



Balmain & District Football Club

Coaches & Managers Information 2026: U8-U12 (SSF)

Season begins 11-12 April



Community

Participation

Achievement

Welcome to Football 2026



Where we are...

... (sharing) Rozelle Parklands

... inching towards an all-weather field

**... and we're playing through the April
school holidays!**

Partners



Premium Partners



Phil Gilbert



Season Partners





KIA

Phil Gilbert Kia

WEAR IT WITH PRIDE

2026/28 HOME KIT

MOVEMENT THAT INSPIRES



Community Through Football

Ultra Football Player Kit



- Returning players get a \$30 voucher to use in-store at Ultra Football on any merchandise
- U6 & NEW players receive a **full credit** to purchase their kit- shirt, shorts, & socks - through Ultra Football website (create an Ultra Football account to access the BDFC Club Store)
- NEW players also receive a \$30 voucher to use in-store
- ALL players must play in the **correct Nike strip** with their **correct player number**



Actions

- ✓ Players need to contact playerstrip@balmainfootball.com.au or visit the [FAQ](#) on the club website if they have not received a code to order their new kit or shirt.
- ✓ Managers need to check that the player's jersey matches the number on the Match Sheet. Contact playerstrip@balmainfootball.com.au if there are any discrepancies.

Pre-Season

LAST MINUTE MENTIONS



There are several issues to be aware of...

ROZELLE PARKLANDS

- BDFC has access to the rectangular field on Sundays and some Fridays (for night games)
- BDFC has access for training on Tuesdays & Thursdays

TRAINING ALLOCATIONS

- [Winter Training Allocations](#) have now been published
- There is a link in the email you received plus on the [C&M Quick Links](#) page on our website
- Some pre-season allocations have been made available via EOI and have been booked
- Official Club Training began from 17 March on all fields except Glover St
- Grounds are CLOSED from Mon 30/3 to Mon 6/4 – NO training allowed during that period

TRAINING KIT COLLECTION

- Has been completed for U8-O55 teams
- If you missed kit pickup, next opportunity is from 9am-1pm Saturday 28 March at WFD

2026 Competition Structure



IMPORTANT STUFF

- Important season dates/events are on the website:
<https://www.balmainfootball.com.au/season-dates/>
- Season starts weekend of 11-12 April for SSF (a week later due to Easter)
- There **WILL** be games through the April school holidays!
- There will also likely be SSF games on Saturday 25 April (ANZAC Day) in the afternoon
- Middle weekend of July School Holidays plus June Long Weekend will **NOT** have scheduled fixtures.
- SSF age groups will be reviewed during the June Long Weekend (after the 8th round); teams may be moved depending on how they're performing. U8s will also have an extra review after 5 rounds.
- Keep checking the draw as there **WILL** be changes: <https://cdsfa.dribl.com/fixtures>
- **Non-competitive age groups – Small-Sided Football (SSF)**
 - U8 to U12 Mixed and Girls
 - NO points, NO tables, NO finals
- Game Leaders are in place for SSF matches - *Details will be covered later in the presentation*
- In case of washouts, SSF games are **NOT** rescheduled.

Match Scheduling (via Dribl) And Training



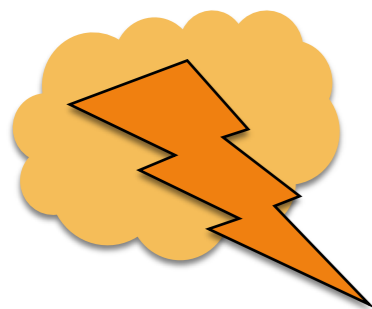
Match schedules will be on [Dribl](#)

Regular training [schedule](#) starts from 17 March

- Glover St not available for training until after Easter
- Teams must only train at the allotted time and in the field and space that is allocated to them
- You must start & finish on time and allow the next group to start when scheduled
- Teams get $\frac{1}{4}$ of a field to use (unless specifically told otherwise) - they **cannot** commandeer goal areas or extra space at the expense of other teams
- Any aggressive or rude behaviour towards other teams will not be tolerated
- Repeated transgressions could result in training privileges being revoked.
- All grass fields will be closed by IWC from 30 Mar to 6 April for rest and recovery

Wet weather procedures

- ALL washouts, cancellations, change of times, change of venues will be notified via the DRIBL app
- BDFC will provide updates via social media for wet weather closures of training grounds and Home fields as soon as they are known
- It also pays to check [local council](#) hotlines or websites for the most up-to-date to date ground status.
- During wet weather, grounds may be closed at any time - even once you have arrived or started a match.
- The **ONLY** source of truth on Match Day is.... DRIBL



Match sheets are electronic via the DRIBL App – go to the [Manager Information](#) and [C&M Quick Links](#) pages on our website for more details and guides.



