



# **Hawkesbury Saints Australian Football Club**

## **Junior Coaching Application and Information Package**

Affiliated with the AFL Greater Sydney Juniors – Western Sydney Giants Competition  
Website - [www.hawkesburyafc.com.au](http://www.hawkesburyafc.com.au)

**HAWKESBURY AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL CLUB  
GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE JUNIOR COACHES**

## **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this information is to outline some basic detail on matters that are commonly raised by Coaches throughout the football season. It is important that you carefully read and understand the information contained in this document, as some of the content may have a bearing on your decision to either accept or reject an offer of appointment to Coach in 2016, should it be extended to you.

## **2. Applications**

All applications are judged on their own merit. Our objective is to appoint quality Coaches that are suitably matched to the team they wish to Coach. Consideration will be given to the applicant's knowledge, experience and disposition in relation to the age group they are applying for.

For example: a person who has Coached successfully at senior level will have the appropriate football knowledge and experience but may not have the temperament required to Coach under 9's or under 10's. An applicant does not have to have a child of their own playing at the Club or in the team they are applying to Coach.

## **3. Background information**

All Coaches officiating in AFL Greater Sydney Junior (AFL GSJ) games must be accredited with AFL Coaching certification. It is now mandatory for all Coaches to hold a minimum - AFL Level 1 Coach Accreditation qualification, in order for them to coach at junior levels.

Accordingly, for your application to be considered you must hold a current accreditation or agree to attend a certified AFL Coach Accreditation course, within a time frame determined by us. The course will be arranged and paid for by the Hawkesbury Australian Football Club (juniors) and every effort will be made to book a date and venue suitable to you.

## **4. Code of Conduct**

It is important to maintain standards amongst Australian Football Coaches for the integrity of the sport and the general good of all Coaches. The AFL Coaches' Code of Conduct provides a model of basic standards of behaviour for leagues, Clubs and schools to expect from all Coaches. By accepting the Code, Coaches are signifying commitment to supporting minimum standards of good coaching and strong concepts of responsibility, competence and propriety within coaching.

A copy of the AFL Coaches Code of Conduct is attached to this package. All Coaches offered a position with the Hawkesbury AFC will be familiar with its contents and will provide the Club with a signed copy of the Code, acknowledging their support of its contents and agreement to coach in line with its principles. An alleged breach of the AFL Coaches Code of Conduct will be investigated by nominated representatives of the Hawkesbury AFC Junior Committee. The representatives will determine whether a breach has occurred and if so, what penalty will be applied. This action is separate to any penalty that may be handed down by the Western Sydney Regional Committee or the AFL GSJ.

## **5. Tenure**

Coaches are appointed for one season only, commencing from the date of appointment and finishing after the completion of the Hawkesbury AFC Presentation function. All Coaches positions are then deemed vacant and applications will be sought from both existing Coaches and new people for the following season.

## **6. Dismissal**

The Hawkesbury AFC reserves the right to dismiss a Coach if the Executive Committee deems it appropriate to do so. The process for such action can be found within the Hawkesbury AFC constitution.

## **7. Training (all teams)**

The Hawkesbury AFC trains at Bensons Lane, Richmond. Commencement dates and times will be determined by the Committee at the appropriate time. During the season Coaches may be required to conduct occasional combined training sessions to encourage Club kinship and unity between all players and teams. In the case of wet weather or the closure of Bensons Lane, alternative training venues are available and Coaches can make their own booking arrangements. (e.g. Hawkesbury Stadium YMCA, Hawkesbury Oasis Aquatic & Fitness Centre). Obviously, use of these facilities comes at a cost. Depending on the circumstances the Club may meet part or all of these costs. Conversely parents may be asked to make a contribution to cover these expenses.

Where Bensons Lane is closed due to wet weather, council regulations strictly prohibit teams from using the playing fields. On wet days teams are welcome to use the Clubhouse facilities by arrangement with the President or Football Manager.

## **8. Pick up of players after training**

Coaches are reminded that they have a responsibility to ensure that players are collected in a timely and safe manner upon the completion of training. In winter, training invariably finishes in the dark and Bensons Lane covers a large area that isn't well lit in certain areas. The Coaches should advise all players to wait with them for their parents to collect them, rather than wandering off to look for them.

## **9. Training Equipment**

A full kit of training gear will be provided to each team prior to the commencement of training each season. This kit will contain all of the equipment required to conduct training sessions with your team. The Club is happy to take additional requests and suggestions from Coaches, for new or additional equipment, if such equipment is likely to assist in the development of skills and improvement of training methods.

## **10. Team Support and Assistance**

Each team will have a Team Manager that will assist Coaches with various Match Day and training duties and administrative roles. Ideally each Team will also have an accredited Assistant Coach to help with training and be available to coach the team in the event of the regular Coach being unavailable. Coaches and Managers will further be required to identify suitable parents to assist with sideline Match Day duties as Runners and Water Carriers. Ideally, each team will have a First Aid officer available from within the parent group to assist with injuries where necessary.

## **11. Coaching Co-ordinator**

The Hawkesbury AFC has a Coaching Co-ordinator who is responsible for developing a Club wide training program and overseeing the progress and development of Coaches within the Club. The Coaching Co-ordinator is available to assist with advice and Coaching aids and reference material should you require it throughout the season.

