



THE ACORN

SEASON 2023 ISSUE 15

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Team,

A massive thanks to the combined U13's teams for putting on the massive last Grub of the year. Well done Team. I think the queue rivalled that of the first Grub.

Natasha Sturrock ran through the banner at Scammell for her 50th game on Sunday and kicked the winning goal to put a big full stop on the U14 girls home and away season to see the team locked in to 2nd position on their ladder. Well done Tash!

Sunday afternoon turned on some beautiful weather for the U10's Lightning Carnival and I hope that all players had a fun day to finish off their season '23.

Congratulations to everyone for the amazing efforts you all put in each week. We have officially finished the home & away season and we wouldn't have got this far without you all. To the Players that show up to training every week, regardless of last week's score and then on game day, your commitment to the Club, your Team and to yourself is to be applauded. Give yourself a pat on the back. Walk tall and proud when you reflect on your achievements this season. To the parents, volunteers and supporters that show up every week, your assistance, guidance and cheering is surely appreciated by the kids on the paddock. Thank You!

There were a few mathematical wins (and losses) within the ladders this weekend to put some teams into finals and I can say that the U18's Girls match at Scammell sure was a nail-biter. Well done to Gavin and the team.

I know there are a few Grill'd Awesome Effort awards stuck on fridges across the suburbs (I sure handed out a few) and Caz has confirmed that September is the month to head on into Grill'd at Chadstone, grab your token and drop them into our Community Jar. If we have the most tokens at the end of the period, there will be a share in \$500 coming back to further support our volunteer club.

Good Luck to the Teams that are playing finals this coming week. Starting with the U14 boys on Thursday Night at Chadwick Reserve against Murrumbene. If you are around, please get down to support the U14 boys, who have been rocked by two big injuries in the last two weeks.

See you all as one big family, to close out the season on Presentation Day on Sunday 17 Sept. Yellow and Green. Go Dragons!

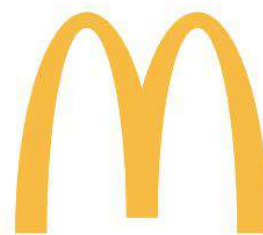
2022 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

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STONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50

GAMES

Natasha Sturrock, U14 Girls



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



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REMINDERS

MESSAGE TO SUPPORTERS, OFFICIALS AND PLAYERS

We are fortunate to have a number of teams taking part in the 2023 Finals series. Finals can be a nervous time for Players, supporters, Coaches and Officials. Often this pressure can manifest in disappointing on and off field behavioural issues. Poor behavior - including any directed at Umpires - won't be tolerated.

The SMJFL By-Laws have been amended for the 2023 Finals Series. Penalties will be doubled for reportable offences (including against Umpires) that occur during Finals.

The league seeks to provide kids with a safe, supportive and inclusive environment. This extends to the SMJFL Umpire Academy, of which approximately 85% are under the age of 18. A number of Oakleigh Dragons players also fill roles as SMJFL Umpires.

We want to support the Umpires, and stamp out unsavoury behavior. This is an important step in creating a better game day environment. As spectators, we must provide the right role model experience for our Players. Positive, encouraging support from the sidelines is always welcomed.
Go Dragons!

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Good luck!



**U13
GREEN**

Semi Final

Sunday 27 August, 1.00pm
Princes Park (Caulfield South)

Good luck!




**U14
GIRLS**

Qualifying Final

Sunday 27 August, 8.30am
Mentone Reserve

Good luck!



**U14
BOYS**

Elimination Final

Thursday 24 August, 7.30pm
Chadwick Reserve (Oval 2)

Good luck!



**U18
BOYS**

Qualifying Final

Sunday 27 August, 11.00am
Hurlingham Park

Good luck!



**U18
GIRLS**

Qualifying Final

Sunday 27 August, 3.00pm
Hurlingham Park



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PRESENTATION DAY

11.00AM

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER
SCAMMELL RESERVE

★ CLUB AWARDS ★ TEAM AWARDS
★ DRAGONS' GIFT ★ CANTEEN
★ UNIFORM DONATIONS



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Visit Grill'd in September

WE NEED YOUR

TOKEN VOTE!



Grill'd

Don't forget for the month of **September**, Oakleigh Dragons will have a jar at Grill'd Chadstone! Buy a burger and drop a token in the jar to help the club. Remember to use your Grill'd Awesome Efforts Awards to get your free burger!

