

# Penno FC

## A Club Like No Other



### *Dear Players, Parents and Carers*

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Season 2021 at Pennant Hills Football Club, A Club Like No Other, one of the most successful clubs and Premier League teams in the history of our local football association.

We are a proud Club, with a fantastic footballing philosophy of sportsmanship and fun, regularly featuring at the top of our local associations' annual best and fairest, including our women's teams taking out our Association's best and fairest award in successive years.

### **2021 Season**

2020 was a peculiar season, one that very nearly didn't occur with the on-set of Covid-19. Fortunately, we were able to get going in July and completed a full premierships season, with first & second playing off a grand-final, from which we had several winners and a pretty successful season on the football field, particularly at our junior levels, building on our progress over the past few seasons.

Possibly more important than football success in 2020 was the success in bringing our community back together again after the enforced Covid lockdown of early 2020. Throughout the season, the role that we as a football club played in helping bring our community back together, offering some release from day-to-day pressures and bringing friends and families together in a sporting environment, in the fresh air, was most evident.

It now seems that 2021 will see similar challenges for our community, but hopefully the lessons learnt from early 2020 will enable us to have a more normal 2021 season. To do so, we will all need to be mindful of government health advice and continue to act in a Covid-safe manner.

All going well, the 2021 season is scheduled to commence on the weekend of 17 April (a slightly later start due to Easter and school holidays), with the Premier League competition starting on 10 April.

In 2020, we fielded more than 40 mixed Saturday teams, including Juniors, All Age, O35 and O45, together with a new O30s women's team to complement our junior girls' team.

Over the next few years, the football community will be very much focused on promoting the women's game, with Australia confirmed as the next host of the women's World Cup in 2023. For a long time, O35s men was the fastest growing segment of Australian sport, now it is women's sport and women and girls' football in particular.

Penno FC would love to play its part in encouraging greater female participation, and with the success of our summer football competition, hopefully those of you already involved in playing with Penno teams can encourage your friends to come and join us in 2021.

Girls (from U6s) can play in either the mixed competition (Saturday) or the women's competition (Sunday). Prospective female players who are not sure whether a female team will be formed in their age group should contact our women's football delegate, Chris Matthews on 0448 803 377.

### **Football Innovation - Walk Football (Age 18–99 – male/female) and 9-a-side Masters (Age 40-99), three quarter field**

No, we are not introducing VAR, but like many other sports, Football is also looking at new and innovative ways to keep older players involved for longer. With the increasing number of synthetic fields, greater opportunities for newer, smaller and shorter versions of the beautiful game are opening up.

Unfortunately, 2020 disrupted our association's (North West Sydney Football or NWSF) introduction of the social (and mixed) Walk Football small-sided game format. Walk Football is a slower-paced version of the beautiful game aimed – originally at over 50s (male and female), but now suggested at 18-99, with modified formats (6v6) on smaller pitches and shortened game times. Walk football is well established in the UK and offers an opportunity to continue team sport and the camaraderie that goes with it.

NWSF have advised Walking Football is due to start in April 2021. We will keep you informed as opportunities to be involved arise.

In a similar vein, NWSF is looking to introduce a 9-a-side, three quarter field version, with the longer-term plan being to use this vehicle to encourage an orderly transition from O45s. Subject to confirmation, NWSF has indicated it will run this format in 2021 on a Friday evening, with the likelihood that players can play for both their existing team and participate in the 9-a-side competition – which would be great for those teams with bigger squads – enabling more game time. Age guidance is O40s for women and O45s for men.

Again, we will keep you informed as opportunities to be involved arise, but in the meantime, if you know someone who might be interested (and perhaps is not currently playing), please let them know and **ask that they register their interest by following the registration procedures outlined below.**

## Penno Committee

A number of our long-standing Committee members have chosen to step down for the 2021 Season. Our thanks go to Wendy Lockley and Nicky Smith, in particular, for their hard work and dedication with regard to managing our junior ranks over many years. It is now time for others to pick up the baton.

In this respect, we are not asking that you necessarily join our Committee, but lend a hand by offering your services as an Age Manager / Coordinator. While always useful to be a member of Committee as it helps in keeping abreast of things, it is not essential. We can keep you informed by sharing Committee Minutes and / or direct communication via an experienced and knowledgeable Committee member.

Over the coming years, the Committee would also like to develop our Community aspects and have Penno play a bigger part on our local social scene, whether it be through a gala-style MiniRooos on a Saturday morning, or socially through evening events. Again, this role need not be a Committee role requiring attendance at regular meetings.

