



Junior Grades Handbook
2024 Season



Junior football

Junior grade football comprises grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. After 12th grade, players move on to Youth football.

Players are placed in these grades according to their age on January 1st – e.g. if you are 8 years of age on 1st January (turning 9 sometime in 2020) you would play 9th grade.

Girls can choose to play in a girls-only team if they wish, or remain in the mixed teams if they prefer.

Season dates

The 2024 football season will start on Saturday, 27th April and will finish late September to coincide with school terms two and three.

Generally, there is no football during the middle weekends of the school holidays, however we do play on the first and final weekends.

Where and when the games are played

Junior grade teams play on Saturdays mornings and participate in inter-club competitions, so will have both home and away games.

West Coast Rangers have two field locations – Fred Taylor Park and Huapai Domain. Players will get a choice of preferred location when they register however some game weeks may be played at the other location, so keep an eye on the draw each week.

The Northern Regional Football Federation administers the draws, which are available online. Any changes to this will be communicated by the team manager and/or coach.

Junior grade games are usually played at the same time each week (mostly between 10am and 12noon kick off) however, due to the challenges of pitch availability at some clubs game times sometimes vary, especially if there has been bad weather. Again, please double-check the draw!

Players are expected to arrive at the pitch half an hour before kick-off for a warm up and pre-game briefing from their coach.

Team Selection/grading

Junior Academy Teams – These are the top talent teams for each of our junior grades and are for players that wish to train and play two/three times a week with a dedicated professional coach at an additional cost. Players will need to attend trials and be selected to play in our Academy teams.

Junior Social Teams – for kids who aren't selected for one of Academy teams or who would prefer to play a more social level of football. Teams will be put together based on preferred location, team from prior years (if any) and requests to play with friends. These teams will play grading games at the start of the season and subsequently be placed in an appropriate level of competition.

Fees

The cost for Junior Football will be \$185.

For those selected to play in one of our Junior Academy teams there will be additional coaching fees. These fees are communicated upon team selection.



Club uniform

Each player needs to purchase his or her own Club shirt, shorts and socks, as well as boots and shinpads. Uniform items can be purchased online from the [WCR Gear Shop](#). Some stocks may also be held at the clubrooms and available for purchase at club events, but these stocks will be limited.

We offer a full range of West Coast Rangers branded clothing items for purchase, in partnership with our kit supplier Lotto. This includes popular on-field items such as training tops, track pants, and off-field items like hoodies, tracksuits, jackets and T-Shirts. We also offer special prices on Lotto boots, bags, alls and other items. Buying West Coast Rangers gear via our online store or when at the club supports the club financially and helps us fund the coaching and facilities we offer, so please do check them out.

The club also runs a Hand Me Round boot exchange programme where you can buy second-hand boots for a very competitive price, or for the even cheaper 'exchange' price by donating your outgrown pair. Pre-season exchange events will be listed on the club website and Facebook page, and the exchange is also operational each Saturday during the season.

Coaching

West Coast Rangers social teams are coached by volunteers, usually a parent or grandparent.

The club have professional coaches who will provide guidance and support to our volunteer coaches and also provide coaching handbooks, which contain instructions for games and activities which develop specific football skills and there is a coaching supervisor for each grade (see game and practice times, above). Several coaches' training sessions led by our professional coaching staff are arranged at the start of each season.

It is possible to share coaching duties 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. It's a lot of fun once you get up and running and a perfect opportunity to help your child (and others) grow.

We cannot have too many coaches available and this is a great way to support your child, so please volunteer!

Team Manager

Each team needs a manager who will deal with the administrative side of the team, ensuring that everyone knows where they need to be and when, if the game is still on even though it's raining and whose turn it is to bring the oranges etc.

Like coaching, this is a volunteer role and plenty of support is available. Most teams use a facebook messenger, whatsapp group or similar to share information.

No prior experience is necessary and, as with coaches, we cannot run the club without you, so please volunteer!



