



THE ACORN

SEASON 2023 ISSUE 11

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Team,

It's been a big few weekends of football since the break and a few personal milestones were reached as well. Congratulations to Jackson Leopold, Sam Holman, Joseph Casuscelli, Sasha Ung, Tom Davidson, Steven Amedeo, Mitchell Morton and Ethan Cash in playing their 100 game milestone over the past few weeks. Great achievement.

This weekend saw several players move up and play Senior football with three OAFC Teams. Lily Firth and Daisy Bird with the women's team. Bailey Moreland and Tyrone Interrigi played with the U19's and Xavier Green was presented his jumper to play with the Seniors. It is a great step for our players and we will continue to nurture our pathway with OAFC and further strengthen our 20+ year partnership. It is good to see our older teams already engaged in joint training sessions with the Senior Club, an invaluable experience.

Big thanks to Kathy for organising the Team photos. A huge amount of coordination and organisation goes into making this run smoothly. They may be just photos now, but in years to come it will be important to have a physical reminder of the good times you had with Oakleigh Dragons.

Emmanuel South Oakleigh Cricket Club (ESOCC) have announced that they will again be doing half price membership for new registration from affiliated Clubs for the '23/'24 Season, check out krushers.com

Now we face the run to the end of the season with the U9 and U10 only having 2 & 3 rounds respectively, until the end of their season and Lightning Carnival. U11's upwards have 4 rounds before Semi's. Let's keep giving it our best effort every training session and see our collective efforts pay off on match day.

The committee only has a few general meetings left until our A.G.M. So if you are thinking about joining the next Committee, please reach out to a current member to see what will be available and where your experience can further benefit the Club going forward. All our volunteers are the lifeblood to this Club, whether it is training, Game day or behind the scenes, every contribution is valuable.

We will be swapping around the remaining two Grubs, so the U18 Boys are now scheduled for 13 August and the combined U13 Teams on Sunday 20 August for our last Grub of the year. Upcoming Grub is the U14 Boys team on 30 July.

Go Dragons!
Brodie Phillips, President

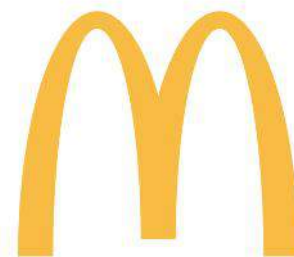
2022 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

President: Brodie Phillips
Vice President: David Cash
Secretary: Caz Hayes
Treasurer: Volker Heinze
Registrar: Kane Leopold
Compliance Officer: Kathy McGeoch
Property Officer: Chris Goodman
Canteen Manager: Bella Van Duersen
Sponsorship Coordinator: Phil Sturrock
Social Media: Vacant

Football Operations Manager: David Cash
Team Manager Coordinator: Jude Foster
First Aid Coordinator: Lindsay Armatas
Child Safety Officers: Sonya Moreland / Andrew Allan
Boys Coaching Coordinator (Youth): John McLaughlin
Boys Coaching Coordinator (Junior): Tim Moreland
Girls Coaching Coordinator: John Bernardo
Incident Coordinator: Sonya Moreland
Bar Manager: Gab Dunn
Social Committee: Vacant

General Committee:
Annelise Scott
Justin Scott
Sonya Moreland

2023 MAJOR SPONSORS



**CLAYTON &
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CONTACT DETAILS Brodie Phillips Ph: 0499 999 863 secretaryOYCFC@gmail.com www.oakleighdragons.org.au

FACEBOOK Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club **INSTAGRAM** @oakleigh_dragonsjfc



MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

100 GAMES



U16 Boys

Ethan Cash

Mitchell Morton

Tom Davidson

Sasha Ung

Steve Amedeo

CONGRATULATIONS

100 GAMES



U18 Boys

Jackson Leopold

Samuel Holman

Joseph Casuscelli



REMINDERS

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is a fantastic way for our Club to connect as a Community. Our social media channels need to remain safe and welcoming spaces for all our members. The Club will not tolerate members posting content in any space using derogatory or offensive language that has potential to harm others (intentional or otherwise), or bring the Club into disrepute.