The future of your Club is in your hands. If you are interested in assisting in any way, or becoming a Committee member, we have several vacancies, including social media and web master (perhaps good for a Media studies university student) please get in contact with a Committee member. (Details on the website.)

## Registrations Day - Saturday, 30 January at Pennant Hills Park

**Online registration and payment** (instructions are available on the Player self-registration guide link) is now OPEN. Please attempt registration or re-registration online before Registration Day. (**Note:** The demand on the FFA servers is extreme on Registration Day and we encourage online registration either in advance or after Registration Day at your convenience.)

If you would prefer to register in person, you are more than welcome to do so, however, as a result of Covid restrictions, our venue has shifted to Penno Park.

**Accordingly, our Registration Day is on Saturday, 30 January at Pennant Hills Park between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.** We'd love to meet and have a chat and, if you are having difficulties, we can offer assistance.

As registration will be outdoors, we intend to have a few skill stations set up to keep our junior members entertained. In addition, the canteen will be open, with the opportunity to purchase socks and shorts etc.

## NSW Government Active Kids Scheme

**For those planning on using the Active Kids Voucher, please note that you MUST have applied for it and received the unique ID number BEFORE beginning the registration process.**

*In order to claim a voucher, you will need to be registered with Service NSW. Go to Service NSW*

*<https://my.service.nsw.gov.au/MyServiceNSW/Register>*

*Apply for your Active Kids voucher via the following link*

*<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/tr.../apply-active-kids-voucher>*

**Note:** The Active Kids voucher cannot be refunded if you cancel your registration with the Club. We can only forward the funds to another Active Kids registered and qualified organisation.

## Introduction to Football

This season, we are again offering **FREE Registration** for our U6 (4x4) and U7 (4x4) teams when using the \$100 Active kids voucher. **So, feel free to spread the word with regards to this special Penno FC offering.**

## ONLINE REGISTRATION

To register online, it is important that you read the rest of this information first.

Registration for 2021 should be much easier than previous years. It is email address based and not FFA number based. If you are a new registrant or your photo is more than 3-year old, you will need a new head and shoulders photo, **which can be taken with a smart phone against a plain background**, ready to upload from the device you choose to use for registration.

You can register online by going to **Online Registration** on our home page at [www.pennofc.com.au](http://www.pennofc.com.au).

*Previous player/manager or coach*

**Login to your Football account link**

<https://account.footballnetwork.com.au/>

*New to football or forgotten your previous registration details*

**Create a Football account link**

<https://account.footballnetwork.com.au/register>

## 2021 FEES

Fee are NOW Age-based and NOT Team-based as previously. Discounts apply for families with three (3x) or more players. This season we have simplified our fee structure to reduce complication and the workload on our Registrar, dispensing with early bird fee offering as only a limited number of Members take this option.

Please refer to our website for the necessary link and instructions.

Playing Age Group		Fee
Under 6 yrs	(2015-2016)	\$100
Under 7 yrs	(2014)	\$115
Under 8 yrs	(2013)	\$175
Under 9 yrs	(2012)	\$175
Under 10 yrs	(2011)	\$210
Under 11 yrs	(2010)	\$220
Under 12 yrs	(2009)	\$230
Under 13 yrs	(2008)	\$230
Under 14 yrs	(2007)	\$235
Under 15 yrs	(2006)	\$240
Under 16 yrs	(2005)	\$240
Under 17 - 18 yrs	(2003-2004)	\$275
Under 18 Women	(2004)	\$275
Players age 15 – 18 yrs playing AA & U21		\$310
Under 21yrs	(2001-2002)	\$360
All Age Worker		\$375
Players age 15 – 18 yrs playing AA & U21		\$310
Over 30s Women	Before 1991	\$375
O/35 yrs	Before 1986	\$375
Over 40s Women	Before 1981	\$375
O/45 yrs	Before 1976	\$375
Premier League		\$385
Premier League players aged 15 to 18 (born 2003+)		\$335
Walk Football (18-99– male/female, combined)		Expressions of Interest Welcome*
9-a-side Football (Over 40s women and O45s men)		Expressions of Interest Welcome*

**Note:** Fees are the same for either the mixed or female competition

Fee discounts for players who are tertiary students are no longer offered by the FFA. In place of our traditional student discount, Penno will provide free socks to genuine tertiary students.

Included in fees for U6 – U12s is a small contribution to our new professional coaching programme (see below).

\* Expressions of interest are free, choose “manual payment” when registering.

