

Knox United Soccer Club Inc.

PO Box 2410, Rowville VIC 3178

www.knoxunited.com

ABN 23 604 342 737



Registration Policy & Club Information Season 2009

Please read the following to ensure both you and/or your child get the most out of your involvement with Knox United in 2009

Club Committee

Club President :	Felice Lomuto
Club Secretary :	Peter Cass
Treasurer/Vice-President (Juniors) :	Max Catenacci
Vice-President (Seniors) :	Jeff Hepworth
Club Registrar:	Naomi Guyett
Committee Members:	Lou Giorno, Aldo Rocca, Martha Catenacci, Liz Dimanche, Nicholas Dhar, Angie Furfaro, Wayne Bonnici

Club Overview

Welcome, or welcome back to Knox United Soccer Club. We are a community-based soccer club that focuses on good sportsmanship, participation & providing a safe, family atmosphere to all involved.

Our club is based at the Knox Italian Community Club at 99 Karoo Rd, Rowville, and has an extra playing field located at Karoo Road Reserve just next to Karoo Primary School.

Our Juniors play in the Football Federation Victoria (FFV) competition and this year we propose fielding Junior Small Sided Football (SSF) squads from U/6's thru to U/10's inclusive, as well as Junior teams for U/11's, U/12's & U/14's.

Our Ladies team plays in State League Division 2 of the FFV competition.
Our Mens teams play in the Vicsoccer competition.

For all the latest and most up to date information concerning all aspects of the club we strongly recommend you access our website at www.knoxunited.com

JUNIOR TEAM STRUCTURE

The GOALKICK and ROOBALL programmes have been discontinued by the FFV in lieu of a new programme for the younger players, called Small Sided Football (SSF) – *known in 2008 as Small Sided Games (SSG)*.

Details of this new programme can be viewed on the Football Federation Victoria website, please go to the following link:

<http://www.footballfedvic.com.au/development/ssg/>

Small Sided Football - General

After a successful introductory season, phase 2 of the implementation of Small Sided Football in metropolitan Melbourne will see the introduction of the nationally consistent playing formats up to the under 10's age group.

Small sided games are football games with fewer players competing on a smaller-sized field. They are fun games that encourage players to have more contact with the ball because fewer players are playing in a smaller playing area. SSF games have a definite developmental impact on younger football players.

It makes the game of football a better experience for children. More touches on the ball, more opportunities to make decisions, more actual play. Players will be more active due to playing both attacking and defensive roles within a match and will understand the importance of teammates and playing and working together.

When forming squads, grading of players is strongly recommended by FFV – the key objective is to maximize development of all players. Squads should be formed based on individual ability, not age. For example, an 8 year old footballer who is dominating in the 5 v 5 version of the game should have the opportunity to play in the 7 v 7 version against 9 and 10 year olds. It is also acceptable for a 10 year old footballer to play in the U8s and the 5 v 5 version if he/she is struggling to get into the game at U10s level.

Small Sided Football (Under 6 to Under 8)

SSF U6's to U8's to play in a similar format to the 2008 SSG year. The possibility of attending gala days at other clubs may be available.

The official playing format for :

U6 is 4x4, 2 x 15 minutes, field 30m x 20m, no goalkeeper.

U7-U8 is 5x5, 2 x 20 minutes, field 30m x 20m, no goalkeeper.

SSF session times for U6 to U8's are to be confirmed.

Small Sided Football (Under 9 to Under 10)

In response to new directives from FFV, U9 and U10 players will be combined into one U10s group and included in the Small Sided Football Format. Players will still continue to play inter club matches, with no points or ladders kept, i.e. no competitive matches. The playing format will change to 7 a side, playing on a smaller, quarter (full) sized pitch, 40m x 30m, max. goal size 5m x 2 m, 2 x 25 minutes, with a goalkeeper. FFV have advised that we must grade players into teams for the inter club games. For pre-season training, the Club intends to train these players together as a squad, then organise them into teams for inter club games depending on skills and ability. It is important to emphasise that the key objective of grading is to maximise the development opportunity for all players.

Training and match times are to be confirmed.

Juniors (Under 11 and above)

From Under 11 onwards, games are played on Sundays at times fixed by the FFV. The kick-off times stay the same throughout the season for both home and away games (refer Item 9). At these levels, the competition is more organised and League Ladders and results of matches are recorded on the FFV website. Go to this link to view weekly results:

<http://www.footballfedvic.com.au/competitions/results/>

The 2009 season begins on Sunday April 26 and finishes Sunday 6 September.