A match sheet is required for **all** games involving teams from U8 up. They are a record of the match including details of all players, scores, red and yellow cards, and any injuries. They are used by all clubs to record results and drive any required disciplinary actions.

How do I access them

- Each team is responsible for submitting their match sheet via the DRIBL app
- Detailed instruction are on the [website](#)
- Returning Coaches & Managers can login to the DRIBL app and access their information as per last year
- New Coaches & Managers (once registered) can activate themselves in DRIBL by following this guide: [Activating a Dribl Account \(Self Service Registration\) – Dribl](#)

What do I need to do

Before you leave for the game (or the day before the game)

- Check the electronic Match sheet using the Dribl app or website
- Check all players (including any borrowed ones) are added to match sheet

30 mins before the start of the match

- Arrive at the field and find your team (allow time for weekend traffic!)

15 mins before the start of the match

- Coach/Manager have their Team Official vests on and ID cards around their necks
- Ensure all players shirt numbers are recorded correctly
- Final check of electronic match sheet, then submit your team & confirm the opposing team

5 mins before kick-off

- Decide player positions and starting line up
- Make sure you're ready to kick-off on time!

After the match is completed

- Confirm the result with the referee and opposition manager
- Enter the final score (in the **Recorder** section for the match) in the DRIBL app and save it
- Make sure to do all of this at the field immediately after the game – that way you won't forget!
- **BOTH** teams need to enter and save the result after the game

Forfeits



WHEN

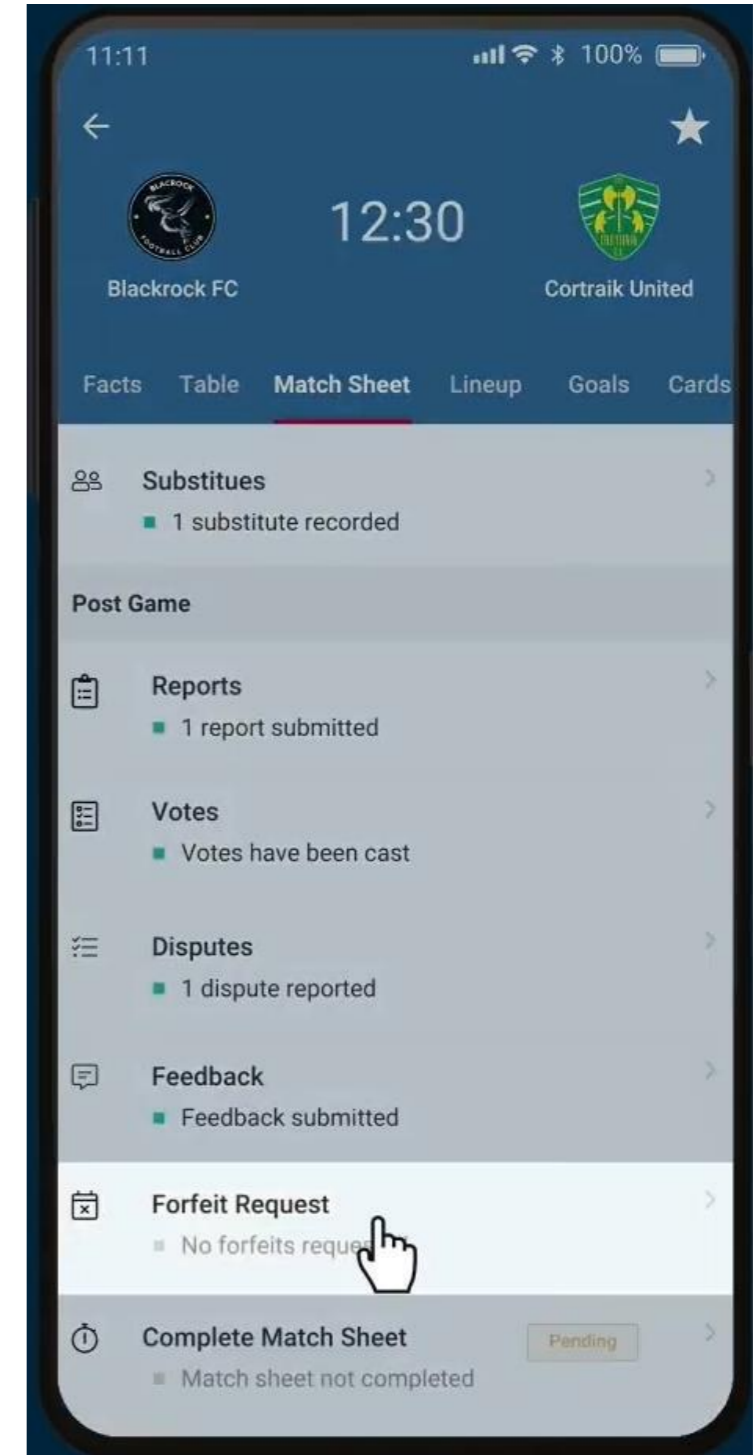
- A forfeit must be submitted no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time for your match (e.g. if kick-off is 11am Sunday, a forfeit **MUST** be submitted before 11am Friday). There is **NO** grace period for this.
- Late forfeit notifications will mean the club is fined by FC and this fine will be passed onto the team
- Exhaust all possible avenues before forfeiting – it should be your **LAST** resort. Try and borrow players (contact your AC); if you're only one or two short then play the game.
- BDFC should not forfeit SSF games!!

