



ELTHAM REDBACKS FOOTBALL CLUB

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What age group will I or my child play in?

You will play in the age group that you are turning during the year of the season. For example, if your child is turning (or has turned) 10 years old during the year then they would play in the U10 competition.

For senior teams, the regulations state that a player must be older than 15 years old. It is not unusual for some talented players to play in senior teams at this age, however most players would be playing in a junior team up to U18s.



When does the football season run?

April to Sept/Oct – 22 weeks give or take a week, depending on the competition. A full schedule is released in March by the FFV to give parents dates to plan around.

Are there any other time requirements outside of these months?

Yes. A period of pre-season training occurs for most age groups (U8 and older).

How many teams does the club have?

Many. Though ultimately player number dictate the number of teams, Eltham regularly fields multiple teams at each age group and across all skill levels. We have over 900 players.

Which we be the furthest distance we would have to travel?

Our opposition is generally based in the northern metropolitan region of Melbourne. In most cases away games are between 20 to 30 min from Eltham and a drive of more than 45 minutes is rare.

Are juniors matches played on Saturdays or Sundays and between what time slot?

Sundays for U8s and older. The time depends on age and fixturing but generally older age groups play later in the day.

Our Little Redbacks (U3 to U7) play on Saturday morning.

How many times a week do the junior teams train?

Usually twice a week including public and school holidays.

Where are your training grounds?

Eltham North Reserve, Wattletree Rd, Eltham North.

St Helena College, Wallowa Rd, St Helena.

Adventure Playground, Wattletree Rd, Eltham North.



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When and where is your registration?

Registration is online through the FFA's *MyFootballClub* site. For more information, please read through the relevant page on our website which is very detailed.

When, where and how many days are we required for trials?

Grading trials are held in February. The dates will be published on the website and emailed to members.

How do I pay my fees?

Following the registration process you will be asked to pay by credit card. This is the most cost effective efficient way for the club to administer over 900 payments.

Do boys and girls play together in mixed teams?

The club has almost 200 females playing football and, in almost all cases, they are placed in all girls teams in all girls leagues. On a rare occasion, a particularly talented girl may play in a boys team up to the age of U14 as we may not have a team that suits her – this would happen in consultation with the player and her parents.

How much and what are the breakdown of the total fees involved including registration, uniforms etc?

You asked for it! Here's the long answer.

Football Costs

1. Football Federation club affiliation fees
2. Football Federation team membership fees
3. Football Federation player registration fees
4. Football Federation referees administration levy
5. Football federation player transfer fees
6. Match Referee payments for juniors and seniors
7. Purchase of playing kit for all teams
8. Purchase of training balls, cones, bibs and other coaching aids for all teams
9. Purchase of match balls for all teams
10. Technical Director and coaching payments
11. Line marking
12. Purchase of nets, corner flags, pegs etc
13. Coaching course reimbursements
14. FFV Team sheet books
15. Trophies

Facilities Costs

1. Council rent for clubrooms and four playing fields



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2. Floodlighting maintenance
3. Electricity for floodlights and clubrooms
4. Repair and maintenance of building items
5. Payment to council for facility upgrade contributions
6. Gas and water costs

Operational Costs

1. Cleaning of clubrooms
2. Clubroom consumables
3. Payment for Annual Liquor Licence renewal
4. Payment for Annual Music Reproduction Licence
5. Building and contents insurance
6. Public liability insurance
7. Telephone costs
8. Postage costs
9. Bank charges
10. Auditor fees
11. Office supplies
12. Advertising
13. Canteen staff cost
14. Web hosting
15. Secure email

The average costs of operating the club is more than \$500 per player. The revenue stream to cover this cost comes from canteen revenue, fund raising, sponsorship and player registration fees. The more revenue the club can raise in canteen revenue, fund raising and sponsorship comes directly off the player registration fees.

Costs across each age group of the club from Spiderlings through to Seniors vary and therefore registration fees vary. We always try to keep them to the minimum.