1. 2009 Registration Fees

- Small Sided Football (SSF) – U/6 - U/8 : \$120.00 (inc. GST)
- Small Sided Football (SSF) – U/9 - U/10 : \$200.00 (inc. GST)
- Juniors - U/11 to U/14 \$250.00 (inc. GST)
- Ladies : \$290.00 (inc. GST)
- Men Seniors : \$330.00 (inc. GST)

If you are registering more than one child from the same family, a 10% discount applies to the subsequent registrations.

We are aware that fees have increased, but we believe a small rise is justified especially since we now need to lease council grounds to cope with the player demand. All efforts are taken to minimise the cost of enjoying football with KUSC.

2. What I must bring to Registration Day

New player registrations cannot be accepted if full documentation has not been provided.

- 2 x passport photos
- Original birth certificate/Proof of I.D.
- Payment cheque or cash (refer to fee schedule – as above)
- Completed registration form

Please note **if you were registered in 2008 with Knox United**, you are only required to bring 1 x passport photo, a completed registration form and payment (ie. no proof of age will be required).

Please note **if you were registered in 2008 with another club**, you are required to bring 2 x passport photos, proof of age, a completed registration form, confirmation of your FFA 8 digit ID and payment.

3. Fee Payment

All fees must be paid by 31 March 2009

No player shall be allowed to participate in any game for the club if their fees are not paid by the above date – no exceptions.

If any member has difficulty paying fees they should write or email their request to the Treasurer (mail@knoxunited.com) who, together with the committee, will consider on a case by case basis in confidence an arrangement for payment of fees.

4. What do I get for my registration fee?

Listed below are some of the items that make up the costs associated in operating the Knox United Soccer Club. Whilst this list is not exhaustive, due to variable costs that may occur from time to time, it does however provide a good indication.

- Registration through the FFV/Vicsoccer as applicable
- Rent of clubrooms & grounds from Knox Italian Community Club (KICC)
- Gas, water & electricity costs at KICC
- Local council fees and charges for use of external grounds and facilities
- Maintenance of the grounds and training areas
- Basic player insurance cover
(via FFV fees or in the case of the mens team, by the club.)
- Use of playing shirts, shorts and socks
- Training equipment and facilities for all teams
- Team sheet books
- Use of floodlights for training or night games
- Payment of referees and match officials (juniors & seniors)
- End of season trophy (excluding U6 to U8's SSF squads)
- Website hosting & domain name charges
- Liquor licencing fees
- Auditors fees
- Bank charges
- Advertising
- Postage & post office box costs

5. What is not included in Registration Fees

(Players are to supply the following at their own cost)

- Shin pads – *to be worn at all training sessions and matchdays*
- Boots
- Mouth guard (optional), Water Bottle
- Soccer ball for practice at home (optional)
- Training apparel

6. De-registration/Refund Policy

Full refunds will be issued to players who cannot be registered with the club for any reason eg: lack of numbers. De-registration/ transfer from the club/cancellation by any player (including junior players) will require clearance from the club. The player will forfeit the FFV/Vicsoccer Registration Fee as applicable and a \$15 Office Administration fee as a minimum & will forfeit the whole player registration fee if the player has played any games.

7. Number of Teams

Please note that the number of Junior teams will be restricted as follows:

- The ability to schedule home games at Karoo Rd and other venues without over taxing of facilities.
- The minimum number of players required for a squad in the age group must be satisfied.
- Availability of Coaches and Team Managers.

In the event of there being more than one junior team in any age group or the number of players exceeds the maximum recommended squad size, players will be graded on ability (excluding SSF's). The club has final say over composition of teams.

8. Limiting the size of squads

Should an age group have an excess of players (e.g. above the maximum number allowed) the squad shall be reduced to appropriate size by March 31 thereby allowing any player who is omitted to have sufficient time to find an alternative club. All fees shall be refunded in full to the players in question.

If the necessity to reduce squad sizes has to be taken, the recommendation on players who are to be omitted shall be the responsibility of:

- The team coach
- The committee

9. Kick-Off Times & Season Commencements

U/6 to U8 SSF squads will not have designated fixtures. Start dates and session times to be confirmed.

U/9 to U/10 SSF squads kick off times & days to be confirmed.
Anticipated season – late April to early September.

Following are the set kick off times for FFV Junior competitions (Sunday).
Season starts Sunday 26th April and finishes on Sunday 6th September.

