



GRANVILLE WARATAH SOCCER FOOTBALL CLUB

A proud member of the

GRANVILLE & DISTRICTS SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Our Home Ground:

Robin Thomas Reserve,

Harris St, Parramatta.

(Entry via George St, turn right from Harris St)

2019 SEASON

INFORMATION HANDBOOK



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Proudly since 1898.

“BEING THE OLDEST SOCCER FOOTBALL CLUB IN WESTERN SYDNEY IS NOT JUST AN HONOUR, IT’S A RESPONSIBILITY!”

President's Message

Welcome everyone to season 2019! Thank you for choosing Granville Waratah SFC as your club.

"Everyone" includes all of last years' members and of course every new member to the club and their families. Granville Waratah SFC is a club that serves the communities of Harris Park, Rosehill, Granville and Parramatta.

Our local area demographics, while high in families from the subcontinent, are rich and diverse and this is reflected in our club membership. We have a very transient community and as such every year we have a large percentage of new members to the club. And of course this trend is unlikely to change soon as it is predicted Parramatta's population is expected to double to 35,000 over the next decade.

It is wonderful to see the continued growth of our Mini-roo teams (ages under 6's to 11's) in recent years as it is exciting for the children and their parents during this age of the game's discovery and development. Parents please take note, **we are not a baby minding facility, we are a soccer football club.** We seek your active engagement in your child's involvement. Also, please don't forget to bring your cameras... take videos and photographs often... these memories are priceless.

Of course with the increase in players and teams comes the need for more coaches and managers. We are all **volunteers** and need more parents to please put their hand up to help. **This is your club and we cannot do it without you.**

I joined the club in 1999 and believed **my son was worth it...and so I became his coach.** For over a decade I have coached two teams and one of those teams has my daughter in it. She is worth it...and so are all the other children. **Coaching has its challenges but the rewards truly make it worthwhile.** Seeing a child smile, develop, try, endure, deflate, persist, demonstrate sportsmanship and respect but most of all, enjoy the experience, makes it all worth it. These little moments are special and we will enjoy them together as a community.

As a son of migrant Lebanese parents I understand the challenges and priorities of migrant families...but parents, please believe me when I say, your children want you to be in this part of their lives. As a child I played soccer football for 7 years. As my father worked double shifts and was raising 6 children, finding time to watch me play was very difficult. In fact my father only ever watched me play once. I don't recall the score of that game on that day, I just remember for that game I felt like a champion!

To make our club the best it can be we need your support. We want to be a family based club where we are a community within a larger community - both on a club and team level. The World Game is the perfect environment to make friendships and come together towards common goals, that is, to see your child develop into better players and better people. The Club Committee does not underestimate the importance of these objectives and trust you don't either, thus we encourage your contributions, input, ideas and efforts, but please remember any great idea needs volunteers to donate their time to help put it into action.

Remember, in addition to the website, we have a Facebook page, Granville Waratah SFC, that I personally administer. Please ensure you "like" the page to get the latest updates and if you wish, you can send me a message.

So now it's important to get organized and get ready for our first game on Saturday 6th April 2019. I trust you all have a great season.

Noel Dona

Club President

president@granvillewaratah.com.au

Key Dates

2019 Events	Date
Online Registration Opens	Mid January
Registration Days	Every Wednesday and Saturday in February as advertised
Miniroos Orientation Day – For under 6's and 7's. For under 8's to under 11's.	19 February 20 February
Training Commences	First week of March
Gear Sales	In March and as advertised
GDSFA Competition Commences	Saturday 6th April
Coaches & Managers Meetings	Monthly or as advertised
Team Photo Day	Expected in late June. TBA
GDSFA Grand Final Day	7th September
Club AGM	Expected early November. TBA
Presentation Day	Expected Mid September. TBA

Please check the club's website: www.granvillewaratah.com.au for updates to this information

Club Contacts

Until the football player is placed in a team, any questions you have please contact the Club Secretary or Club Registrar.

Once the football player is placed in a team, any questions you have is to be via your team Manager or Coach. If there is a matter that cannot be raised with the Coach and/or Manager, then please contact the Club Secretary or Registrar.

All the key contacts for the club can be found on the Club's website:

www.granvillewaratah.com.au/index.php/committee

Player Registration

All players must prove their age in order to be registered by the club. The valid forms of identification are government issued like: Passport, Birth Certificate or Driver's Licence.

All players playing from the Under 8 age group and up are added to an Electronic Team Sheet in order to prove they are eligible to play for the current season. This is checked before each game starts. This requires a photo be taken of the player upon registration. This photograph must be renewed every three years.