## PAYMENT

- If registering **online**, you will have the option of paying online by credit card (Mastercard or Visa).
- If completing registration **in person**, you can make payment by credit card, cheque or cash.

Fees are payable upon registration. **Club policy is “No pay – No play”**. However, anyone experiencing genuine financial hardship is invited to contact Rob Curtis on 0419 738 521 for a confidential discussion about ways we can help.

### **NEW** players to Penno will need to:

- Complete an online registration for the club “Pennant Hills Football Club” (for the mixed North West Sydney Football competition) or “Pennant Hills Women’s” (North West Sydney Football women’s Sunday competition) **AND** attend Registration Day **in person**. *(We need you to come in person because we need proof of age and a digital photo to complete registration.)*
- If unable to attend on Registration Day, please contact our Club Registrar whose contact details are set out below.
- Complete an online registration (include play with requests in the final section) prior to attending.
- Bring documentary proof of age (e.g. passport, birth certificate, driver’s license).
- Bring the player involved - a digital photo (head and shoulders) will be taken at the registration venue.
- If you are over 18 and did not play within NWSF in 2020, you will need to complete a “Statutory Declaration” form as supplied at the registration venue.

### **What you will need to do if you played for Penno in 2019 or 2020:**

- Complete an online registration (including a photo upload).
- Pay on-line (then there will be no need to attend registration day).
- All players, coaches and managers are required to supply a current photo for 2021 on-line or at Registration Day. If you are unable to attend in person, take a digital photo (head and shoulders) with a smartphone against a plain background and we can do an identity check at Team Allocation Day.

## **I AM HAVING TROUBLE REGISTERING**

If you are having trouble registering on-line, please **contact the FFA support centre on (02) 8880 7983**

If all else fails, please contact our Club Registrar whose contact details are set out below.

## **Family discount (three or more players)**

A family discount comprising a **cashback discount of \$75** in respect to each of the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) and subsequent players in any one family can be obtained via the Play Football on-line registration system or after payment **at the registration venue**.

## **TEAM ALLOCATIONS**

**If your child is 9 years old or younger and you wish to request for a particular team or group of players**, then please let the Age Manager know or indicate this in the final section of the registration process.

**Please note**, however, there can be **NO** guarantee that such a request can be granted. Numbers in teams are limited. So, in order to take advantage of our early registration discount and to avoid missing out on a place, please register early and ensure we know your team request.

## **TEAM ALLOCATION DAYS**

Team allocation days will be held on three (3x) Sundays during **February 2021**, and will be held at the Pennant Hills Synthetic field (Penno No 3) Britannia Street, Pennant Hills with Juniors in the mornings and Seniors in the afternoons/evenings.

- o Sunday, 7 February
- o Sunday, 14 February
- o Sunday, 21 February (if required)

**Team allocation will proceed regardless of weather**, unless there is a high risk of smoke, lightning, hail or extreme temperature.

In the event of extreme conditions, we may seek to arrange some Allocation sessions in the evenings during the week.

While Age Managers will attempt to get in touch with their respective age-groups, please also check our website [www.pennofc.com.au](http://www.pennofc.com.au) regularly for updates. We aim to have a schedule on the website and on our various social media platforms shortly.

Team allocation will occur with assistance from Premier League players and coaches. There is an expectation that players will attend ready to play with shin guards and boots. It will be hot, so wear sunscreen and also bring a drink. There are toilet and canteen facilities.

Please refer to our website [www.pennofc.com.au](http://www.pennofc.com.au) for further details on allocation times closer to the dates.

## **TRIAL GAMES**

Trial games have been a bit of a hit and miss over the past few years, so this season we plan to try something different. Age Managers will be in touch with their respective teams to gauge appetite. For MiniRoos and Juniors, we are looking at the prospect of commencing the season with a Gala-day event (if possible) on 28 February.

At the present time, we plan to hold trial games on Sundays during March, subject to field availability, with our objective being to try and give those teams that wish to have trial games, at least two games each.

Our plan is to commence trials on the first weekend in March – as follows:

- o Sunday, 7 March
- o Sunday, 14 March - Planned NWSF use
- o Sunday, 21 March
- o Sunday, 28 March
- o Sat / Sun, 10 April - Premier League and Super League commence
- o Sat / Sun, 17/18 April - Formal commencement of competition matches

**Note:** It is important if your team commits that you make yourself available for these trials as it assists with Club and team development. Importantly, if we are to continue to organise trials with other clubs, we need to be prepared to show up.

## **TRAINING NIGHTS**

Will be decided by coaches in consultation with each team. If you know who your coach is then you can contact them for interim times.