- Under 11's 9AM (2 x 25 min halves = 50 minutes)
- Under 12's 10:10AM (2 x 25 min halves = 50 minutes)
- Under 14's 12:30PM (2 x 30 min halves = 60 minutes)

Following are the proposed kick off times for Senior competitions (Sunday):

- Ladies 11AM (2 x 45 min halves = 90 minutes)
Season starts Sunday 26th April and finishes on Sunday 6th September.
- Mens Reserves 1PM (2 x 45 min halves = 90 minutes)
- Mens Seniors 3PM (2 x 45 min halves = 90 minutes)
Anticipated season – early April to early September

10. Training

SSF Squads (U6 to U8's) - U/6 to U8 SSF squads will have 1 session per week (to be confirmed) which will combine training and games. There are no official match days for these age groups.

SSF Squads (U9 to U10's) - it is proposed to have 1 training session per week; the timing & frequency will depend on the coach's availability. It is proposed to have the training session at our home ground, however availability of the ground and water restrictions may force us to source an alternative (but local) location/s.

Junior Squads - it is proposed to have 1 to 2 training sessions per week; the timing & frequency will depend on the individual coach's availability. It is proposed to have the training session at our home ground, however availability of the ground and water restrictions may force us to source an alternative (but local) location/s.

Ladies and Men's : it is proposed to have 2 training sessions per week (likely to be Tuesday & Thursday nights); the timing will depend on the individual coach's availability. It is proposed to have the training sessions at our home ground; however availability of the ground and water restrictions may force us to source alternative (but local) location/s.

11. Players

11.1 Introduction

Our players play for all kinds of reasons and wish to play at different levels - some at a social level, others at a more advanced and competitive standard. We aim to enable each player to enjoy soccer as much as possible at the level he or she is most comfortable with.

11.2 Player / Team Allocation

There is no guarantee that players will remain together in the same team from year to year.

11.3 Selection Process

The Advanced Team (ie: team in the higher playing division) coach or coaches will organise pre-season trials for the players registered in their year, and, in agreement with the Committee will decide on the optional selection process. The process shall be communicated to the Committee before the selection process starts, the selection process not to be started until Committee approval.

The Committee in conjunction with the respective coaches will decide on the most appropriate format for team selection. This process will be communicated by the coaches to all registered players of the respected age groups.

11.3 Selection Process (continued)

This selection process may, for example, take the form of a practice match or series of matches, or may take place through observation at training, or through a test or series of tests.

The Advanced Team program is entirely optional, and therefore when a player is invited to join an Advanced Team squad, the coach will make it clear that this is an invitation, and a player's decision not to join an Advanced Team must be respected. The coach will also make it clear that Advanced Teams are selected on ability, that there is therefore no obligation to give players equal game time.

11.4 Appeal Process

If a player or his or her parent or guardian believes that he or she has been unfairly overlooked for a position in an Advanced Team squad, he or she or his or her parent or guardian should in the first instance write to the relevant Vice-President of the club, who will respond within two weeks. The Vice-President's decision is final.

11.5 Players Playing in Age Groups (SSF's)

In accordance with the rules and guidelines of the FFV Small Sided Football program, players will be grouped based on merit and ability, not necessarily based on the player's age. This will be at the discretion of the SSG Co-Ordinator.

11.6 Players Playing in Age Groups (Juniors)

Players already registered with the club and playing in an age group above their current age will be allowed to continue to play in that age group if so desired. New players to the club will generally be encouraged to play in their correct age group.

11.7 Team Selection Policy

In younger age groups, the Club will endeavour to place groups of friends wishing to play together in a particular team, but we would encourage all players to be flexible and to play in teams appropriate to their standard. Teams in the 11's to 14's age groups are selected on merit each year.

11.8 Borrowing Players

If you are likely to be short of players for a game you are entitled to borrow players from another Knox United team in accordance with FFV regulations. There are strict rules for borrowing players and the breaking of these rules will result in loss of points and fines to the club. Managers and coaches are asked to keep a note of all borrowed players so that they do not become ineligible for their own team. Before borrowing a particular player, the arrangement must always be discussed with the player's team manager in the first instance and then with the player's parents.

12. Glasses

If a player is required to wear spectacles, please ensure that they have plastic lenses and that they are suitably restrained so that they cannot be dislodged during a game.

13. Contact Lenses

If a player wears contact lenses, it is recommended that the player brings a spare set to games.

14. Jewellery

Both male and female players should be aware that jewellery, including rings, chains, watches, bracelets, and body piercings such as earrings, nose rings and eyebrow studs must be removed prior to a player taking the field for a match. Match officials strictly enforce this rule.