Player Requirements

At Training	Shin pads** and soccer boots MUST be worn Water bottle with sufficient water for the session
On Game Day	Playing Shirt – provided by the club on the day and is given back after the game Club branded playing shorts and socks* Shin pads and soccer boots**

* Please Note: New players to the Club will be provided with a training shirt and club branded socks.

**Shin pads MUST be worn during a game. The referee will ask you to leave the field without shin pads. Shin pads MUST also be worn during training otherwise you will not be covered by medical insurance in the case of any serious injury.

Coaches & Managers

Each team will be required to nominate a Coach and a Manager. Your team may also like to nominate an Assistant Coach and Assistant Manager.

Any person coaching or managing a team with children under the age of 18 years will be required to complete the applicable **Working with Children Check** declaration. For seasons prior to 2018 this was not a mandatory requirement but as of 2019 and beyond, this is compulsory as per Football NSW. Details will be provided.

Coaches & Managers Meetings are held on specified dates at the home ground. It is required that all Coaches and Managers attend. Please leave your children at home. These are important meetings that will disseminate key information, assist in the role of manager and coach, update on rules and regulations, and a chance for you to ask questions or raise any concerns.

If you have some interest in coaching, especially for Mini-roo teams, please don't be hesitant or anxious about volunteering because you may not have any or limited experience. Like any player, what you need is a good attitude and a willingness to learn too.

All coaches are volunteers. The club will provide help with training courses and on-going advice from our experienced coaches. We will invite coaches to courses as we are made aware of them and please, ask committee members for help if you need it.

Coaching and our Football Philosophy

One of the most rewarding things that you can do at Granville Waratah SFC is to coach your son or daughter's team. If this sounds like something you'd like to undertake, please try to attend every educational opportunity that you are able to. Children are placed in our care not to be simply supervised but to learn. There are a number of educational opportunities for you to attend, including:

- Attending an FFA course relevant to the age that you are coaching, either: the Grassroots Football Certificate for U5-9, Skill Training Certificate for U9-12, Game Training Certificate for U13-U17 or Senior Certificate for U17+.
- Coach education sessions provided by GDSFA and FNSW

Coaching football, in Australia and the style of play we expect from our players, has changed dramatically over the last 10+ years. So even if you have coached at a high level previously, we would encourage you to update your qualifications by attending an age-appropriate course.

Club Philosophy

At Granville Waratah SFC we aim to:

- develop soccer football players and well-rounded young players in an environment which teaches respect, teamwork, enjoyment and reward through effort and fair play at all times;
- provide training which systematically develops in our players the key football attributes of player technique (ball skills) and football intelligence;
- encourage players to play a passing game, maintaining possession of the football and not just a "long kick and chase" game;
- provide an environment for every player which allows freedom of expression, creativity and a love of beautiful football; and
- play football with a sporting attitude and a smile.

Playing Football with Granville Waratah SFC

Mini-Roos: Under 6 to 11

Mini-Roos play in non-competitive small sided games (SSG), designed to focus on discovery of the game, participation, skills development, teamwork, friendship and enjoyment of the game rather than winning. The emphasis is on having fun and we assure you that you will find heaps of this in GWSFC mini football.

Please remember that we cannot tell you where or at what time your child will be playing until the season draw has been finalised by the Association just prior to the start of the season.

Training is conducted on a cooperative basis with all teams for the age group training at the same time and location. Training is ideally facilitated by a football coach who will set up drills each session and help coaches

conduct drills with their teams. Please note that our coaches are all volunteers so please consider putting up your hand to coach your child's team. Help and resources will be provided to all volunteers. All Mini-Roos typically train on a Wednesday, from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the home ground. Remember to bring shin pads and water!

Eligibility for an age group is determined by the age the player is on December 31. For example, if a player is five years old on or before 31st December 2019, then they are eligible to play in the under 6 age group for the 2019 season (i.e. they are turning 6 at some stage during the year of the season). A player may play in an age group higher than the one they are eligible for if this is approved by the Club. A player may not play in an age group they are too old for.

Games are played under the Small Sided Games (SSG) format. The full description and rules are available on our web site (See "Rules and Regulations"), but here is a quick summary:

Under 6 & 7

- 4 v 4 games with no goalkeeper played in twenty (20) minute halves with a five (5) minute half time break on a field approximately 30 x 20 metres.
- 7 or 8 players to make up a team (which allows for 4 substitutes). All players to be given equal playing time where possible. Unlimited interchanges allowed.
- Goal size: approximately 2 x 1 metres.
- There is no penalty area and no offside rule applies.
- Players are discouraged from permanently standing in front of goals, either when defending or attacking.
- A size 3 ball is used.
- Players are not graded at this level. We try with best endeavours to put your child in a team with school friends and children who live nearby. If you would like your child to play in a certain team with friends, please include this when registering and we will try to accommodate to the best of our ability.