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TOYOTA

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*Support Oakleigh JFC and you could win
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Oakleigh JFC



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COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!

There are just a couple of Rounds left for 2023, but the Committee is already looking ahead to next season. We have a number of Committee vacancies coming up, with kids aging out of junior football, and support is needed from younger age groups. The Committee is a great way to help shape your kids' football experience, and a fantastic way to get involved in your community! Come along to a Committee Meeting or contact a current member to see how you can help in a role, big or small!

SEASON 2024



ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME!

For more information:

secretaryOYCFC@gmail.com

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COACHES' REPORTS

U10 MIXED GREEN ALEX O'BRIEN

We played our last three games for the season in the Lightning Carnival at Highett Reserve.

We played AJAX, St Kilda City and Hampton Rovers.

Our first 2 games we applied great pressure and the ball moved really well in and out of the zones. The third game we were a bit flat but to their credit the boys played out the game in true spirit and the improvement over the year was evident in all three games.

Thanks to the four Under 9s boys for helping us out, Ollie, Krishiv, Koby and Francesco.

Everyone played well today. It was a good finish to the season and everyone has played their part during the season.

Thanks to all the parents during the year who have helped, a special mention to Danny and Naomi (Team Managers), Gary (Assistant Coach), Evert (Runner) Chris and Paul (Umpires), Claire and George (Trainers), Carl and Dave with the warm ups. Thanks to everyone, the season would not have run so smoothly without your assistance.

The boys have developed well during the year, it is a pity that the season has come to an end. Hope to see you all at the presentation day and onwards and upwards for next year. Go Dragons.





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U10 MIXED YELLOW RICK DAVIES

It was great to finish the season with a win in our final match. We played our lightning carnival against Dingley, AJAX and Waverley Park Hawks. The effort from the team was tremendous all day.

In game 1 our pressure was fantastic. Blake and Luke dominated the midfield resulting in goals to Kian and Noah. We defended hard but Dingley kicked a goal very late to take the victory by 2 points.

Game 2 against AJAX was tougher but we fought hard. The under 9's who helped us out for the day were terrific. Thanks James Scott, Archer and Raj.

Game 3 the team put in an amazing effort. Bronx and Hugh were strong in defence and Charlie continued to drive the ball forward with his run and carry. Seth kicked both our goals. It was pleasing to see the team belt out the song at the end of the game.

A big thanks to the kids for the effort all season and a thanks to our fantastic parent group who were always present and supportive throughout the season.

A special shout out to:

- Jai for your guidance to the team. We had lots of great training sessions and it was pleasure seeing the positive impact you had on the group.
- Daniela for the wonderful team management. You provided sage advice throughout the year and your calmness was greatly appreciated.
- Jason as the greatest runner in the league. Your encouraging words to the kids set the tone on game day.
- Ang / Therese as trainers - fair to say you got a work out this year! Your diligence and care for our team was praised constantly by the group.
- Joe for helping out as runner - your footy knowledge had a big impact on the team.



Thanks again and look forward to seeing you all on presentation day.

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U11 MIXED ALLEN COOK

Perfect conditions for our final game at our Home Ground this morning.

We played East Malvern who were lucky to get us by 1 point early in the year so the boys were keen to get one back on them.

Today's focus was on being **1st to the footy** and the boys all delivered on what we asked maintaining a fierce attack on the ball all day to wear the opposition down.

Finn and Alex were our Co-captains and both boys gave their all with Alex strong down back and Finn running all day through the midfield to drive the ball forward.

Our Centre Half Back line was like a brick wall with Matty, Ambrose, and Masaki stopping everything that came their way, Masaki, in particular, playing his best game for the season.

Our forwards had loads of opportunities with Jonah, Karlos, Teddy, Spyros and Cam pushing the ball forward and Finley and Paul getting on the end of a few but we struggled to find the big sticks.

Finley marked strongly and kicked the only goal of the game which was enough to give us the win.

Well done Dragons!!

U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

Our final home and away match for the season against the Hampton Rovers was an elimination final, win we make top 4, lose and our 2023 football journey comes to an end.

It was a typical Dragons performance, ferocious, uncompromising, fair and played in a spirit. The club and parents can be proud of their daughters and the group of young ladies on and off the footy field.