## **12. Coaches Meetings**

To assist in developing a Club-wide standard of coaching excellence the Club may call meetings of Coaches to discuss and share ideas and programs. Attendance at Coaches meetings is compulsory. A typical year might normally include a Pre-Season Coaches/Team Managers meeting and two Coaches meetings.

## **13. Coaching Resources**

Preparation of a Club Coaching Manual is underway. In the meantime a great deal of informative and useful Coaching material can be found on the following websites;

<http://www.afl.com.au/development/Coaching/tabid/10212/default.aspx>

<http://www.aflcommunityClub.com.au/index.php?id=6>

<http://www.aflnswact.com.au/index.php?id=235>

## **14. Club Functions & Fundraising Events**

During the season, the Hawkesbury AFC may organise various functions and fundraising events. These events are important, not only to raise funds for the Club, but to also enhance a healthy Club culture, where players and families are able to socialise and celebrate their involvement in Australian Football. The Hawkesbury AFC sees its Coaches as a vital link in the development of this culture and needs to have all Coaches sharing this vision of an improved Club and game culture. Accordingly, we ask that Coaches attend all Club functions and events and encourage players and families to do the same.

## **15. Best & Fairest Voting and End of Season Awards**

During the home and away season votes are cast after each game for players deemed to have had the strongest influence on that game. Votes must be allocated strictly on this basis. NOTE – Votes are not cast for a player who simply tried hard or for a player who may have kicked his or her first goal for the year – Votes must be given to the players considered by the person allocating votes, to be the best and fairest players in that game.

Whilst the Club advocates an emphasis on team performance over individual performances, where awards are to be allocated, it is important to ensure that any voting process or system used by the Club, is transparent and fair and not open to bias or interference. Votes are to be cast on a 3 – 2 – 1 basis, with 3 votes given to the best player on the day, 2 votes given to the second best player and 1 vote to the third best player.

Accordingly, each week voting slips should be distributed as follows:

Coach - 1 Vote, Assistant Coach - 1 Vote, Manager - 1 vote, Parent - 1 vote

(Parental voting should be done on a rotational basis by parents with a good understanding of the game and eligibility criteria). Voting forms will be distributed to each Coach or Manager prior to the start of each season. Use of these forms and adherence to this format is MANDATORY, to ensure consistency and fairness across the Club.

Best and Fairest voting only applies to the home and away season, it does not apply to any finals matches. Winners of the Team Best & Fairest and the Runner Up Best & Fairest are determined by the vote count at the end of the season.

Other awards are given for Most Improved and Coaches Award. These are determined by the Coaches and Managers at the end of the season. No additional awards are to be given by Coaches on Presentation Day.

## **16. Communication**

In the interests of good management and organisation the Hawkesbury AFC relies heavily on clear channels of communication. All relevant Club-wide information is posted onto the Club website on a regular basis. Communication between Club officials and Coaches is almost entirely done by email and TeamApp. For this reason it is critical that you have internet and email access. If you do not have your own email address you will need to arrange for someone to receive your emails and promptly pass the information on to you. In most cases, your Team Manager can meet this need. If your Team Manager does not have internet access then you will need to make alternative arrangements for email and internet access.

# HAWKESBURY AFC JUNIOR COACHING APPLICATION

Please circle appropriate answers.

## PERSONAL PARTICULARS

Name: .....

Address: .....

Mobile Number: .....

Email Address: .....

Would you like your contact details on the Club website? YES / NO

(If no, we will show the Club phone number and email address as your contact details on the website and forward messages to you as required).

## PREFERRED ROLE

Team: Auskick / u9s / u10s / u11s / u12s / u13s / u14s / u15s / u17s

Role: Head Coach / Assistant Coach / Intern

## COACHING QUALIFICATIONS

AFL Coaching Accreditation completed: YES / NO

Current Level: ONE / TWO / THREE

Accreditation Number: .....

Expiry Date: .....

Other relevant qualifications: .....

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Would you be interested in acquiring a higher level of accreditation if given the opportunity and paid for by the Club? (Circle) YES / NO

## PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Playing Experience (Club / Year)

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Coaching Experience (Club / Reps / Year)

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Other Relevant Matters

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I agree to the following terms:

- ✓ I agree to abide by the AFL Coaches Code of Conduct.
- ✓ I acknowledge that the AFL, or a body affiliated with the AFL, may take disciplinary action against me if I breach the code of conduct. I understand that the AFL, or a body affiliated with the AFL, is required to implement a complaints handling procedure in accordance with the principles of natural justice, in the event of an allegation against me, and
- ✓ I acknowledge that disciplinary action taken against me may include de-registration from the AFL National Coaching Accreditation Scheme.

By accepting a junior Coaching role with the Hawkesbury Australian Football Club, I agree to abide by the principles contained within the AFL Coaches Code of Conduct. I support the Club in its undertakings and encourage the Club to take any necessary disciplinary actions, including the suspension and banning where warranted, of any Coach for repeated or serious breaches of the AFL Coaches Code of Conduct.

Coach's Name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....