If members become aware of offensive posts, we ask that you notify the Club immediately. Members and parents can always reach out to our Child Safety Officers, Sonya Moreland and Andrew Allan should they be the target of offensive content, childsafetyOYCFC@gmail.com



FOOTY BOOT DONATIONS

In her 'spare time', our U14 Girls Coach, Justine Leopold is a primary school PE teacher. One of her school teams has qualified to compete in an AFL final at division level on Monday 31st July. Some of these students do not own a pair of footy boots. If you are able to lend or donate a good quality clean pair of boots, please contact Justine on jleopold@live.com.au or 0404 843 040

'Through Football Better Citizens'



July is AFL's women's coaching month!

At the Oakleigh Dragons, we are passionate about increasing the number of women and girls who are coaching our junior teams.

This year, we have a record number of girls playing across 4 teams and only one female parent Coach. We want to continue to grow the number of girls playing and women/girls coaching at the Oakleigh Dragons.

We are looking for Mum's, Aunties and current players from our under 16 and under 18 girls teams who are interested in coaching to get involved. There are a number of roles available if you are interested, such as; Coach, Assistant Coach, Development Coach plus part time roles. You don't need previous experience, as long as you're willing to give it a go and learn.

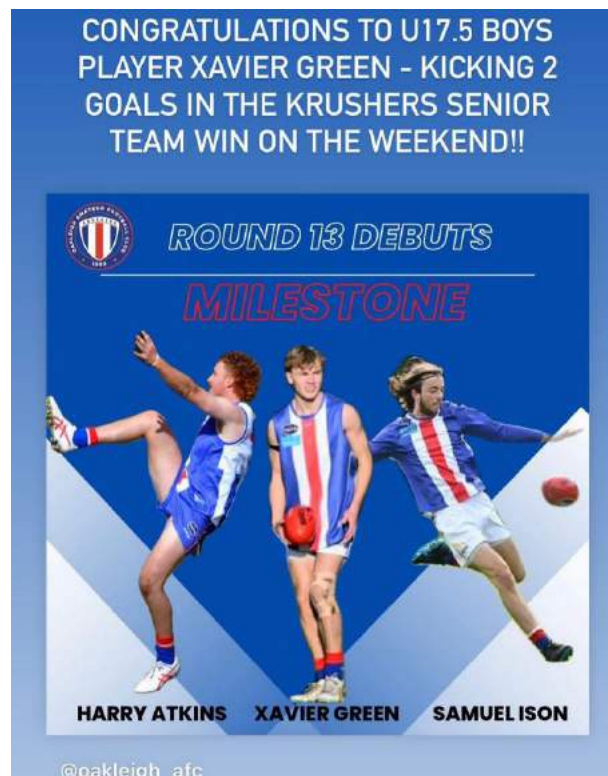
There will be support provided by the club (John Bernardo – Girls Coaching Coordinator/Under 16s Girls Coach and Justine Leopold – Under 14s Girls Coach) to ensure that you have the skills, support and confidence you need.

If you are interested, please reach out to John Bernardo (0411 795 274), Justine Leopold (0404 843 040) or David Cash (0408 822 339) to have a chat.





CONGRATULATIONS – PLAYING FOR SENIORS



COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED GREEN JAKE BENOITON

Another undermanned week for our lads as we battle some tiring legs and bodies. We started the game brilliantly and our pressure game was once again prevalent in the first half. We have played a taxing game style this year, but I believe it will serve the boys very well as their football journeys grow.

We have been missing some key players for some weeks now and it was great to welcome Connor back into the fold. After a few weeks where our effort and pressure were maybe not at their best, it was terrific to see the boys recapture some of our early season form. The last few weeks will allow us to refine our style and celebrate our last few weeks together as a team.

What we have definitely learnt this year is football is about resilience and enduring the times that maybe aren't so easy and sweet and fighting through that to enjoy the fruits of our labour down the road. The boys have done that this year and have fronted up against the odds just about every week and I couldn't be prouder of them for that.

U9 MIXED YELLOW DANIEL AITKEN

An extremely tough day for our boys today playing against an extremely seasoned Mordi-Brae team at their home ground.

From start to finish the opposition looked a class above and it was telling on the scoreboard. Despite this I implored our boys to stick at it and continue focusing on applying pressure to make life as difficult as possible for the opposition and to their credit they never dropped their heads and kept fighting to the final siren.