Unlike other grounds, football boots are allowed for all training on our synthetic field prior to commencement of the season in April. Football boots are not allowed for training on grass fields before the season commences.

## **Introduction of a new professional training programme for U6-12s**

In 2021, Penno FC is looking to introduce a new professional training format for our Junior members (U6 – U12s), commencing with an introductory session, and perhaps even a gala day, on 28 February.



The basic idea behind the new programme is that each team will have an allocated professional coach for mid-week training, paid for by the Club, largely from the success of Summer Football. Each team will still be required to have a weekend coach and manager.

Please look out for news on this exciting development as we move into February and our planned launch on 28 February, with a Skills Festival and the formal introduction of our coaching partner, KANO.

Our new training and development programme will seek to build on our "Penno FC Minis Academy" will be designed and implemented by experienced professional coach educators, with a renewed focus on BOTH player and coach development.

Subject to confirmation on Allocation Day, we will aim to commence this programme on Sunday, 28 February with a fun session as part of our "come and try" initiative to help recruitment. So, encourage your friends to come and try football and join us at Penno (and remember registration is effectively free for U6 & U7 (4 a-side teams).

Further details will be available on Allocation Day.

## **COACHES**

All teams require a coach to proceed for the season, if you are interested in coaching or managing or to continue from last season, please answer this question in the online registration and / or contact your Age Manager (see contact details on our website [www.pennofc.com.au](http://www.pennofc.com.au)). ALL volunteers MUST be registered to be covered by the Club's insurance arrangements, and where applicable, Working With Children clearance will also be required.

In order to develop our coaches, Penno FC will pay for new and existing coaches (and managers) to attend appropriate accredited coaching courses. If interested, and I would encourage you to take up this offer (it is fun and enjoyable and nothing to feel apprehensive about), speak to your Age Manager or our Director of Coaching.

In addition to the above, a Coaches & Managers evening will be arranged for mid/late March, when coaches and managers can meet each other and Committee members as the final part of our preparation for the 2021 season. This year, if feasible within a Covid-Safe environment, we would like to make this evening a bit more social, in part to say thank-you to coaches, managers and former Committee members that we would normally thank a pre-Christmas drinks event (which sadly we had to cancel at the last minute). It would be great if you can find the time to join us – more details in due course.

## **REFEREES COURSE**

Penno FC has a proud history of contributing referees to our association, with many Penno referees still offering their services across the Association after many, many years.

We continue to recommend our 14-years olds to become referees, it is a great way to earn some pocket money, but more importantly from a sporting point view, it is another great learning opportunity (albeit sometimes that learning is how not to !), and a great way to give something back and ensure Penno FC receives the highest possible game coverage.

To encourage take-up, Penno FC will waive new referee Registration fees (by way of refund) on confirmation of regular participation.

We would love to encourage our younger players to consider becoming a referee. Courses are usually held in February and March. The minimum age is 13yrs by 1 April 2021.

Course dates have been set and can be accessed via North West Sydney Referees' Association website at: [www.nwsfra.com.au](http://www.nwsfra.com.au) If you are interested in refereeing, please contact your Age Manager or our Referees Coordinator, Bruce Thomson on 0402 404 226.

## **UNIFORMS**

Shorts and socks will be on sale at Canteen on Registration Day, Allocation Day and pre-season Training nights at our Pennant Hills Home Ground Canteen off Britannia Street, Pennant Hills.

Game jerseys will be supplied once teams have been sorted.

## **BBQ Service**

Our Junior members introduced a Saturday morning BBQ service to Ern Holmes Oval several years ago. This initiative has proved to be very successful, however, we are uncertain at this time if we can offer this service at the present time (ordering and storing perishables is that bit more difficult with Covid day-to-day uncertainties). More on this later.

## **TIME TO REGISTER**

To register for Season 2021, go to [www.pennofc.com.au](http://www.pennofc.com.au) NOW and select the Online Registration link(s). Should you have problems registering, please contact our Registration team:

Registrar	Jake Ghalloub	Email: pennofcregistrar@gmail.com
		Mob: 0421 495 552
Assistant Registrar	Bruce Thomson	Email: thomsons@bigpond.com
		Mob: 0402 404 226
Age Managers	With our Committee undergoing a change in personnel, Age Managers are yet to be finalised. We will aim to confirm Age Managers at our earliest opportunity. Once finalised, details will be posted to the Penno website under "The Club" drop-down	

Welcome aboard and get set for another great year at Penno.

*Tony Macko*

**Tony Macko  
Club President  
January 2021**