HOW

- Forfeits must be submitted directly by the team officials in the DRIBL app
- Simply go to the relevant match sheet in the DRIBL app and select the “Forfeit Request” option
- Ensure you select the correct team as the one forfeiting!

CHECK

- Have you submitted the forfeit prior to the deadline? BDFC recommends no less than one hour prior to deadline.
- Have you also advised your Age Coordinator and BDFC via email (competitions@balmainfootball.com.au)



Ground Officials for 2026



It is a Football Canterbury requirement for clubs to provide a ground official for each of their home fields upon which a match is being played. Note that a ground can have multiple fields.

Organising

- Each **Balmain HOME team** MUST provide ONE volunteer for EVERY HOME game, regardless of the ground they play on.
- Your team MUST provide a **GO for your own game**.
- If you are the HOME team on another club's field, you MUST provide a GO.
- Teams short on spectators they must organise with BDFC team playing prior/after to provide a GO.
- Teams playing on BDFC fields as the **AWAY** team MUST also provide a GO – including local derbies.

Duties on the day

Ground officials are required to:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be available 10 minutes before the game commences, wearing the orange Ground Official vest (which is in your team kit bag)
- Make themselves known to the Game Leader & Mentor before the start of the match
- Ensure that spectators stay behind ropes and fences and do not enter the field of play
- Ensure that the area behind the goal is kept clear at all times
- Ensure no persons, including coaches and managers, enter the field of play unless signalled to do so by the Game Leader
- Assist the Game Leader as requested at any time
- Enforce **NO SMOKING/NO VAPING** on fields
- Enforce **NO ALCOHOL** zones
- Remind the last team of the day that they **MUST** help pack down the field

Ground Officials



Locations for ground official duty

Ground Officials are required in the following locations: Waterfront Oval, Glover Street Sporting Fields, Easton Park, Rozelle Parklands, Birchgrove Oval, Cohen Park, Leichhardt #3, and any other field where a BDFC team is designated as the HOME team.

For games on neutral grounds, BOTH teams must supply a Ground Official.

A Ground Official (wearing an orange vest) must be present at every match

- Orange vests are included in your Team Kit bag

What can go wrong?

- The referee may not allow play to start
- The HOME team can be fined \$120 by Football Canterbury for each match this occurs (first instance)
- Second and subsequent incidents increase the team fine to \$230
- All fines issued to teams or players are passed onto and payable by the team/player
- Where issues with the game lead to judiciary proceedings, the absence of a ground official is a distinct disadvantage

Match Officials

Game Leaders



Game Leaders are supplied for games from U8 to U12. Referees and Assistant Referees are provided for games from U13 to O50.