Under 8 & 9

- 7 v 7 games with a goalkeeper played in twenty (20) minute halves with a five (5) minute minimum half time break (up to 7.5 minutes) on a field approximately 45 x 35 metres.
- 10 to 11 players to make up a team (which allows for 4 substitutes). All players to be given equal playing time where possible. Unlimited interchanges allowed.
- Goal size: approximately 3 x 2 metres.
- There is a 5m penalty area and no offside rule applies.
- Players are strongly discouraged from permanently standing in an offside position
- A size 3 ball is used.

Under 10 & 11

- 9 v 9 games with a goalkeeper played in twenty five (25) minute halves with a seven and a half (7.5) minute half time break on a field approximately 65 x 45 metres.
- 13 to 14 players to make up a team (which allows for 5 substitutes). All players to be given equal playing time where possible. Unlimited interchanges allowed.
- Goal size: approximately 5 x 2 metres.
- There is a 5m penalty area and no offside rule applies.
- Players are strongly discouraged from permanently standing in an offside position
- A size 4 ball is used.

Competitive Football: Under 12's and older

All teams from Under 12's and up play competition matches for points with the top 4 teams at the end of the season being eligible to play in the finals competition. All the standard FIFA rules of football apply with some very minor changes for the entry Under 12 year.

Finding out where and when your games are

Where is your game being held and what time do you need to be there? Please check this before the training session prior to the game - so if training is on Wednesday, check details of your Saturday game before going to Wednesday training. That way you can ask your coach if you have any issues. Coaches should also ensure they have it right before training.

On our web-site there is a button labelled "Draws & Results". This is the primary source of times and locations. If you want a bookmark to this, you will need to use this link:

http://www.icompman.com.au/idata_public?p1=2&p2=1&p4=GRW

There are some annoying complications that you will quickly learn. The "Under" or "U" is dropped but many younger teams have an "E" in there and there is some duplication. For example, what we know as U7/Red - the age group is "07 E", the division is "07 E Red".

From a computer: If my child is in U7/Red, I go to the "Draws & Results" and look for "07 E/07 E Red" in the "AG/Div" column - the 4th column. I may need to scroll down. The 2nd column gives me the date and the 3rd the kick-off time. The 5th column is the name of the home team - in this case "Auburn District", so this indicates you not playing at our home ground this week. Over in the last column - "Ground/Comments" you see the name of the ground you are playing at - "Progress Park 1". The number, 1 in this case, is the field number. You will need to know that number when you get there. One flaw in the system: TBS means "Ted Burge Sportsground".

So, now you have kick off time and ground name. How to find the ground? On our web site - next to "Draws & Results", you will find the "Ground Locations" button. From there you can find the field and the address. Google or Apple maps will also find the field for you (most of the time).

Remember that "Kick-off Time" (KO) is the time that the whistle is blown to start to game - you MUST be there well before kick-off! For all parents new to the Granville District Association, this is your first season and so you should be aiming for 20-25 minutes before KO for away games to allow time to find parking and find the field. If you can't work out which field to go to, ask at the canteen. For older teams, the coach will advise you but 30 minutes to an hour before is not unusual to allow time for warming up and strategy meetings. We cannot emphasise this enough, please do not aim to arrive right at kick-off time!

Note that when viewing "Draws & Results" you can change the search selections at the time to find only the team of interest to you, look at different dates etc. The default date range is the current date to one week

ahead. You can also select your “Favourites” to reduce your normal search to only those teams your children are in. This is done from the “My Favourites’ & ‘SMS Alerts’ setup” but is tied to the browser and computer you are using so you will need to set your favourites for each device.

BYEs - Some competitions have an odd number of teams. As a result, each week one team has nobody to play. These are known as a “Bye” and are listed as such in the draw. This will happen 2 to 3 times a season. Beware that byes can disappear - as sometimes new teams are added – and they can sometimes appear if a team withdraws, so check the draw regularly.

From a mobile phone

You can still find the “Draws & Results” button and invoke it. The view is quite different and it doesn’t have as much information, but the important stuff is there. However, it does not default to our club - you need to use the “Search” tool to look up “Granville Waratah”.

