

ORGANISATION

The weekly allocation of fixtures and field locations will be published on the Northern Region Football (NRF) website. The fixtures draw will be made available on the Northern Regional Football website a week in advance but is not confirmed until 4pm the Friday prior to game day.

If your team needs to default the game for any reason, please contact your Grade Coordinator as soon as possible so alternative arrangements can be made for the opposing team.

The coach or manager will be provided with a login for Comet (used by NZF/NRF to register scores) and should enter the score by 4:00pm on Saturday.

Scores are recorded, to help with providing an appropriate challenge for each team, but not published by NRF.

Game Format

- U9 Grade – 7 aside, 55 x 35 field, 2 games, 10 players per team
- U10 Grade – 7 aside, 55 x 35 field, 2 games, 10 players per team
- U11 Grade – 9 aside, 70 x 50 field, 1 game, 12 players per team
- U12 Grade – 9 aside, 70 x 50 field, 1 game, 12 players per team

Grades are based on age, i.e 9th graders turn 9 this year (Jan 1st – Dec 31st). Games are played on fields across the North Harbour and West Auckland region against other club teams. Kick off times vary with each grade

- U9 – 12 = 2 x 27.5 minute halves with 2-3 minute half time

Goal kicks must be taken on the floor by passing out to a teammate.

Throw-ins, free-kicks and penalties introduced.

Retreating Line

The 'retreating line' rules are in use. When a team's goalkeeper catches/picks up the ball or is taking a goal kick or any player taking a Free Kick, the opposition MUST drop back behind the retreating line. Only after the goalkeeper plays the ball out and one of the goalkeeper's team-mates touches the ball, can the opposition player advance over the retreating line. Coaches are asked to encourage all players to play the ball as quickly as possible from the goalkeeper and not allow them to continue to roll or come to a stop. Learn more about the 'retreating line' watch the Video (<http://www.nzfootball.co.nz/newsarticle/63017>) or download the booklet from NZF website.

Offside

The offside rule is applied in junior football. For 9th & 10th Grade Football, the offside law will be applied between the retreating line and goal line only. For 11th & 12th Grade Football, offside cannot be given if the player is in their own half of the field of play. A player is in an offside position if they are nearer to the opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second-last opponent (at the point the ball is passed to them).

NRF Delivering Junior Football

There have been some large-scale changes to the delivery of junior football (U9-U12) across the NRF region in the last three years - most significantly, introducing the banding and fluid grading systems to junior football in 2019.

These changes are all about providing a more positive experience for all involved, aligning to the Balance is Better philosophy of Sport New Zealand and endorsed by New Zealand Football.

The Game Day Guidance Document has guidance and information to enable coaches and parents to make in-game adjustments on the day to improve the experience for players on both teams should that be necessary.

The Fluid Grading process means teams can move at any stage of the season to find the appropriate challenge point

Here's an outline of the junior football structure in the NRF region.

U-9 – U-12 – Pukeko Band

The Pukeko band is established to localise junior football ages U9-U12. There is no limit to the amount of divisions in each area and the NRF Federation is split into the following areas in this band: Upper Harbour, West Auckland, Central West, Central East, South, Far South, Far North and Whangarei. This band covers all current age grades of junior football and keeps teams local to assist in minimising travel time and cost, particularly in the first years of experiencing NRF competition.

U-11 – U-12 – Kiwi Band

The Kiwi band applies to U11/U12 competitions only. This band looks to widen the localised playing environment for clubs by pairing the sub regions together across Auckland, expanding the range of teams playing each other but minimising travel requirements.

U-12 – Moa Band

The Moa band is for U-12 teams interested in competing against all teams across the Metropolitan Auckland area and Northland regions (separately). Please note, this is not a band created for clubs to identify 'talent' streamed teams to compete in. However, consideration must be given to whether this band is the appropriate challenge point for teams entered.

PARENTS/SUPPORTERS

Should watch games from the sidelines. Provide encouragement to all players but leave specific football comments to the coach.

Those interested in playing an active role supporting the players could:

- Manage a team working with the coach
- Coach a team for one training and one game per week
- Enrol on a Club Based Referee (CBR) course so they can referee games.
- Run the line as an Assistant Referee.