Some further points:

- The club has adopted an accredited coaches policy for the delivery of the club's football program to all junior players. The old parent volunteer coach model that the club was operating was non longer sustainable and was not delivering the consistent quality football programs that the club wanted to deliver to the players, that the players deserved and the parents expected. Gaining accredited coaches for all teams incurs additional expenses in either coaches fees or additional training and accreditation for existing club coaches.
- To oversee the football program to ensure that the club is providing a quality football program in line with the new Football Federation Australia National Curriculum, the club has employed a Football Technical Director. The role of the Football Director is to develop the clubs football program, provide start of season



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coaching workshops to the coaches and then provide a management and mentoring program for the club coaches throughout the year to ensure that they are providing a quality and consistent football program to the players.

- The club now has excellent new facilities (well in excess in quality compared to most other football clubs) and the council has adopted a user pays system.
- To develop a quality and consistent club football culture across the club, each player will be provided with their own new playing strip and uniform each year. This will ensure that all players and all teams are dressed the same when representing themselves and the club. In 2009 the club did not have all players within teams wearing the same playing strip nor all teams wearing the same strip. This situation was inconsistent with providing a quality football program of which all club players and parents can be proud.

Why do I get a new uniform each year?

The committee gets asked this question every year by members. Below is an email from a member and a reply from our committee.

On the registration, I noticed that we have to buy a full kit again, i.e. jacket, jersey, shorts and socks. Why is that necessary? Why can't we just use the stuff from last year? It's in perfect condition having only been used once a week for 4 or 5 months. Also, and I would assume that it's worse for you because you have far more kids, if my three boys play for 10 years each, we will end up with 30 kits. That's just a monumental waste in my mind. A waste of material and a waste of money. By the way, I'm not the only parent who can't understand this.

Apart from it being wasteful, I feel also sorry for the families that struggle financially. The cost is quite high as it is; being able to use the kit for several seasons would really help those families. Also, I see playing sport as an important health education for kids. In that respect, I'm concerned about the situation for obese families, for example. As we all know, the obesity problem is prevalent in the lower socioeconomic echelon of society. Making sport unaffordable doesn't help those people find a way to a healthier lifestyle. In Germany, clubs are an integral part of society and therefore feel some sort of responsibility to be as accessible as possible to everyone. I would have thought it would be similar here. I understand that the government here doesn't subsidize sport for the masses as Germany does but I thought that would be all the more reason for the club to find ways of compensating for that shortcoming.

Every year the committee is asked the question about new kits and we are aware that it is an issue. It has been discussed at a committee level many, many times.

The reason for why we offer a new kit each is two-fold; logistics and quirks with manufacturing.



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The “shirt makers” change the styles EVERY year making it impossible to buy the same kit. Our teams would go on the field with an assortment of different red tops and look very sloppy. Our committee all feel strongly that this is not the image we wish to portray on the football pitch. There is a second issue of numbers – as you can imagine it would be a nightmare to work around numbers as kids change teams, leave the club or join as new players. Re-using the shirts from year to year is not an option unfortunately.

The issue with a new pair of socks and shorts is less of an issue. It doesn't add must to the overall cost and its useful to have extra pairs anyway. As one former committee member puts it, he has had all 6 of his children playing football at the club for the last few years and he still has match days where someone cannot find a pair of socks that fit!! It is also administratively (see below) much simpler to give every member a new pair.

The issue with reusing jackets is much more to do with logistics. You are more aware than most as to how much work the committee put into running the club and this includes the uniforms. To take orders from those that need jackets and exclude those that don't – and then distribute them to 900 members is a mammoth task. Our committee simply cannot afford the time.

We are looking at options to include other items that club members can purchase and if this system is workable we may be able to alter the way we go about uniforms. Uniforms is a constant item on our agenda and we frequently look at finding solutions to problems.

I would like to stress again that this isn't an issue that has just been overlooked. It has been discussed many times and the entire “uniform process” is quite complex. Even giving each club member the exact same kit in different sizes is a huge task that consumes hours and hours of our volunteer time.

The committee is aware of the cost issues to families and we try to keep our fees as low as possible. After all, we pay the same fees. The club does not set out to make any profit. Considering the facilities at our disposal we are one of the lowest cost clubs in the region. Our committee is of the view that we would like to be a community based club that all can benefit from – but clearly we have to cover our costs.

We are always looking for new members to join our committee – both to contribute their time in helping to run the club and in contributing their opinions as to the direction the club should take with issues such as uniform.

It seems like such a simple solution to re-use your uniform but hopefully we have explained why we have made the decisions that represent our current uniform policy.