

Mooroolbark Football Club Inc.

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Dear,

To all our Mooroolbark JFC families & wider community,

Welcome to the start of an exciting year here at Mooroolbark Junior Football Club (MJFC). Our aim in season 2021 is to make it a ‘great year’, after what proved to be a sad end to sport in Victoria, 2020. Now, this letter is going out earlier than usual as we have been a little quiet over summer to allow all families to re-focus on family, cricket, basketball, and all the other fun community sports. I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas period and had a festive start to this new year. One important fact I am reluctant to raise it that we are still not in a position to take this sporting year for granted, as we all know things can change within hours. For me personally, last year has only strengthened my resolve to make 2021 a more positive and memorable year for the kids.

After a lengthy term without contact please allow me to re-introduce myself. My name is Adam Gatherum, and for those who don’t already know me, I am the president of the junior football club. I have to say a sincere thank you to our outgoing Vice-President, Cindi Wilson (and her lovely family) for her tireless effort and commitment to the club over the past three years, but also for the many more years of support she has provided to the club in all her other appointments. Running a large club consumes a lot of time and involves many people which is why I also need to thank all our past and current committee members. Without the full and unconditional support of these volunteers, it would literally be impossible to keep a club operating. 2021 has seen several committee roles become vacant, and we would love for you to consider yourself fulfilling one of these. You will see more of this soon on our Facebook social media pages.

Without overstating, our players, members, and local community are sadly recovering from what was a demanding, stressful, and sometimes disastrous year for sport, schooling, employment, and perhaps general confidence for the future. Now with that aside, our great little community club still attracted amazingly high registration numbers. We registered over 370 players set to play in 18 different teams, which had been our largest to date. We do expect some attrition in these numbers as a result of 2020, but our club will double down to focus on the kids, their participation in the game, and most of all, FUN. As of February 1st, we have over 140 players re-new their 2021 membership. If you haven’t done so yet, can I urge you to jump online and go through the steps to update and re-new for 2021. You may remember we have elected to roll over 100% of last years monies. For this year you are still required to pay the insurance component and the club



levy. The funds we receive through the levy are invested straight back into the club. This is in the form of end of year presentations, sporting equipment, council fees, playing jumpers, and much more.

From a football perspective, we have had a minimalistic lead up to the start of season 2021. We had the U17's complete a month of training through December (whilst complying with our COVID safe management plan). Excitingly it will be the U17 group who also commence training this week down at Kiloran reserve. All other teams will start to hear about their training commencement through their coaches in the coming days. 2021 will present us with ground availability challenges as the cricket season comes to an end. I will ask for your patience as we work progressively with the Yarra Ranges Council, Mooroolbark Cricket Club, and the Mooroolbark FC seniors to find suitable grounds for all our teams to train and play proposed practice games on.

The kids will need more of your support in 2021 than ever before. We need to confirm coaches, team managers, trainers, and runners, as a minimum to get the teams on the field. Then team managers then need further support with goal umpires, & umpire escorts, and more general support. If you haven't volunteered yet, please consider offering your assistance, as it will reduce the load and ensure everyone gets to watch their kids take to the field and enjoy the competition with their friends.

The league has now provided us with a **season commencement date of 11th April**. Please look closely at this date as it sits just after Easter, and in the middle of the school holidays. Some families may like to plan around this date. Notably, there will only be one weekend off during the home and away season which is the Queens birthday weekend in June. This might be a good time to plan a weekend getaway if that is your thing. For our kids playing competitive footy, the finals start on the 25th July, and the Grand Final is scheduled for Sunday 8th August. Please also remember that we will be governed by restrictions put in place by the state government, local government, the AFL, and the EFNL. We will do our best to as a club to comply and we will definitely need your full cooperation and support to do so.

Although our social year may be quieter than previous we are still going to celebrate through the year. The committee is working through all the important dates including ANZAC day, Mother's Day, Kids disco night, kids pie night with the senior club, SALT learning, and even our end of year presentations. One important date that I can confirm for you to pencil in your calendar is team photos with Sports in Focus, from Monday 31st May – Wednesday 2nd June. Keep an eye out as we promote these events during the year, and again please don't hesitate to volunteer your time in support of them.

Merchandise will be available through our partner and sponsor, ICON sportswear. You can jump online to look at and buy any of the clubs apparel. We will provide time blocks for online purchases to be made at which point we will briefly close the page to consolidate and send the orders away to the manufacturer. We will then advertise another time block. You can view to purchase at the online page, <https://melbourne.icon-sports.com.au/mooroolbark-jfc-1>

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all of our sponsors. I can speak on behalf of the Executive and General committees who all fully understand and appreciate the significance of each and every contribution whether it be financial or in the form of services. I am also very confident that all of our families and football community appreciate this support. If it were not for our valued sponsors, we would not be in the stable position we are after such a difficult year last year. Can you please familiarise yourself with all our sponsors, and where possible utilise their business, or service. Even for you to thank them personally would



remind them of what a great sporting community they are a part of. A detailed list is available on the junior pages of the Mooroolbark FC web page.

If you are new to the club or not, there are a few rules as spectator that is requested from the EFNL (On Field behavior Initiative) and from our club. A brief summary is detailed below. This outlines the rules by which we are expected to adhere to, and apply. The EFNL will have representation at many of the games, and we can be sanctioned for not complying with the code of conduct.

Summary of MJFC Expectations –

- Please be respectful of all players, umpires, team managers, fellow parents and coaches at all times and especially during games times, our players are there for **enjoyment** and **development**.
- Our coaches and team managers are volunteer parents who care enough for the club in offering their time to ensure your child can be involved in sport.

Thank you for choosing Mooroolbark JFC. You have taken the time to register your child/children, equip them in club colours, committed to transporting them to training and games, all so they can learn new skills whilst having fun with their friends. I can honestly say I am sincerely looking forward to catching up with everyone around the grounds, and definitely having a fun and positive season. Please don't hesitate to come and say "G'day" if you see me around.

Please keep up to date with all MJFC news and information on our Facebook page - [@moojnfootballclub](#),

or alternatively jump onto our website www.mooroolbarkfc.com.au/juniors.

Regards,

Adam Gatherum

President MJFC