Special mention to a couple of our smaller kids in Jack and Reyan who pressured and tackled all game unfazed by the opposition.

U10 MIXED GREEN ALEX O'BRIEN

After an early start for photos we faced Cheltenham at Princes Highway Reserve.

Anastasios, our captain for the week won the toss and we kicked towards the favourable end. We moved the ball well out of the middle all morning and provided many opportunities for our forwards. With only 14 players available, it was a tight battle all day and we sung the song loud and proud two weeks in a row. Great team effort by all players and the improvement is there to be seen.

A special mention to Thomas E, Archer, David, Thommy M and Max M on putting in solid performances.





We are starting to move the ball well in and out of the zones through Ben, Kai, Greg, Harvey, Ethan, Tyler and then in turn looking for Maison and Max B in the forward line. The pressure was great by everyone all over the ground and there were a couple of exciting goals to finish off the great piece of play further up the field.

Well done by everyone, continue the great work and Go Dragons.

U10 MIXED YELLOW RICK DAVIES

Our team put in a solid performance against Mordialloc at Princes Highway reserve.

We moved our players around and it was really pleasing to see some great performances from the team.

Dante played a breakout game in defence with solid tackling and moving the ball forward.

James started in defence and really propelled the ball forward once he moved to midfield in the second half.

Noah (pictured) as Captain for the day played forward early and once moved into the midfield won lots of contested ball sending us into attack.

Looking forward to next week's game.



U11 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We played away against one of the ladder leaders Mordi/Brae on a good day for footy with William and Harrison as Co-Captains and both boys gave 100%.

Unfortunately the opposition got the jump on us piling on 5 goals in the 1st quarter.

At quarter time we asked the boys to knuckle down and focus on our brand of pressure footy with run and dare. We called to our midfield to lead by example and they answered the call. Big Dave in the ruck played his best game dominating his opponents for the remainder of the game. He was supported by Jonah, Ambrose, Finn and Masaki to help get the game back on our terms and we surged the ball forward to create opportunities.

The boys showed real grit to win the last 3 quarters and there were some fantastic highlights on the day including a great high mark from Finn which he converted to a goal.

Our goal sneak specialist; Spyros slotted another smart goal and Harrison had his best day in the forward line kicking 3 goals. 2 came from strong marks and the other was a team lifting running goal where he sidestepped a would be tackler before hammering the ball through the middle.

Unfortunately the opposition scored a couple more against the run of play and that was the difference in the end.

Well battled Dragons!



U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

A tough assignment for our girls this week, away to the Waverley Hawks who sit on top of the ladder, unbeaten and winning games with ease. We gave them a hell of a scare back in Round 6, going down by a solitary goal and hopes were high that we could go one better this time out.

We got off to a great start, energy levels were high and some relentless forward pressure meant much of the first quarter was spent at the right end of the ground. Skye opened the scoring with her fourth goal in two games before the Hawks struck back with two break away goals to take the lead. Some great pressing from Bonnie almost created a couple of goals before a clever handball from Kiana helped Olivia finish a good passage of play, scoring her first goal for the club in style. We went into the first break with a two point lead.

In the second quarter the Hawks showed why they are the team to beat. Their pacey midfielder Georgia showed the form that has earned her 39 goals already this season putting our backline under immense pressure. Semira, Stella and Greta were as dependable as ever down back, ably assisted by Lavinia who had her best game to date but there was little they could do to stop the Hawks opening up a 19 point lead by the big break.

In the second half our midfield dug deep to stop the Hawks route to goal. Sophia battled hard in the ruck, winning more than she lost and Ruby was a warrior in the middle of the park all day in a MVP performance, winning countless contested balls, teeing up Miette to run the ball forward and deliver long bombs into our forward line. As the weather deteriorated into the final term our forward line toiled to find a goal, Tyra almost combining with Kiana for a goal and Vicky denied shots twice by some desperate tackles from a big Hawks defender.

In the end the Hawks ran out 39 point winners, our girls a little bruised, battered and soaked to the bone but with heads held high and improving every game. Bring on next week...

U13 MIXED YELLOW DAVID CASH

Played St Kilda City/Port Melbourne at Scammell Reserve

Early start, arrived at 6.45, photo at 7am. (Thank you for the great effort you put in arranging the photos for everyone Kathy, great job they are a prized possession for all involved every year). Then the game at 8am, plenty of time to wake up and warm up. Fresh haircuts everywhere and with the time we had to get out head on straight, one would have thought we would be ready and raring to go.

