



St Bernard's Junior Football Club

WHO WE ARE

St Bernard's is a community sporting organisation dedicated to providing as many children as possible the opportunity to participate in Australian Rules Football in an accepting and inclusive environment. It is a strong family orientated club that values diversity and belonging.

We have teams from Under 9's to Under 16's, with around 200 players registered. Our vision is to create a destination club that values our people to play and participate. With an aim of reaching 300 registrations, we seek to develop player skills, promote self-confidence whilst ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all players. As the club continues to grow, we welcome all new children and families to join our community.

In 2024 St Bernard's Junior Football Club is focused on bringing back girl's football. Led by Jo Hardwick our aim in 2024 is to have representation in Under 10s, 12s and 14s and to build on this in the future.

REGISTRATIONS & FEES

Registrations are now open for the 2024 season.

The junior fees are \$369 per child, discounts are applied for multiple children:

- \$329 for a second child
- \$149 for a third child
- \$195 for girls or new to the football

Our fees include St Bernard's

- preseason training singlet (if participating before Christmas)
- club training top
- personalised drink bottle
- Friday night dinners
- Friday night player awards
- Team photo

Fees must be paid by Sunday 18 February to have personalised name and number on the training top. Registrations after this will still receive a training top but personalisation is unavailable, and the preferred size cannot be guaranteed.

Register here: <https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/2ad773>

2024 FOOTBALL PROGRAM

In 2024, Round 1 will commence on Sunday 14 April.

There are 14 rounds in the season with the first four being grading matches. We will have two practice matches this year before the season commences. Both matches will be away, grounds to be confirmed depending on cricket.

Below are the confirmed dates and opposition.

- East Keilor Football Club on Sunday 24 March (U16, U14, U12)
- Flemington Football Club on Sunday 7 April (U16, U14, U12, U10, U9)

St Bernard's Junior Football Club

PRESEASON TRAINING

All training sessions are held at St Bernard's College – Hampton Road Essendon West (Gate 8). Due to the cricket season (which ends 31 March) preseason dates are subject to change as the cricket club have full access to the ovals. We are also subject to the school hiring out the soccer pitch to external bodies. Below is the plan for 2024.

All Teams	Monday 4:30-6:00pm
Girls	Wednesday 4:30-5:30pm
Boys 12, 14 and 16	Wednesday 4:30-5:30pm

TRAINING DURING SEASON

All training and home games are held at St Bernard's College – Hampton Road Essendon West (Gate 8).

GIRLS:

- U10: Wednesday 4:45-6:00pm & Friday 4:45-6:00pm
- U2: Wednesday 4:45-6:00pm & Friday 4:45-6:00pm
- U14: Wednesday 4:45-6:00pm & Friday 4:45-6:00pm

BOYS:

- U9: Friday 4:45-5:45pm
- U10: Wednesday 4:30-5:30pm & Friday 4:30-5:45pm
- U12: Wednesday 4:30-6:00pm & Friday 4:30-6:00pm
- U14: Wednesday 6:00-7:30pm & Friday 6:00-7:00pm
- U16: Wednesday 6:00-7:30pm & Friday 6:00-7:00pm

FRIDAY NIGHTS

All parents and children are welcome to come up the Michael Perrett Pavilion after training on Friday nights. It provides a great opportunity to socialise and meet other families. The bar is open and there is complimentary finger food for parents. Happy hour for the ladies is from 5:00-6:00pm.

Children are supplied with dinner, which is complimentary as part of your membership. Parent participation on Friday nights is vital, as each team will be required to cook, serve and sell raffle tickets, on one occasion. A roster for this will be provided before the season starts.

Additionally, player awards from the previous week's game will be given out for each team. This year, there will be a raffle for 2 x \$75 Meat Trays, with tickets available for purchase on the night.

UNIFORM

All players are presented with a club jumper at presentation night. Jumpers need to be returned to team managers following the last game of each season. Any lost or damaged jumpers will incur a fee. Jumper number allocation is based on sizes. An effort is made to take preferences into account where possible.