U8 to U12

- **U8 to U12:** Game Leaders are paid by the hosting club at each ground or by the CRA. They will NOT require payment from the teams themselves.
- If a GL asks for payment directly from a team, do NOT pay. Direct them to Club ground staff

When there's no supplied Game Leader

Sometimes there are not enough Game Leaders to cover all matches. When this happens:

- The Home team is responsible for supplying a Game Leader – this should be a parent to allow the Coaches to manage the team
- Non-appointed Game Leaders are **not** paid for officiating the match
- The nominated person should referee the ENTIRE match
- The volunteer GL has ALL the powers of a normal GL, including send-offs, etc...

Rules and Formats

Knowledge of rules is key!

- Don't assume you know rules of SSF if you are a senior player
- GLs know the rules in more depth, ask them or the GL mentor if you need clarification.

The rules and formats for SSF are simple and we recommend that parents also familiarise themselves with them, especially if they need to step in and run a game

- [National Playing Formats & Rules](#)
- [Football Canterbury SSF Rules for 2026](#) (take precedence if any contention with National rules)

Some basic rules to be aware of:

- No Offsides (with caveats)
- GL will pull attacking teams back to halfway for goalkicks and after a save by the keeper
- If a keeper places the ball on the ground after saving it, it is LIVE! (except for goalkicks)
- All free kicks are indirect
- Referees' balls (drop balls) are uncontested

Match Officials

GAME LEADERS – U8 to U12



Creating Leaders

- The Game Leader (GL) program has been adopted to allow players aged 11+ the opportunity to build leadership skills and understand responsibility by 'leading' games for U8 – U12
- The GLs are expected to not only act as referees but to also aid players by **teaching and explaining** the correct way to play the game.
- This allows Coaches and Managers to stay in the technical area and concentrate on organising their team and player substitutions
- **GLs are paid directly by the Club.** Teams do NOT make payment on the day.
- When a GL is not appointed or not available, a Home team official or parent must fill the role.
- More information about the [Game Leader Program](#) is on our website

Having Game Leaders

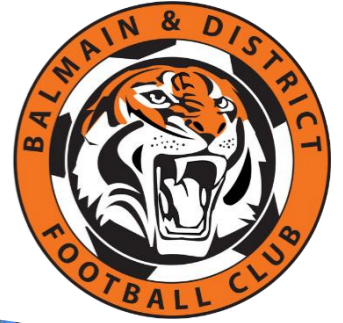
Looking out for Game Leaders

- Give them GRACE (and space) TO LEARN. You wouldn't (and shouldn't) comment on opposition players either
- No Game Leaders = No Referees for future
- Negative and inappropriate comments and behaviour will be severely dealt with by clubs
- If you have concerns or feedback, speak to the **GL Mentor/supervisor**.

Interested in Refereeing or being a GL?

- The Game Leader program covers game leading for the U8-U12 (SSF) age groups and is a great way to build skills and confidence. More information is available here: [Game Leaders – Balmain & District Football Club \(balmainfootball.com.au\)](http://balmainfootball.com.au)
- There are plenty of great reasons for becoming a football referee. You actively participate in the sport, you help raise the standard of football, you develop a network of close friends, you develop your management and communication skills, and it's a great way to earn some pocket money. For more information see [here](#).

Who are our Game Leaders?



Game Leaders



Your Players are learning how to play, GLs are learning how to officiate

The technical area



A maximum of TWO team officials are permitted in the technical area regardless of the age group:

- Must be wearing a high-viz vest (supplied in Team Kit bag)
- Must display a current season Team Official ID card

Only players entered on the match sheet are permitted in the technical area

Not permitted in the technical area (or bench)

- Sick, injured, surplus, suspended, or banned players
- Additional team officials above the maximum of 2
- Player's or Team Official's children, partners, friends, or pets

What can go wrong?

- The GL may not allow play to start
- It can create issues for the ground officials trying to apply the rules for the technical area
- The home team can be fined by Football Canterbury \$120 for each match where this occurs

Eligible players



Playing up or for another division

- Rules for using players from another team are complex
 - There are restrictions on the age, grade and number of players who can be used as substitutes
 - There are also strict rules about how many times a player can play up in another team or age group.
 - More detailed information is on our [website](#)
 - If you're not sure, ask your Age Coordinator or the [Registrar!](#)
- Be aware of the rules – DRIBL is not the source of truth
 - There is a [maximum](#) number of players that can be listed on a team sheet
 - There is a **maximum** number of players that may be **borrowed**:
 - ❖ U8 & U9 - 2 players
 - ❖ U10 to U12 - 3 players
 - ❖ All other age groups - 4 players

Incorrect match sheet records

Common problems on match sheets are:

- Too many players
- Ineligible players

Game Leaders do not check the eligibility of players.
Team managers & individual players are held accountable for eligibility of their players.
[Here are the Football Canterbury Rules of Association](#)

What can go wrong?