My Game Guru

The final way of finding out details about your game is to use a new App which is available - “My Game Guru” is available from both the iOS App Store and Google Play. This is proving very popular method. The website is:

<http://mygameguru.com>

The interface is easy to use and there is lots of help to use it. No personal details are requested and there is no advertising. The big benefit is that it can automatically notify you of upcoming games and changes, particularly due to wet weather.

When adding teams, it will first ask you for the association - you want “Granville & Districts Soccer Football Association”. Then type in “Granville” in the “Find a team” box and our teams should appear. Give the team a nick-name and select when you want notifications. Then use the “My games” tab to see details for the teams you have added.

Game Day Procedure

We are all here for kids to have a good time and hopefully enjoy watching them play, as soccer can be a lot of fun. But to make it all work, some things need to happen:

- 1) **Well before the game – Wednesday is good** – work out where you must be and when. This allows time to ask questions at training if needed and be sure you know the location of the field.
- 2) **Before leaving home on game day**, ensure your child has their **shin guards, team socks, team shorts, boots and water bottle**. Shin Guards are an essential safety item - if your child doesn’t have them they can’t play! Team socks and shorts, and appropriate footwear are a requirement, but enforcement depends on the referee. They should NOT be wearing any jewellery (including watches and hair pins etc.) as these may cause injuries to themselves or other players. Referees can (should) ask for these to be removed. Long hair can be tied with elastic bands etc.
- 3) Be at the field early enough to find the field and allow the coach time to get them in their team shirts and to warm them up. Be at the Ground at least 20 Minutes before kick off time.
- 4) In addition to a coach, each team needs a **“Team Official”**. This person is the point of contact between the other team and our spectators. The “Team Official” does not need to be the same person each week. If something happens (arguments etc. - pretty rare) the “Team Official” may be asked to report on this. The “team official” should wear the yellow vest in the shirt bags (through some of the younger teams don’t yet have this).

5) **Electronic Team Sheets**

In 2018 the GDSFA introduced paperless (electronics) team sheets. This has proved very convenient. The club will give simple lesson on how to use it before the seasons starts and instructions are on our web site (“For Coaches” section).

- 6) An Electronic Team Sheet must be completed - for insurance purposes. The club secretary will give each coach and manager a login password to access your team sheet from your smart phone. The Electronic Team Sheet has the names of the players pre-printed with photos and FFA numbers. For U12 and up, shirt numbers need to be entered. This is also considered a legal document for insurance purposes.
- 7) **For under 12’s and older – NO CARD NO PLAY.** If a player is not on the Electronic Team Sheet, they cannot play. If such a player is played, your team risks losing points.
- 8) A referee will be needed. For the younger teams, this is normally one of the parents. For home games, normally the home team offers a ref. Those who come to the coaching training session will have most of what they need to referee the younger games. Remember, the referee is just a parent or other helper putting in their own time to allow your kids to have fun, and mistakes are to be expected.
- 9) Leave the coaching to the coach, including management of reserves (some coaches ask their manager to do this). There are many reasons for this. If you think they are doing something wrong or missing something, a quiet and polite conversation at some other time is the right approach.
- 10) Enjoy the game. Encourage the kids to play determined and do their best but play fair football. Congratulate them when they do great stuff - not just your own child's team, but the other team’s players as well. If they make a mistake - don’t worry, they are just kids - just encourage them to get up and try again.
- 11) At the end of the game, try to ensure every child is happy - regardless of the result. ***“I was originally hesitant about football for my kids until I saw current club president Noel send my then 6 year old boys and their team out every week determined to win, but send them home happy regardless of the result. That is the Waratah attitude!”*** – then club secretary, Tony.
- 12) Finally - if something goes wrong, most often a misbehaving parent... please don’t rise to any bait, try to deflate the situation. If it is one of our parents, those who know them should ask them to calm down and try to make them understand it is only a game. Please report problems to a committee member immediately.

Wet Weather

Please Note - GAMES ARE NOT CALLED OFF JUST BECAUSE IT IS RAINING. Games are only called off to protect the players and the field or when the conditions are deemed unsafe to play by the referee. In spite of this, it is actually rare for games to be played in serious rain, but light rain is a common (and the kids normally love it).

This is the procedure: If it has been raining during the week, then we will have a message on our web site by about 4:30pm on Friday indicating what is happening. Sometimes the entire weekend is called off, but just as often decisions are made by councils or clubs on the Saturday early morning.

If it has been raining on Friday night, your committee will assess our home ground (Robin Thomas Reserve) by about 8 o’clock Saturday morning and close the field if needed. If it is raining on the Saturday but safe to play in the morning, the fields will be monitored throughout the day. Most clubs work this way. If it is decided on Saturday to close fields, then we will notify the association who will update “My Game Guru”. We will also update our web site. Other clubs should follow the same procedure. In past years we have notified coaches directly by SMS, but this year we are hoping “My Game Guru” will handle that.