**Practice times/
Skill Centres**

West Coast Rangers social teams generally practice once a week however this is totally dependent on coach and team availability. Times for these practices will be agreed by each team coach and shared with players by the team manager.

In addition to any team practice session, West Coast Rangers will be offering optional mid-week Skill Centres with our club professional coaches over terms two and three, which is available to all our junior players.

This will ensure they get a balance of game time and coaching to develop their football skills. Each term will run for 8 weeks and the cost will be \$80.

Team equipment

Each team is supplied with balls, cones, shirts, bibs and a coaching manual.

If you would like to sponsor jackets, other clothing items or additional equipment for your child's team or the club more generally, please do consider it. This is a big help to the club (and a big encouragement to the children). Our teams play all over Auckland, so it's a good opportunity to advertise your business and give something back to the community.

Please contact the club to learn more about this. We can assist with sourcing of clothing, including personalisation with player names, team names and of course adding your sponsor branding via our partnership with Lotto.

**Setting up and
clearing pitches**

For home games, you will need to help set up or clear the pitch, including ensuring goals are positioned correctly, nets on, and corner flags or line markers out as required, and returning all items to the correct storage sheds or container after the game(s).

Please support your team's coach and manager by volunteering to help with this as needed.

Team photographs

Team photographs are usually taken during the second half of the season.

Each team is asked to arrive at a specific time, in full kit (including boots).

The whole process takes about fifteen minutes. This is usually held on a midweek evening after school, and arranged to accommodate any practice or game times as much as possible.

Club prizegiving

This is held in the clubrooms after the season finishes. There are separate times for the different age groups.

A 'Player of the Year', 'Sportsmanship' and 'Most Improved' prize will be given for each team. These are chosen by the team coach and manager, often in consultation with the parents.

Fundraising

Like any other club, West Coast Rangers is always in need of funds for maintenance and replacement of equipment and facilities, and to fund coaching staff.

The purchase of club clothing and merchandise via our online store contributes to this, as do the tuck-shop, team photographs, summer soccer and the holiday programmes.

Each player is asked to participate in any club wide fundraising activities that are taking place and are always looking for volunteers to help with fundraising activities.

Weather and cancelations

For the junior grades, games will only be canceled if the Council has closed the fields. This means that the children will frequently play even if it is wet and cold. Please dress accordingly and ensure that they do the same. If your child feels the cold, they can wear woolly hats and gloves, and/or another top under their uniform shirt. Sports undergarments are a good choice as they are warm and do not restrict movement.

In all cases the cancelation will be communicated by the club using our social media sites as well as your team manager and/or coach.

Facilities at the grounds

Huapai - There are toilets inside the clubrooms, and there is a block of toilets next to the playground by the lower carpark.

Fred Taylor Park – There are toilets inside the clubrooms and also underneath the clubrooms by Field 2.

Water is available at the clubrooms – please note that no drinking water is available at the public toilets.

On Saturdays, the club runs a tuck shop, selling drinks, hot chips and other food options.

Sideline behaviour

Parents are asked to read and agree to the West Coast Rangers Code of Conduct as part of the registration process.

Inappropriate sideline behaviour will usually be dealt with on the spot by a team manager or coach, or by a club representative.

If you are concerned, please approach your grade coordinator(s) or one of the club officials.

Dogs

Auckland City by-laws state that no dogs are permitted on playing fields at any time. Therefore, please refrain from bringing your dog with you to watch your children play.

Where to go to stay updated, or if you have further questions

The club puts a lot of effort into maintaining it's website, and updating social media channels. Please start here and ensure you bookmark westcoastrangers.co.nz and 'follow' and 'like' us on your preferred social media channel(s).

- **For general club updates** – check out the website or our social media channels. Things like news and announcements, events we are running, major cancellations or changes in game schedules, fixtures for our competitive teams and their results are posted here.
- **For information about your child and their team** – Use your personal login to the club website. This will give you access to the events schedule specific to your child(ren) including practice sessions, game dates, locations, times, etc. If in doubt contact your team manager.

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