15. Parents' Role / Players' Role

Parents MUST ensure that they report to the coach with their child prior to training and not leave their child and belongings unattended. They should arrive in adequate time to pick up their child at the cessation of both training and games.

Parents who do not pick up their children after training or matches will be cautioned and advised that if the practice continues then their membership of the club may be cancelled.

The Club is not responsible for:

- Transportation of junior players to and from games and training.
- The security of players' belongings.
- Children left unattended by parents or carers

All junior parents will be required to assist in the canteen as rostered by your team manager. This is an important function required to assist the club to continue to provide facilities for junior players.

It is the Parent, Guardian's or Player's responsibility to notify the club, coach or team manager of any health issue, which may affect the player's ability to participate in the activities normally associated with soccer inclusive of training and matches.

We are an amateur club and depend on volunteers! If the club is to be successful in 2009, it needs your involvement. This can be anything from ground maintenance, fundraising, washing of team shirts, canteen duties and setting up and packing up on game day. Should you wish to volunteer, please contact your team manager or a member of the Club Committee.

16. Sponsorship

The Club welcomes any sponsorship from family businesses or places of employment. Packages are available by contacting our Sponsorship Manager, Martha Catenacci on mc4sure@hotmail.com or mobile 0417 572 958.

Help us support your kids!!

17. Coaches

The Club undertakes to attempt to provide professional coaches for all teams. At the Junior level, the club is interested to hear from parents who are willing to become coaches. The club will pay for parents to attend the requisite coaching courses. When a parent provides satisfactory coaching (as assessed by the committee) through the season by taking responsibility for weeknight practices and matches, she/he will be offered a 100% rebate of one child's registration fees at the end of the season. For information about FFV coaching courses, refer to the FFV website <http://www.footballfedvic.com.au>.

If a team has no parent to coach, the club will seek to provide a non-parental coach but provides no guarantee that a coach will be found. Coaches can only be appointed by the Club Committee and will not be appointed unless they satisfy the committee's criteria including being of suitable character, having an appropriate manner with our players and having completed an FFV training course and police checks. Where a non-parental coach is engaged, a coaching levy/charge will probably be raised to help cover the associated costs.

Where a non-parental coach cannot be secured for a team then, as a last resort, the club may well decide that the team cannot be fielded (Refer Item 6. De-registration/Refund Policy).

18. Team Managers

The club seeks a volunteer for each team to fulfil the role of team manager. Managers are a focus for communication within and around the team. They are also responsible for organising rosters of various team duties to be performed by other members in the team, not just the manager.

When a parent provides satisfactory team management (as assessed by the committee) through the season, she/he will be offered a 50% rebate of one child's registration fees at the end of the season. The club will provide managers with an information manual from the FFV. Team managers are required to provide feedback to the club committee and will be required to attend committee meetings from time to time.

Team managers must also inform the Club of any training or matchday scheduling requirements and/or requests, playing list changes or other issues relating to training or playing as a Knox United Soccer Club team.

19. Refereeing

Refereeing is a very practical way of helping the Coach for matches in the under 9/10 age groups (where the FFV does not provide a referee and the home team is responsible for finding someone to do this task). Anyone willing to referee home games should advise their Team Manager before the start of the season

Junior Referees - The club would like to encourage more players to take up this activity and request that all parents encourage these young people. Please remember at all times that they're young, they'll be nervous to start with, but that they're entitled to respect for their commitment in helping your children. Maybe your children will be in the same position at some time in the future.

Emergency Referees for U11-U14 matches are always required to fill in when the match official does not arrive. The Club will pay the cost of attaining a Referee's Licence to anyone wishing to act as Emergency Referee.

20. Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures

Direct your complaints to the Team Manager on training nights, not on match days. If further action is necessary, complaints must be sent in writing to the Club Secretary for the committee to review.

If a club member or player breaches normal acceptable standards of behaviour, such as bad language, vandalism, theft, abusive behaviour or conduct unbecoming, that person may be called upon to appear before the committee.

The Club reserves the right to suspend or expel any member or player who fails to abide by the rules, regulations and codes of behaviour, as published by the Knox United Soccer Club and displayed on the www.knoxunited.com web site.

No player, parent, coach or manager is to have contact with the Football Federation Victoria or Vicsoccer on club matters without the permission of the Club President or Secretary.

If parents or players have any questions about the club generally or registrations for 2009, please direct all enquiries to :

Peter Cass, Club Secretary, on 0419 287 212 or,
Naomi Guyett, Registrar, on 0411 531 449.