Football Canterbury reviews match sheets each week & detect ineligible players. Where ineligibility is detected:

- The game is awarded to the opposing team
- The team is fined
- Just because Dribl allows you to borrow a player, does not mean they are necessarily eligible

Staying out of trouble



Player Cards

- U11 & U12s need to have a digital player card visible ONLY if playing up in an under 13s team (MUST be added as a Borrowed Player in DRIBL prior to the match starting)
- U8 to U12 – Digital player cards are NOT required to be shown

What can go wrong:

- Players who don't have an active card (or do not appear on the match sheet) will not be permitted to take to the field - no exceptions.

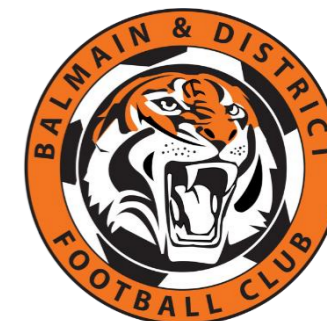
Out of Bounds

- Warming up behind the goal, or in the goal area of any field, is not allowed at any time

What can go wrong:

- Your team may be fined \$120 by Football Canterbury

Safety Around the Grounds



Defibrillator Units



- Defib units can be found at all BDFC grounds when matches are on.
- They are kept with the canteen staff.
- They are voice-driven with clear step-by-step instructions

Waterfront Oval:

- 24/7 public access to a Defib secured to the wall outside of the canteen
- This device is wired so it's always charged.
- It is monitored remotely for security

Football Canterbury Rules & Fines



Important Information on Football Canterbury and BDFC Fines & Penalties

As SSF is non-competitive (no points or tables), there are no Red or Yellow cards or associated suspensions for players. However, disciplinary sanctions can still be applied for inappropriate behaviour by players and team officials, including being sent off and, for persistent breaches, potential bans and other sanctions.

Football Canterbury and Balmain DFC Common Fines and Charges (Players)

- Late or no Notice of a Forfeit (SSF): \$60 + GL fees
- Match Sheet late or not submitted: \$12
- Match sheet incorrect or incomplete: \$12
- Results not submitted or submitted late in Dribl: \$12
- Ground Official not visible: \$120 (first offence), \$230 (second and subsequent offences)

Payment of Fines

- If a player is liable to pay a fine, they will receive an email from the club with a payment link or an invoice
- Fines must be paid by the Wednesday in order to be eligible for a game the following weekend
- If a team is liable to pay a fine, the registered team officials will receive an email from the club with a payment link or an invoice. Team officials are responsible for paying team fines and collecting reimbursement from the team
- If a player or a team does not pay a fine after the requisite notifications and warnings, BDFC then reserves the right to apply sanctions, including standing the player and/or team down from playing.
- Link to information on [Payment of Fines](#)
- Link to [BDFC Disciplinary Procedures, Fines, and Penalties](#)

Coach Support



COACH EDUCATION

- Club website:
 - [Coach Information - Balmain & District Football Club](#)
 - [Club Coach Education - Balmain & District Football Club](#)
- On Spond app:

Coaches - Balmain DFC 2026

- All Age, senior teams
- U10-U12
- U13-U15
- U16 - U21
- U6-U7
- U8-U9

- Equally important to the **WHAT** we do during training sessions (*exercises, games, drills...*) is **HOW** we explain the information (*communication with players, suitability of used coaching styles ...*)
- For coaching-related questions for any age group, please contact radim@balmainfootball.com.au

Coaching Courses in Football Canterbury

March - April



Lack of experience in coaching = no problem

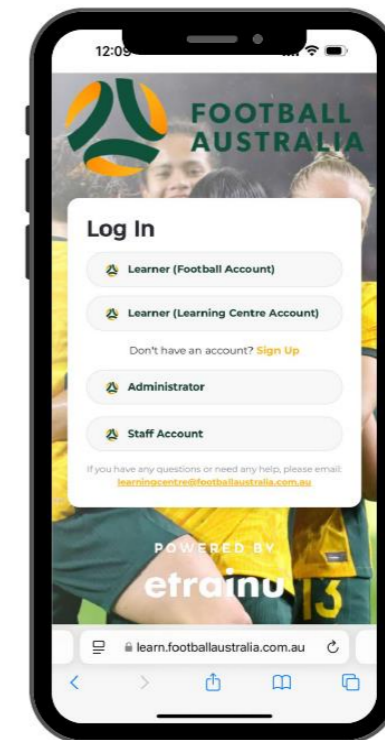
Official Football Australia (FA) coaching pathway starts with [community certificates](#):