WRFL branded shorts and socks are required to be worn for all games. U9, U10 and Girls wear blue shorts. U12, U14 and U16 require blue shorts for home games and white shorts when away.

All merchandise is available to purchase online via the St Bernard's Junior Football Club website Apparel – St Bernard's Football Club (stbernardsfc.com.au). Other merchandise items available to purchase include footy bag, boot bag, scarf, hats, beanies, polo's, hoodies and jackets.

Mouthguards are compulsory for all players. Custom made mouthguards are available to order on Wednesday 21 February from 4:30pm-6:30pm at Michael Perrett Pavilion, St Bernard's. Alternatively, orders can be made directly with The Mouthguard Man located 227 Melville Road, Pascoe Vale South.



PARENT PARTICIPATION

Our football club is run by volunteers. Without the contribution of parents and families there is no St. Bernards. Assistance on gameday is paramount to ensure your child's team can play each weekend. We want parents to be part of the team and participation makes a good club become a great club.

Each side is allocated a Team Manager for the season. They will organise and communicate via a Team WhatsApp chat. They will allocate roles such as timekeeper, field & boundary umpires, medical aid, umpires escort, match day manager (home games) and oranges/lollies. Each family is required to help throughout the year, and it is a great way to meet new families and be part of your child's football journey.

GRADING/TEAM SELECTION

WRFL grading is from rounds 1-4. The club communicates with coaches and puts forward the recommendation of which grade each team should be playing in. As a club we want our number one teams to be playing the highest level – Division One. Grading can be a difficult process for the WRFL and they do their best to accommodate all teams.

St. Bernard's endeavours to allocate each child to the most appropriate team (noting children must play in their age group). Our aim is to have a minimum of 2 teams per age group. As the club grows and teams expand, we follow the below policy.

- Team 1 is Division 1 – Top Age
- Team 2 is Division 3 or 4 - Bottom Age.

There are exceptions to this rule in consultation with parents, coaches, and the committee with the best interest of the child always paramount. For example, on occasions siblings may be given the opportunity to play together where possible. In U9 and U10 teams are based on school and friend groups.

AGE GROUP ELIGIBILITY

- U9: Must remain 9 years in 2024
- U10: Born between 1 January 2014 & December 31 2015
- U12: Born between 1 January 2012 & December 31 2013
- U14: Born between 1 January 2010 & December 31 2011
- U16: Born between 1 January 2008 & December 31 2009
- U10 Girls: Born between 1 January 2014 & 30 April 2017

JUNIOR CLUB COMMITTEE

The Committee consists of dedicated parents who volunteer their time to ensure the smooth operation of the club. We strive to do our best and make decisions in the best interests of the club and your children. We greatly value feedback and are continuously looking for opportunities to improve the club's performance and strengthen our community. The committee in 2024 is below.

- **Mark Juricskay** – Club President
juniorpres@stbernardsfc.com.au, 0409 537 203
- **Ben Hogan** – Football Operations
juniorops@stbernardsfc.com.au, 0402 919 523
- **Jess Moelands** – Treasurer
junior treasurer@stbernardsfc.com.au, 0414 601 024
- **Jo Hardwick** – Girls Football
girlsfooty@stbernardsfc.com.au, 0411 657 172
- **Tim Hickey** – Club Merchandise, 0400 030 303
- **Rhys Bloomfield** – Registrations
juniorsec@stbernardsfc.com.au, 0418 524 923
- **Michael Foley** – Football Equipment, 0490 687 612
- **Natalie Roach** – Child Safety Officer, 0491 230 100
- **Paul Healy** – Team Manager Co-Ordinator, 0419 398 647

CLUB POLICIES

The club has various policies which can be found on the website. These policies inform parents on topics the club is legally required to fulfill and to assist parents with how the club is run.

CLUB SPONSORSHIP

The club is always looking for new sponsors with a range of packages available. Please contact Mark Juricskay or Ben Hogan for more information.

COMMUNICATION



The club communicates via Team App; please download the App and request access to St. Bernard's Junior Football Club



Instagram @stbernardsjfc



Facebook @ St.Bernards Junior Football Club

Visit our website

stbernardsfc.com.au

to learn more