



## **U8 & U9 Information Pack**

Welcome to the Park Orchards North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club (Sharks). Like everything new, your first season of football can be somewhat daunting for our new players and their families. This information sheet has been developed to answer all those questions you might have in your first year.

### **Sharks information sources**

Website: [sharksjfc.org.au](http://sharksjfc.org.au) and Facebook: [facebook.com/PONRPJFC.Sharks](https://facebook.com/PONRPJFC.Sharks)

During the season you will receive regular emails from your Team Manager informing you of things such as game times and location, what colour shorts you need to wear, game arrival times and so on.

The Sharks also produce a weekly newsletter called the Sharks Attack with information on club events, sponsors, games result, etc. The Shark Attack is available on game day through your Team Manager.

### **Training**

U8 & U9 Teams will train at Domeney Reserves each Friday night between 5:30–6:30p.m. All parents are encouraged to participate. The Coaches and children really appreciate the help.

Training commences one or two weeks prior to the first practice match, and you will be notified by email from your Coach of this date. Please refer to the [sharksjfc.org.au/team](http://sharksjfc.org.au/team) info page on our website.

### **Games**

The emphasis of U8 & U9 football is fun and learning. Scores are not kept – by the adults anyway! The games are played under modified rules of the Yarra Junior Football League (YJFL) – refer Appendix A.

### **Game times**

The U8 & U9 Teams play games on Sunday mornings usually between 8:00am –10:45am kickoff. The games generally run for about an hour, with 4 x 12 minute quarters and a 5 minute break between each.

### **Game locations**

The YJFL covers a vast area from Bundoora to Park Orchards. In the U8 & U9 age group the YJFL endeavour to place teams into divisions where the geographical locations are reasonably tight.

### **Game day roles**

The U8 & U9 games, like the other age groups, come with regular game day roles. Whilst your Coach, Assistant Coach and Team Manager will remain a constant, your Team Manager will need support with volunteers for the following roles: Trainer/s, Goal umpires, Field umpire – only for home games, Canteen, Ground Manager.

### **Equipment**

At a minimum, each player needs to have both black and white shorts, a pair of Sharks football socks and a water bottle.

Merchandise stalls will be available at our practices matches and social events leading up to the season commencement. Merchandise is generally available through our Merchandise Manager but as we are generally unaware of our new numbers each year, some items may require ordering – details on the webpage.

### **Mouthguards**

The Sharks do not have strict policy in relation to mouthguards but we strongly encourage all players to wear a properly fitted item.

### **Conduct**

U8 & U9 football is ALL about fun and learning for your child. It is not about you! Please refer to the Code of Conduct at Appendix B.

## **YJFL U8 & U9 By-Laws**

### **10.1 Player Registration**

U8 & U9 players must be at least 7 years old by 31 December prior to the year they commence playing U8 & U9. It is the responsibility of Clubs to ensure that all U8 & U9 are younger than 9 years of age at the 28 first of January in the year concerned. If a Tacker is to play in Under 10 games, he/she must be at least 8 years of age and proof of age must be sighted by the club.

### **10.2 Team Officials**

#### **10.2.1 Coaches**

A maximum of two Coaches for each team allowed on the ground at any one time during the first eight games only. One Coach only is allowed on the ground after the eighth game. Coaches to control half the ground each, so as to direct Players to stay in their positions. Coaches to wear League blue bib identification and preferably be in some type of Club Identification (T Shirt, etc.)

#### **10.2.2 Trainer**

A Trainer may not be used to coach players and may remain on the field only the length of time taken to treat an injured player or to provide water. After attending to players Trainers must return to their position behind the boundary line. They are not to remain on the field. The League green bib identification must be worn by Trainers

#### **10.2.3 Runner**

A Runner is not permitted in Tacker Games.

#### **10.2.4**

Tacker games shall consist of 12 minute quarters with breaks of 5, 5 and 5 minutes. The game must conclude prior to the scheduled starting time of the next game. The last quarter is to be reduced in time if necessary

#### **10.2.5 Umpire**

The field Umpire shall wear a plain white shirt without Club insignia or logo and be equipped with a whistle

### **10.3 The Game – On-Field Rules**

#### **10.3.1**

Game limited to 18 players for each team on the ground at any one time

#### **10.3.2**

U8 & U9 teams are to be balanced numbers. Where one team is short on players, the opposition will loan players to ensure equality of team numbers on the field

#### **10.3.3**

Interchange of players to be only at Quarter, Half, and Three-Quarter times, except in the case of injury when replacement may be made immediately.

#### **10.3.4**

Umpire to control the game and order players back to their positions when necessary. If not adhered to, award a free kick to opposing team.

#### **10.3.5**

The game shall be started by a ball-up between centremen at the 3m centre circle. Not more than four players from either team shall be within 20 metres of the centre of the ground until the ball is bounced by the Umpire. The penalty for a breach of this Rule shall be the award of a free kick to the Player of the opposing team at the

#### 10.3.6

Players in possession of the ball are allowed two bounces before disposing of the ball.

#### 10.3.7

No kicking the ball off the ground; when detected a free kick awarded to opposition. This would encourage Players to try to pick up the ball and tends to teach a skill by eliminating a mistake.

#### 10.3.8

Eliminate throw-ins at the boundary line. Umpire to award a free kick to the opposition of the team who last touched the ball. This allows more players to receive kicks and keeps the game moving.

#### 10.3.9

A mark is made regardless of the distance the ball travels. A mark will also be awarded if a player is able to touch the ball, overhead, with both hands.

#### 10.3.10

There are no scores to be displayed on Club Scoreboards.

#### 10.3.11

Slinging of players is not permitted. A free kick is to be awarded where a player is tackled in such a manner.

### **10.4 At the End of the Game**

#### 10.4.1

At the end of the game all Players and Coaches to gather together on the ground to be addressed by the Umpire, and all will leave the ground together - a visual demonstration of the spirit in which the game is played. Coaches to instruct players to shake hands before/after game.

#### 10.4.2

Clubs to invite Umpires to U8 & U9 pie nights to talk to players and parents so that all involved gain a greater appreciation of U8 & U9 football.

#### 10.4.3

It is important to understand that these Rules are not designed, nor will they achieve, an even sharing of the ball between all Players irrespective of their ability. They will however create more opportunity to participants if they are willing to try.

**YJFL Code of conduct****Players**

1. Play by the laws and rules
2. Don't argue
3. Control your temper
4. Be a team player
5. Be a good sport
6. Treat all players fairly
7. Cooperate with your coach and teammates
8. Play for fun and improvement
9. Avoid ugly remarks based on race or gender

**Parents**

1. Encourage participation but do not force them
2. Teach that honest effort is the victory, not the winning
3. Encourage to play by the rules
4. Never ridicule mistakes or losses
5. Remember, involvement is for their enjoyment, not yours
6. Remember, they learn best by example. Applaud both teams
7. Recognise positively the recreational contribution of voluntary officials
8. Never publicly disagree with officials. Raise issues privately
9. Support all efforts to remove verbal, racial and physical abuse
10. Support your club officials to foster high standards of behaviour for your Club/League Equipment

The policy and all other information is available on our website at <http://www.sharksjfc.org.au>.