



THE NEXT STEP FOOTBALL FESTIVAL



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WELCOME

We are happy to announce that Waitemata FC is hosting THE NEXT STEP football festival on **SATURDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER** at McLeod Park.

The Next Step festival is all about giving our 8th grade players a taste of the new 9th grade playing format they'll be playing in 2024. Changes to the format include:

- Bigger fields
- More players (7v7)
- Goalkeepers
- Corner kicks and throw in's
- Off-sides
- An introduction to the retreating line rule
- Size 4 balls

FESTIVAL DETAILS

DATE: Saturday 23rd Sept, 2023.

VENUE: Waitemata Football Club, McLeod Park, 198 McLeod Road, Te Atatu South, Auckland.

TIME: Arrive between 9am - 9.30am. First games kick off at 10am. Last game kicks off around 3pm.

COST: \$120 per team.

REGISTER: Contact dof@waitematafc.org.nz to register your team.

Entries will be capped at 24 teams. In order to secure your spot, full payment is required 7-days before the festival.



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FORMAT

SQUAD: 7 V 7 with up to 4 subs

GAMES: 15-minute games. No half-time. All games start and finish on air horn.

FIELD SIZE: Roughly 65m X 45m with 8m X 6m penalty area.

GOAL SIZE: 3.8M X 1.8M

BALL: Size 4. Match balls will be provided by Waitemata FC

REFEREES: Referees will be appointed to each game.

RETREATING LINE: Yes - you can find out more about how the retreating line rule works by clicking on the following link
<https://www.nzfootball.co.nz/newsarticle/63017>

FIELD ROPE BARRIER: All fields will be roped off. Only players and the coaches to enter field of play. All parents & supporters must stay outside of the rope barrier. It is the team coaches responsibility to enforce this rule.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

All players must be born in 2015.

Dispensation may be considered for children playing down one grade providing they have been playing 8th grade in 2023 season. Dispensation will not be considered for players more than one grade up or down.

All dispensation requests must be approved by the Waitemata FC director of football.



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FESTIVAL PHILOSOPHY

The Next Step football festival is all about giving our young players the opportunity to try the new 7v7 playing format in preparation for the 2024 season.

The main focus is on the kids having a great football experience and being able to play football in a fun, safe and learning environment.

No scores or league tables will be published as per the New Zealand Football (NZF) and Norther Regional Football (NRF) guidelines for junior football festivals.

By entering your team for the festival, you (the coach, players and supporters) agree to the festival code of conduct and philosophies when registering.

CODE OF CONDUCT

COACH/STAFF

- Respect the opposition players & coaches
- Respect club facilities
- Be generous with praise, lead by example, & provide all feedback in a constructive, positive manner
- Respect the referees
- Treat all players with respect & dignity, & appreciate that every player is unique
- Emphasize the importance of active participation, doing one's best, & focus on the quality of the experience, not just the outcome

YOUNG PLAYERS

- Always play to the best of my ability
- Play fairly
- Respect my team mates, the other team, the referee and the coaches
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee
- Shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
- HAVE FUN



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CODE OF CONDUCT (CONTINUED)

PARENTS/CARERS/SUPPORTERS

- Remember that your child is involved in sport for their OWN enjoyment
- Respect decisions made by coaches, referees & officials
- Be a good role model by supporting your child
- Do not coach your child in the games. Let the coaches coach
- Applaud effort & hard work as well as success
- Do not shout at, or criticise children if they make a mistake - it's all part of the learning process
- Do not be rude to other parents, officials, coaches or other children
- ENJOY THE DAY

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Only players and a maximum of 3 staff members will be allowed to enter the field.
All spectators must remain behind the rope barrier at all times.

REGISTRATION

To register, contact the Waitemata FC director of football (dof@waitematafc.org.nz) and include the following details:

- Club name
- Team name
- Coaches full name, contact email and phone number

Payment:

Acc number: 02-0152-0456998-00

Ref: Club name

Code: Team name

Invoices and receipts provided on request.



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ADDITIONAL INFO

PARKING

Parking available at the football club and on McLeod Road. Overflow parking available at the Croatian Club, 161 McLeod Road, Te Atatu.

REFUNDS

Due to upfront costs, an 80% refund will be given in the event we are unable to run the festival due to field closures, adverse weather conditions.

A full refund will be provided if you are unable to attend and give at least 72-hours notice. No refund will be given for teams that withdraw with less than 72-hours notice.

FOOD AND DRINK

Hot and cold snacks, food and drinks will be available throughout the day from both the tuck shop and kitchen / bar.

FIRST AID

All teams will be responsible for bringing their own first aid kit. A first aid kit and ice packs will also be available from the tuck shop if required.

FIELD MAP