MiniRoos coaching certificate:

- Suitable if you are coaching 4–8yo
- free sessions, 2 hrs
- Discovery phase, under the Football Australia (FA) [curriculum](#)

Next courses:

- 25th of March @ WFD from 6:00pm
- 31st of March @ Earlwood oval from 6:00pm
- 13th of April @ Beaman Park from 6:00pm
- 22nd of April @ Croydon Park from 6:00pm



Enquiries to Radim (radim@balmainfootball.com.au) about details and/or registrations via the FA portal

Coaching Education pre-season 2026



BDFC INDUCTION DAY 2026

FOR COACHES AND MANAGERS

12:00pm | First Aid Basics + Defib Training 

Learn to handle common football injuries and master the life-saving skill of using a defib with Genevieve Gardner.

FOR COACHES

Level up your leadership with insights from our Technical Director, Radim (UEFA A Licence, FA GK B), and General Manager, Angelo (FA A Diploma).

1:00pm | Workshop Session 1 (Pick one)

- ▶ Managing Behaviour (with Radim) - For U8-U16 teams
- ▶ Football Team Building (with Angelo) - For U8-U16 teams

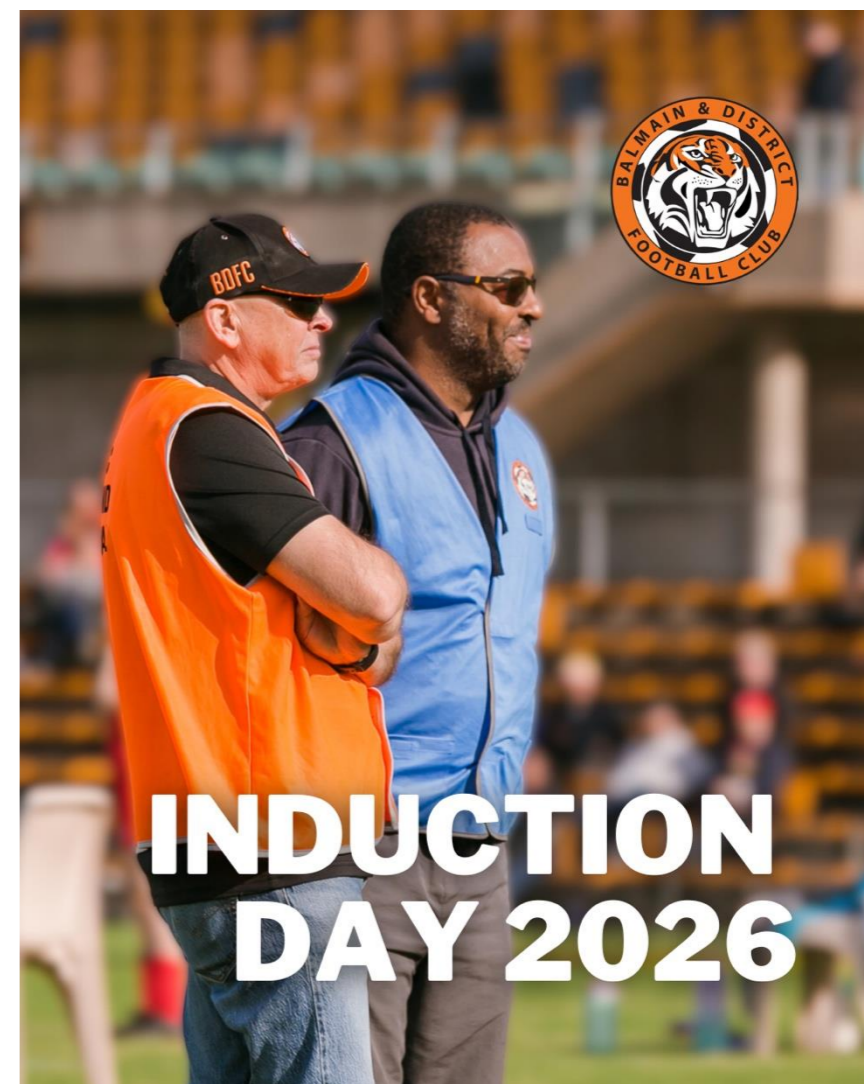
2:00pm | Workshop Session 2 (Pick one)