However, I think the boys went back to sleep after the photos, in the first half, they were just not switched on or "Having a Crack" the way we know we can. So, into the change rooms at half time, and an old-fashioned "Teddy Whitten" type spray came out (I am sure a few people wondered where that came from) but to the boy's credit, they took it well, understood where it came from, and they came out of the change room a completely different team.

In the second half, they ran hard, attacked the ball, tackled, shepherded, kicked to target, marked the ball, played on, handballed to teammates and they got the ball forward and were rewarded with scores.

When the opposition coach shook my hand after the match, he asked me if one of our players (jumper number ??) had turned up late. He said "he hadn't seen the player, but was so impressed with the way he played after half time and had to ask the question. I told the boys this and said to them, "Ask yourself if you think that jumper number could have been yours?" it could have been almost everyone in the team. BUT take the positive out of the way you played the second half – and play like that, every quarter of every game for the rest of the season and we can really have some fun.

After the game, the boys understood they CAN play this game called football and they can have fun doing it. Keep the improvement going, keep practicing the things we discuss. And keep turning up to training. Go Dragons.



U13 MIXED GREEN TIM MORELAND

Another trip to Bentleigh Highett this week which started in clear and dry conditions with a good ground to boot. It will be nice to get back to Scammell for our last 4 games of the year however...

BH jumped us from the first bounce and just wanted the ball more than us - which offered a real challenge for the boys and coaches. Before we knew it BH had 4 goals on the board and if it wasn't a late second quarter from Darcy M we could have been in a lot of trouble. Curtis was back into the side however Harland still out with that broken finger meaning we had no interchange.

Quarter time and half time required some re-adjusting, and as coaches, we made it clear what we needed to improve on by adding CARE to our game style. We started the second half in sleety rain however the boys fired up and began playing the way we know how. Our link up and chain handball noticeably improved and we doubled our forward entries. Our backs, Darcy R, James, Oscar and Aidan lifted and attacked the ball. Cooper started chasing, Johnny was hitting targets and Cam slotted back onto the wing to give us some run.

Up forward, Troy worked his way to contests whilst, Archie, Curtis & Harrison got their hands on the footy. Paul switched through defence and the middle of the ground and it was very pleasing to see Kaeleb attack the footy in the second half. Andrew ran hard all day whilst Tommy again showed how dangerous he can be in the centre and when drifting forward. Tyler's second half was awesome and his quick hands out of contests great. We love Tyler's attitude to the contest and he's always having a crack for his teammates.

Heath is improving each game and his challenge was to get to as many aerial contests as possible. He did that today and to finish the game with a goal on the run to seal it by 11 points was impressive. Darcy M leadership today was so important and he led the way for 4 quarters kicking 3 crucial goals after playing on ball all day.

Another great learning/development game for the boys today. Our best footy is going to be hard to beat and if we continue to work for each other and provide constant CARE along the way - we're going to keep improving each week. Well done everyone!!

Go Dragons 

U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

We played Cheltenham on a damp and dreary day at Princes Highway. Up against a much more physically imposing team, our girls were undersized across the board but you couldn't question their fight. After a tight first quarter in the constant drizzle, we found ourselves having goals kicked on us as the opposition were a little bit cleaner below the knees and moved the ball a lot further by foot than us. But as always, it's heads up and push on with our girls and that was always the message at each break, even though the margin was opening up. In the end it was the conditions that may have caught us off guard as we hadn't really played in many slippery wet weather games and against such a taller and more mature side. But it's another learning curve for this group and we'll work on a few things from the weekend.

Notable players:

- Milly B - a superb game of wet weather footy. We couldn't have asked for more from you.
- Zoe - fullback the whole day, defended admirably and soundly beat a much bigger opponent.
- Misaki - plenty of run and forward advances.
- Tash - no frills, quiet achiever. Worked tirelessly all day.
- Sophie - we asked something from you pre game. And you gave it to us. Well done.



U14 MIXED MARCUS SPENCER

We played against: AJAX

At: Scammell Reserve

It sounds weird to suggest this but we played one of our best games of the year on Sunday, and lost by 55 points.