We fought hard though like in many games this season with no or limited bench, even playing with less on the field we gave it a hell of a shake. We were only a goal down with just over a quarter to play and with ball in hand we looked amazing as we handball, run and carry in the game.

Unfortunately we just couldn't find an avenue to goal and fell just short. Finishing 5th we have the second best defence in the league and the 3rd best percentage so the girls should be proud of their season.

A couple of special mentions. A big thank you to Nathan Windsor, coaching the girls every Friday, creating a fun environment where the girls thrived and developed their footy skills and friendships. Andrew Allan for running the team and putting up with the opposition team managers and coaches on a weekly basis when wanting to play extra players. Andrew for his entertaining goal umpiring, Paul for his wise words and guidance as boundary umpire and Joey for being runner and having an extra set of eyes on the bench helping Nathan and me on game day. To the parents that were trainer, water carrier, umpire escort, thank you so, so much. To the parents that supplied the half time lollies and oranges, thank you so, so much. To all the parents and families that helped out at training and supported the team on game day cheering from the side-lines, thank you.

It is because of all of you that made being a part of this team so special and a highlight of my week. I hope we can do it



all again in 2024!

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U13 MIXED YELLOW DAVID CASH

Played Caulfield Bears away

A great day for football, the last game of the season and the boys were ready to play. The message was simple, have fun, forget about the score board, and play the best football you can and put on show the skills and development you have gained this season.

Our boys were up against it, the Bears were second on the ladder, and played with 18 v our 17 players and they were relentless and aggressive. Our boys never gave up and kept their head held high throughout the entire game, there were several minor injuries on our team keeping Caz busy, but lucky nothing major - Liam N, Liam A, Robbie, Josh, and Ryder all on the receiving end.

This was the first game the players got to put their preferred positions forward and take the opportunity to play somewhere they have wanted to play or show they can play in different positions.

I was very impressed with the players throughout the season, even though we were up against a stronger opposition in almost every week, they kept training, kept improving and kept turning up and giving their all, week in week out. Even from the other side of the world, one of the boys' teammates reached out to see how his teammates were going, what a fantastic group of boys.

As this is my last Acorn post as a Coach, I want to take this opportunity to thank every parent that helped this season, in a small or a big way, there are far too many to name, but you know who you are as team volunteers.

But a special thank you to the following people who have supported me during my time coaching:

- The Team Managers: Lindsay, Michelle and Annelise.
- The Assistant coaches: Shannon, George, Andrew, Leigh, and Chris (and although he has never been my assistant coach, we have worked together with 2 different age groups now – Tim).
- The many Runners, Trainers, Umpire escorts, Volunteer, Goal, and Boundary Umpires.
- The Dragons Committees and all the people around this great club of ours that keep putting in week after week and year after year.
- And finally, I would like to thank my Family because without their help and support there is no way I could do what I have done, thank you all so much Steph, Ethan, and Josh.

Good Luck to the U18 Girls, U18 Boys, U14 Boys, U14 Girls, and U13 Green Boys in the finals.
Go Dragons!

U13 MIXED GREEN TIM MORELAND

Last round of the season and we took on AJAX at Scammell in a game which wouldn't affect the final positions on the ladder. We've had a good season and to finish with a 48 point win was pleasing. Our link up footy was again on display and we certainly look entertaining when we move it through the ground.

We slotted Charlie back into the team to prepare for finals and he even saddled up for a second game shortly after. Paul and James continue to provide a defensive duo down back and with Aidan and Kaeleb forming a wall behind the ball, it's certainly hard to get through. Curtis continues to improve his attack on the ball, Cam just runs hard all game and works for his team mates whilst Johnny, Archie and Cooper look dangerous forward of the ball.

We took a good lead into half time and came back out with confidence of repeating our game style. However, AJAX got first to the ball and we started to play for ourselves a little. We chatted at 3/4 time of how we needed to get back to playing for each other and that's exactly what happened in the last quarter. Darcy R was hard at the contest, Andrew ran up and down the wing, Troy presented constantly up forward with Heath and Oscar's ability to play in multiple

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positions is very handy for us.

Tommy controls the middle of the ground and when forward is a real target for us. Great to have Harland back to his running form and his attack off half back sets up many forward plays. Tyler gets better and better with his hands out from contests and is a real team player. Darcy M had another good one today as he kicked 6 goals as an on baller and provides all day running.

