



Miniroos Gradings & Junior Academy Program for 2024

After engaging Ruiz Football Academy coaches in 2023, we are excited to continue our partnership next season with some additional expansion and improvements to the program. We will also be welcoming a new Academy Coordinator in Michael Bond to the role.

In 2024, we will offer our Academy program in conjunction with the regular Mini-roos Kangaroo and Wallaby competitions across the U9 to U12 age groups. An U8 Academy team will also be formed.

Please note, U6, U7 and U8 – there are no Kangaroos and Wallabies divisions, all teams play in the same division.

As well as continuing to play together in their relevant age groups in the local Kangaroos competition, Academy players will:

- also attend multiple FQ sanctioned carnivals (approx. 4) in Brisbane/other regions
- play in local carnivals (up an age level where appropriate).
- the U8 Academy team will play in the regular U8 Mini-roos competition but will also have some carnival opportunities

Developing players in our Academy teams will focus on team cohesiveness, football skills and awareness of different game moments.

Academy players will be provided with:

- an Academy Jersey to wear to training and at Carnivals
- will train once per week with their Highfields FC Coach and a second time per week at Academy training with Ruiz (Wednesday afternoons).

Participation in Carnivals will be a large focus in 2024. Players who accept Academy positions are committing to travel and Carnival entry fees throughout the season.

Age groups from U8 to U12 will have 1 X Academy Team and we will be engaging the team from Ruiz to select Academy players at gradings/trials to ensure independence and fairness of selections.

With a focus on inclusion and player development, Highfields FC is also engaging Ruiz to run a Skills Development Program. This will be open to ANY players who are not selected in our Academy teams from from U8 to U12 and who are wishing to advance their level of skills. Numbers may be capped depending on interest. Expressions of interest for the Skills Development program will be advertised in the coming weeks.

Fees for Academy players (U9 to U12) are tbc – approx. \$200 (in addition to regular season fees), plus any carnival entry/travel fees. U8 Academy fees tba.

Gradings for U9 to U12 players and Academy team selections will occur concurrently on the following dates (U8 Academy trials will occur at a later date tba):

Mondays 5/2/24 and 12/2/24

- U9 – 4pm for a 4.15pm start, finish 5pm
- U10 – 4.45pm to a 5pm start, finish 5.45pm
- U11 – 5.30pm for a 5.45pm start, finish 6.30pm
- U12 – 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start, finish 7.15pm

All U9 to U12 players must be registered in Squadi by Friday 3/2/24 to be eligible for gradings.

Unless there are extenuating circumstances, all players wishing to trial for Academy and Kangaroo teams must attend both gradings sessions.

Players who wish to play in Wallabies teams do not need to attend trials.

Please email highfieldsfootball@gmail.com if you child is happy to be allocated to a Wallabies team.

Players who are selected in an Academy team will be sent an email offering them a spot. Players who accept the offer are committing to the Academy fee, fees associated with attending carnivals, and, an additional day of training (Wednesdays).

Players who choose not to accept the offer will be allocated to a Kangaroos team.

Please email any queries to highfieldsfootball@gmail.com

Kind Regards,
Highfields FC Executive