We were up against the undefeated AJAX and it quickly became evident why they are undefeated. They were very quick over the ground and had a couple of big key position players who could really dominate. But our boys were committed to giving them a tough contest, and that is what we did.

For the first time in a long time, we matched an opposition team in intensity and attack on the football. In the middle of the ground, Sam took on two much bigger ruckman all day and was fantastic. He jumped into them all day and ran hard both into defence and forward. Campbell was leading the way in hunting the ball and the opposition, and Ari and Hunter were controlling the wings.

In the backline, Oskar, Mitch, Henry and Adam were throwing themselves into the contest, but the small AJAX forwards were a handful. Nathan was playing a particularly good game, taking the opposition on from the half backline and driving the ball forward. His running goal in the first quarter was a season highlight.

In the end, the difference between the two teams was a bit of polish. Good teams punish mistakes and AJAX is a good team. 15 scoring shots to 11 shouldn't result in a 55 point loss, but our return of 2 goals 9 was disappointing and didn't reflect the amount of effort the boys put in on the day.

I am hoping that we can replicate that effort over the last four weeks of the season. If we can, I believe we can still make a run to the finals. Time will tell I guess, but regardless of results, we will finish on a positive note if we play like we did on Sunday for the rest of the season.

U16 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

Oakleigh 0-5-5 Hampton 3-8-26

We headed down to Hampton to play the second placed Rovers on a wet and slippery Sunday afternoon. As expected Hampton came out attacking, but the endeavour and fighting qualities of our back 6 repelled many forward entries and we conceded only 1 goal. It was much of the same theme in the second and third quarters. We went forward on a few occasions but found it hard to score. Every one of our girls was playing good competitive tough footy and I truly was proud of the way they dug in for a fight, however Hampton added a couple of goals and went into the last quarter with a handy 23 point lead.

At the last break I asked that they didn't drop their heads and at least try and outscore Hampton, and to our credit it's exactly what we did. We had all the attacking play and pushed forward many times. Unfortunately all that hard work ended in only 3 points, but the girls stood to their words and Hampton didn't score.

Today was a very bruising and sometimes bone crushing match, Ben our trainer was kept very busy.

With only 4 rounds to go let's hope your "never give up" attitude sets us up for some finals action. Well done girls!!



U16 BOYS ZAC BARRETT / MASON ANSELL

This round saw the Dragons hosting Brighton Beach at the Dragons den. This round also saw the team photos taken. The Dragons had 5 players celebrating their 100th matches so they needed no extra motivation for the occasion.

The first term saw a tense affair with both teams managing to transition the ball well. Oakleigh were firmly in control of the match but couldn't capitalise, ending the term with 1 goal 6 behinds.

The second term saw scoring open up a bit more with both teams able to hit the scoreboard. While Oakleigh showed promising signs, Brighton beach began to take control of the match.

After halftime the Dragons were able to match the scoring but were unable to chip away at Brighton's slight lead. The third term made for some very exciting play with Oakleigh able to move the ball from coast to coast on several occasions.

The final term was hotly contested with both teams playing for their seasons. Whilst Oakleigh were unable to get over the top of their opposition, they showed plenty of maturity and growth in the match. Oakleigh now face Prahran at home next week in the grand final rematch.

U17 BOYS JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

Opponent: Sandy/ Rover/ Highett Home Game

Result: Oakleigh Dragons won by 25 points

Scammell was in great condition despite some rain earlier in the day. Our division is an extremely close competition, and we know that to play finals we must continue to play at our best every game. We played this team at their home ground earlier in the year and they beat us by 44 points, so we had a challenge in front of us. Their midfield was where the game was going to be decided, we asked our guys to be ready and to be relentless on their attack on the ball. It was a very big milestone game for us with Sammy H, Jacko and Joey all celebrating their 100th games.