Well it's now time to prepare ourselves for finals this week. We'll all get to training and prepare for what's next.



Go Dragons

U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

Final round and we played Waverley Hawks on our home ground, having previously been beaten by them away in a tight tussle. The equation was pretty simple - win and stay 2nd, lose and drop to 3rd....on a day where Tash brought up 50 awesome Dragons games.



This deep into the season, the girls know what is required of them, our expectations and our standards. We felt that they brought this attitude Sunday, from warm up to pre-game to the banner and into the game.

We've had a few sleepy starts this year but we came out of the blocks in the first quarter kicking 3 goals to 1. First goal was kicked by Lasagne Lucy with Yana always lurking around the goal square. Zoe gave us grunt and drive from half forward, our wingers implemented team instruction to

perfection with a lot of the play going through them, our defence was superb all day and the mid/ruck brigade worked tirelessly in helping out both ends. Milly B was given a 2nd half mid quarter role change, going onto Waverley's clear best player and stuck to the task admirably.

All this effort gave us a small buffer until 3QT where scores were level and it came down to a tight and tense last quarter. This group fought out an absolute arm wrestle of a last quarter and as if it was scripted, it was El Capitan and 50 gamer Tash who marked and kicked the go ahead goal. The final 3 minutes, with a small lead, felt like 15 minutes and like we didn't need any more, it further aged the coaches. The final siren was relief (for the coaches) and absolute reward for this group.

WELL DONE GIRLS!

Goals - Yana 2, Tash, Lucy, Zoe 1
Mentions:



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- WINGERS! Great job all day, stuck to team plans and were influential going both ways.
- Milly B and Cam - huge effort going against the bigger girls.
- Sophie - improving every week, some important touches in the second half.
- Serana - going by crowd reaction and comments, you had a SUPER game (we know you did). Fullback is an unenviable role but you played it so well, great positioning and great marks!
- Last but not least.... Tash - ran all day, was at the drop of the ball all day and deservedly kicked us the winning goal.

Super effort girls, another important milestone game win and we take some confidence going into our first final on Sunday.



U14 MIXED MARCUS SPENCER

We played against: Mordi-Braeside At: Walter Galt Reserve

Our day started with a lot of fun and laughter but ended with everyone feeling devastated.

Our final home and away game of the season was not going to impact our ladder position for finals, so we decided to have some fun and pick the team completely randomly. The plan was to stick to those positions and revert to normal at quarter time.

The random selections meant we had quite a few players starting in positions they were not familiar playing. When Mordi kicked two goals in the first few minutes it was less fun than we thought it would be. But we held it together, with Jack in particular playing well in the back pocket to limit the damage to 10 points at quarter time.

We reverted to normal positions in the second quarter and started to get on top. Henry continued to learn what it takes to be a ruckman and gave our on-ballers first use. Campbell, Jack, Hunter and Oskar continually pushed the ball forward and Ari and Jeremy were looking dangerous in attack. A three goal to one quarter had us in front at half time.

Everyone worked hard in the third quarter to maintain our advantage and we stretched our lead to 11 points at $\frac{3}{4}$ time. At the huddle it was highlighted how well Mason was playing and how his selfless team play was helping the team.

The last quarter lasted only a minute or so. Mason was unfortunately seriously injured when attempting to clear a ball from our defence. We are all shattered for him as he is one of the most liked players in the team and we will miss his pace and skills for the finals to come. We wish him and his family all the best for his recovery period.

Home and away complete.....now we play Murrumbena this Thursday evening in the first final. A huge challenge, but we are looking forward to it.

U16 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

The Under 16 Girls had a Bye this week.

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U16 BOYS ZAC BARRETT / MASON ANSELL

The final round of the home and away season saw the Dragons travel to Wellington Reserve to take on the Waverley Park Hawks.

With finals out of the equation the Dragons were looking to end the season on a high note and with a win.

The first term saw an even match up with both teams having plenty of opportunities to take control of the game. Whilst Oakleigh was able to maintain the pressure, they struggled to hit the scoreboard. The first term saw the Hawks leading the Dragons.

The second term saw the Hawks pile on several more majors and take control of the match. While Oakleigh was not without its own chances, they were simply unable to finish their chances.

