grade Co-ordinators will sort players between the levels as the players change and grow throughout the season (they are not put into set teams).

The focus here is not only on strengthening their football skills, but also on understanding the benefits of passing the ball, using their team and commencing an understanding of placement around the field (to avoid the swarm).

We do try to have at least one in-house tournament during the season for these kids to play in so they experience team-based competition before they move into Junior teams at 9th grade.

### **Western Junior Framework – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade WJF**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade players (born 2015) have the option of continuing to play in-house at Ramlea Park OR joining one of our WJF teams (Western Junior Framework).

The WJF is run with participating clubs around West Auckland. It has previously been based at Waitemata FC, McLeod Park, Te Atatu South and also West Auckland AFC, Brains Park, Kelston. (we assume this will be the same again this season).

The season follows the NFF playing season dates (different to our in-house program). Season start is Sat 29<sup>th</sup> April. Training day is also different to our in-house day – will most likely be Wednesday or Thursday afternoons.

The teams play against other Western based clubs every Saturday morning, playing 3 x short 15 minute games. The scores are recorded but there are no published results or Championship winners so it is competitive but development focused.

Game format is 5v5 so we like to have teams of 6-7 players to maximize the amount of playing time for everyone. However this means a high level of commitment is required from all players.

Teams will need a coach and manager/scorer. We are not asking for qualified coaches here, just parents that are keen and have the time and energy – we can provide coaching courses, resources and assistance if needed.

Our teams are not graded in this competition, so we aim for balanced teams with an emphasis on enjoyment and skills development. It is a great introduction to the team environment that they progress to in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Volunteers / Parent Help

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We need loads of volunteer parents to help so that our 130 or so kids can have a great football session. You do not need to have a lot of “football skills” to help out, just enthusiasm.

Our Grade Co-ordinators are all volunteers and we always need as much help as we can get.

Everyone will be encouraged to attend the Introduction to Junior Coaching course run by NFF. The course aims to provide beginner coaches with advice about how to meet the needs of junior players and what to focus on to deliver fun and safe age appropriate football session. We would love to have as many of you participate as possible so that you can step in and help out on training and game days with more confidence as game leaders. No football skills/experience necessary!

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for more info on when the next course will be.

On Game days we need help to:

- set up the fields – 7:40am Saturday mornings
- organise the kids into their groups
- game leader/referee for every field (just to keep the game flowing and encourage the kids along)
- packing away the equipment

At Tuesday training sessions the children are in small groups rotating around various fun drills

- Your child’s group will require a parent supervisor to act as Game Leader to help with the drill and encourage the children.
- We encourage all parents to come along to Game Leader training or to use the training resources to develop their skills and be involved in their children’s sport.
- The more parents we can get involved – the smaller the groups and the more time each child gets developing their own skills.

## Communication and Cancellations

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The main point of contact for the First Kicks and Fun Football Programme is our Te Atatu AFC Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/TeAtatuFootball>

This is where you will find Cancellations, notices and reminders.

The website is [www.teatatusoccer.org.nz](http://www.teatatusoccer.org.nz) for Registrations, Uniform Shop Link, Club Contact Info