Please also note that games may be moved to an open field where possible so that games can still be played, so there may be different ground locations to attend as a result of the rain.

Just because our ground, or a particular ground is closed, does not mean all games are cancelled! Do not assume, please check.

Help your club run smoothly

The roster and instructions for these duties will be provided to Managers via a Committee member and/or the Canteen Coordinator.

For those new to Granville Waratah SFC, here's some information that will help make everything run smoother for all associated with the club:

GROUND PREPARATION ROSTERS

All teams will be rostered to prepare/pack up our home ground and staff the canteen throughout the season. The teams' assistance with these duties is vital and is both an excellent way to meet people and a good way to contribute to the Club.

When the season starts, rosters will start to operate. When we have home games, the ground needs to be set up for the day. All the club's teams rotate to be on duty to help with the field preparation -- line markings, goal netting, rope-fences, etc. We usually roster 2 teams to split up the morning into 2 and so each team needs to ask for volunteers from within their circle of players and parents to provide at least 2 or 3 bodies to help out for about 2 hours for various light duties, nothing too strenuous! It usually works out that you only perform this task twice during a season.

It is also the task of each team to organise rosters to get the team jerseys washed and cleaned. This is usually the task of the team manager who organises the roster for each player and their parents but it's up to the team to organise.

The Canteen

At the centre of every club on game day Saturdays is the canteen, and we are no different. It's the place where coaches obtain Team Sheets, where players obtain ice packs or first aid and of course where snacks, drinks, and hot coffees for cold winter mornings are sold. The success of our canteen raises valuable funds to help with the operational costs of the club.

For the past 3 years the Canteen has been managed by the president's daughter Trinity Dona, ably assisted by the long-time club Treasurer, Vince Wyatt. This year Trinity is doing her HSC and can only spend little time to help with the Canteen. So this season we are looking for a new Canteen manager and then to implement a roster of volunteers to help out in the canteen. The manager doesn't do all the work! With fresh people come fresh ideas and that can only be a good thing.

Please consider what you can do to help and if you would like to volunteer in some way, please contact club President Noel Dona.

Water

Parents, please always ensure your child brings water to training! Football is a thirsty sport and hydration is important for their health. And they'll play better too!

All-Girl Teams

We currently have a few female players scattered through our age groups but not enough to form an entire team. It is our fervent hope to be able to start fielding all-girl teams in the near future. Please encourage all the age-eligible girls to sign on to this dream of ours to make soccer a truly mixed sport!

General Information

Season 2019 Starts 6th April

Game details will soon be available on our website and the Club's Facebook page, and an iPhone and Android application will be available to help. Details will be on our website well before the first game.

There are 18 rounds, 9 will be played at home and 9 will be played away. It is not necessarily the case that if a game is played at home and the next week will be away. Always check.

Travelling for away games

It is a team sport so you will be required to travel to all away games. If you do not have a vehicle, please ask the assistance of the coach as other parents will typically help out.

Website

You are encouraged to visit the Club's website (www.granvillewaratah.com.au) which has all current information on the Club and the current season, including:

- 2019 Season Information Book
- Committee contact names and numbers
- Important dates and events throughout the football season
- Codes of Behaviour - players, parents/guardians, coaches and managers
- Various policies and procedures that you will need to be aware of
- Newsletters containing Match Reports

FACEBOOK

Our club's page Granville Waratah SFC, is regularly updated and very informative. We welcome your contributions and comments.

Newsletter

Please ensure we have your correct email address as a newsletter is emailed every week together with other important announcements.

Victory song

We have started a new tradition of singing our Victory song after each victory. The teams have fun and its great to see awesome club and team spirit. So learn the words and join in...take a video of the singing and clapping so we can upload it on the Facebook page to share the spirit!

Sung to the tune of the United States Marines Hymn.

We are the Mighty Granville Waratah

We wear the blue and gold with pride

We fear none and conquer all

We don't run and we don't hide.

We play it hard, play it fast and we play all game

ONWARDS TO VICTORY!

We give it all out on the field

and leave the rest to history.

May we sing it loud and often!!

AND PLEASE REMEMBER!!...

- 1. THESE ARE KIDS**
- 2. THIS A GAME**
- 3. THE COACHES ARE VOLUNTEERS**
- 4. THE REFEREES ARE HUMAN**
- 5. THIS IS NOT THE WORLD CUP**
- 6. SHOW RESPECT &**
- 7. HAVE FUN**