- ▶ Rules of Small Sided Games (with Radim) - For U8-U16 teams
- ▶ Developing YOUR Playing Style (with Angelo) Aimed for U8+ teams

 Register for any of the above workshops here:

<https://form.jotform.com/250638147513860>

U8+ : 28 March @ WFD



Programs run by our club



BDFC offers a range of reoccurring programs for our members

What	When	For Who
Holiday Camps	Every School Holidays	5 - 16
Pre-season training/skills program	February - March	U8 - U16
Striker and GK sessions	February - March	U8 - U16
Development Program (for Graded teams in the Winter season)	March - August	U8 - U16
Goalkeeper Development Program	April - August	U8 - U16
Player Pathways Program (Individual skills development in the Winter season)	March - August	U8 - U16
Women Who Kick (social women's program in summer & winter)	All Year	16+
Team Training Program	April - August	U8 - U19
MiniRoos Kick-Off / MiniTillies Program (summer & winter)	All Year	U4 - U7
Junior Grading	November - December	U8 - U16
Off-season programs	October - December	U8 - U16
Summer Football competition	October - December	U7 - U13
Kickstarter program	October - December	U8 - U12

More information on our programs can be accessed under the "Player Development/Training" heading on our [website](#).

HOME

OUR CLUB

PLAYERS

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING

COACHES & MANAGERS

JOIN US!

CLUB NEWS

SPONSORS





[BDFC Website](#) – a font of all knowledge

[Club Policies](#)

[Team Manager Resources & Information](#) (mandatory reading!)

[Coach & Manager Quick and Useful Links](#)

[BDFC Grounds](#)

[Training Schedule & Allocations](#)

[Player Injury Reporting Form](#)

[Incident Reporting Form](#)

Player Resources and Info:

- [Registration & FAQ](#)
- [Tiny Tigers \(U4-U5\)](#)
- [Junior Teams \(U6-U12\)](#)
- [Youth Teams \(U13-U18\)](#)
- [Senior Teams \(19+\)](#)
- [Player Insurance Details](#)

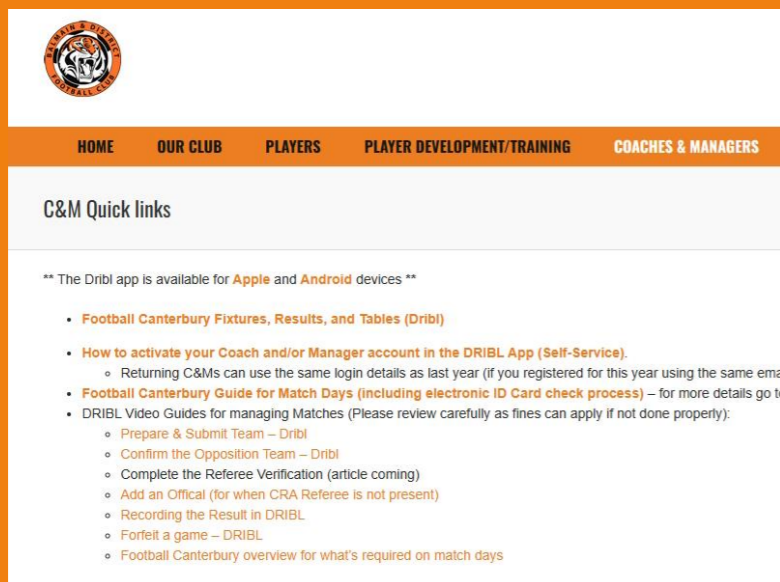
[Football Canterbury Resources \(Rules, Disciplinary, etc.\)](#)

[Fixtures, Ladders, & Results \(Public access\)](#) (no ladders or results published for SSF)

When you need information or help?



Our website



<http://www.balmainfootball.com.au>

Our website contains:

- All information & links required by players, managers, and coaches
- A coaches only area, with the club's development training plans and additional resources to support coaches

Your Age Coordinator



Executive Committee

& sub-committees



Comms

Development

Finance

Grounds

Registration

Sponsorship

Q&A



Any questions?