Half time saw a charged-up Oakleigh team emerge ready to chip away at the Hawks lead. While at points Oakleigh had control of the game, they still were unable to reduce the deficit.

The final term saw Oakleigh trailing by 40 but ready to give their all. Whilst scoring dried up for both sides in the final term Oakleigh was able to play with tenacity and pride for the last 20 minutes of the season.

While it wasn't the result we were after, the boys can take significant pride in the season and the fight and resilience that they've shown throughout. It has been a real pleasure to coach the boys this season and I am proud of the development and calibre of each and every one of them.

U17 BOYS JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

For the last game of the home and away game we ventured to Hurlingham Park for a game played in the sunshine and on a fast track. We are in the envious position that we have the double chance, the Vampires are also assured of a finals spot. The game was a dead rubber, but it certainly didn't feel like that! It was a great game to watch and close all day, they got a couple of lucky ones late to win by that margin.

Unfortunately, we had 6 missing from our line up due to injury, illness, and family commitments. When Xavier hurt his ankle in the first quarter, we were down to bare minimum 18. The first quarter was tight, and we held a one goal lead at the first break. We moved the ball well and our speed troubled them, by half time they had fought back to be 3 points up. They had decided to play a spare behind the ball so for much of the contest the game was played between the 50 metre lines.

In the third quarter we kicked to the scoring end, once again the lead changed for us to be up by 4 points. Due to the intensity of the game and the heat, we may have run out of legs a touch, but as always, we were brave and played it right out. We have played the Vampires at their home ground twice this year and if we met them again further in the finals we should meet them at another ground, we are very confident, with players coming back, we can change this result.

Special mentions from the game:

- Tommy H's attack on the ball and his tackling was something to see. He has hit form at the right time of the year.
- Borgy had his best game for the year, his run and carry were very damaging. He is super athletic and loves the fast, big grounds.
- The leaders stood up as usual, Specky's attack on the ball, Oscar was clean, and Jimmy had a great contest with a very good player in the ruck.
- Both wingers, Jacko and Jezza had a real influence on the game, they both held their space well.
- Alex, Stitches and Sammy H all had fantastic periods in the game and kept trying hard.

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- Well done to all the players on reaching the finals. My hope is we all enjoy these games together. Please get to all training sessions you can, all we can do is control the controllables and this is one of them.

Thanks so much to all the parents for your help throughout the year. It's a fantastic group and you have made it so easy for the coaching group and the team management.

We are back at Hurlingham Park next Sunday at 11am, let's get a big support group there to cheer on our team. Congratulations to all the other Dragon teams who have made the finals. Go Dragons!

U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY

A beautiful day for footy greeted us at Scammell for our clash with Beaumaris. The girls had won the last 5 games in a row, but needed another victory to guarantee a spot in the finals.

A great opening quarter saw the Dragons kick 2 goals to zero. Ella got in the right spot, took a mark and went back and slotted her first goal for the year, while Matisse kicked a classy goal from the pocket. The rest of the game was really even with Oakleigh in front by 2 points at 3 quarter time. The last quarter saw both teams kick a goal each (Bonnie slotting a nice one through from the pocket) and the Dragons were able to hang in there to win by 2 points.

Our defence was rock solid with Gecko, Jess, Chooty, Livvy, Freya and Lily holding out the Sharks consistent forward thrusts. Sienna, Gisselle, Tayla, Matisse and Daisy were busy through the midfield. Our forwards didn't get heaps of opportunities in the middle of the game but were able to kick straighter than previous weeks which was encouraging.

It has been a fantastic 6 weeks of footy. The girls have grown as a team and have shown they can win in all conditions:

- at home or away
- with 14 players or 20
- on big grounds or small
- slippery, windy, rainy, or sunny conditions
- at night time or during the day.

Well done girls – its off to the finals we go!





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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.

SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Facebook: Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club

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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



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RUN, JUMP & THROW FOR FUN THIS SUMMER

OAKLEIGH LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE

We are a community
based club offering
fun & fitness for all
from ages 5 to 17

Saturday Competition
from 8.45am

Davies Reserve,
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Oakleigh South



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ROUND 15 / SUNDAY 20 AUG

SEASON 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		
17-Sep	PRESENTATION DAY, 11am, Scammell Reserve					



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