We started well and had a 2-goal lead at quarter time. The leaders were really standing up and showing the way. The second quarter we kicked another 3 goals to 1 and took a good lead of 22 points into the main break. We knew they would come out hard and they did to get a bit of a run on and be only 8 points behind at 3 quarter time, game on! The last term saw us steady and draw away with 4 goals to 1 quarter to win a very competitive game. A couple of very pleasing things, that we have been focusing on, worked extremely well. Firstly, we slowed the ball and the game down when they had the momentum. Secondly, we asked the players to release the ball quickly when they had the opportunity, this was great to see, and we got some quick movement forward. As a coaching group this was fantastic to see and showed some real maturity. Overall, an extremely pleasing performance

Special mentions from the game:

- The milestone boys all had a great game – Joey had a cracker; Jacko was close to our best until he got injured and had to come off and Sammy did some really clever and important things for us.
- Tommy H, our Skipper Specky and Stevie all had fantastic games and cracked into the contest in the centre square and set the tone early. We were very hard at the ball.
- The forward line worked well with our big target Billy back, kicking a couple of goals early. Elliot keeps his good season going with another 4 goals, he keeps getting in the right spot.
- Down back Lachie, Xavier (after playing his first senior game the day before) and Aden all played well.
- There was great energy from all the players.



Thanks so much for all the support provided from families and friends, we certainly love your involvement with the team, please continue to get around the guys. See all the players at training this week. We are looking forward to the challenges ahead.

Go Dragons

U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY

The Dingoes hosted us this week on a drizzly afternoon at Chadwick Reserve. It has been a happy hunting ground for our team this year, and the girls were hoping for another win.

The game was a physical encounter with lots of bumps and tackles in the slippery conditions. The Dragon girls were able to control the ball better through the midfield and across half back and managed to keep the home side scoreless all day.

Bridget played a blinder and was our best forward all day kicking 4 goals. Gisselle was busy in the midfield and kicked a long goal that skidded through after bouncing in the goal square. The backline didn't have heaps to do in the first quarter so the magnets were moved around for the rest of the game to give everyone a go. Livvy and Daisy both played well in the ruck against bigger opposition. Lily F, Freya, Matisse, Tayla, Gecko and Chootey were all in the action. Olivia Jackson put herself in good positions and was competitive all day.

Another great team win.



SMOKE-FREE

By law, smoking is banned within 10 metres (about two car lengths) of any public outdoor sporting venue during an organised under-18s event.

The ban includes training or practice sessions to prepare for an organised under-age sporting event, and breaks or intervals during the course of the event, training or practice session.



THE ACORN

SEASON 2023

ISSUE 11

ROUND 11 / SUNDAY 23 JULY

SOCIAL MEDIA



Don't forget to follow us on social media for all the latest news

Facebook: Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club

Instagram: @oakleigh_dragonsjfc



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

If you have any photos you'd like in the next Acorn,
please email them with a description to Kathy at complianceOYCFC@gmail.com



Oakleigh Rotary Market

EVERY SUNDAY 8AM - 1PM

HUGE RANGE OF WARES

- Fruit, vegetables & plants
- Clothing & books
- Tools & hardware
- Preowned treasures

...AND MUCH MORE

Corner of Hanover and Atherton Street, Oakleigh



Oakleigh
Clayton
Huntingdale





GRUB AT THE CLUB SCHEDULE

Subject to change during the season depending on game times, your Team Manager will keep you posted.

Don't forget – Grub's Gone Green! BYO plates and cutlery.

Date	U8 & U9	U10	U11-U13	U14+	Holidays	Grub at the Club
23-Apr	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1		U16 Boys
30-Apr	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2		
7-May	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3		U9 Mixed
14-May	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Mother's Day	
21-May	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	National Volunteer Week, 15-21 May	Hosted by Special Guest
28-May	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6		
4-Jun	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7		U10 & U11 Mixed
11-Jun	No Games / Interleague Carnival				King's Birthday	
18-Jun	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8		U12 & U14 Girls
25-Jun	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	School Holidays	
2-Jul	No Games				School Holidays	
9-Jul	No Games				School Holidays	
16-Jul	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10		U16 & U18 Girls
23-Jul	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11		
30-Jul	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12		U14 Mixed
6-Aug	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13		
13-Aug	Lightning Carnival	Round 14	Round 14	Round 14		U18 Boys
20-Aug		Lightning Carnival	Round 15	Round 15		U13 Mixed
27-Aug			Semi Finals	Semi Finals		
3-Sep			Grand Finals	Prelim Finals	Father's Day	
10-Sep				Grand Finals		
TBC	PRESENTATION DAY (School holidays commence 16/09)					

