

WEST COAST RANGERS

10th February 2020

To all Junior and Youth players and your families

Re: Westcoast Rangers Youth tryout dates and Junior meet for the upcoming 2020 season

Our try-outs which started last week have been going very well so thank you to all those who have attended and importantly, thank you to all the parents for helping make this happen!

We know of a number of people have not managed to attend the try outs as yet – please just let us know if you want to try and get along, we would love to see you.

We have had a number of issues raised with us; about the proposed costs, around the timetable, and around how individuals can carry on playing football as they have last year. Thanks for raising these issues. It is important that we answer these points for everyone, so please find below a number of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), and their responses.

Importantly if you do have any other questions or concerns please contact our Community Football Development Manager Tom Hoey. He will be at Fred Taylor Park for this weeks try outs so come and speak with him or you can email him at info.wrfc@gmail.com or call him on 0275851486.

FAQ

Who are Westcoast Rangers and why are things being done this way this year?

Waitakere City and Norwest have formed Westcoast Rangers to focus on Junior and Youth Football, with an emphasis on the individuals and the teams that aspire to play at a higher level of football. This will not be for everyone, many of our players won't have this focus and won't want to commit to this higher level and that is absolutely fine! Both Waitakere City and Norwest will still be forming teams in all junior and youth grades and will provide opportunities for those players to attend open skill-centre sessions if they want to challenge themselves. There is a strong understanding that at the junior level many players will not have reached their 'prime' and it is important that we provide good opportunities for them to still play and to enjoy the game, and for those still developing, the opportunities in the future to step up.

Isn't this elitist?

The clubs are focused on **all** levels of the game, however it is at the higher end of the game where we have not been providing young West Auckland players with the opportunities to grow and

develop, and unfortunately this results in players having to travel to Auckland or North Shore Clubs – which is not a simple option for many of these players.

How can you justify the cost you have outlined?

At this point we have only outlined a range of potential costs, we can't set the final cost until we understand what teams we will be selecting, their respective levels and therefore the coaching level that each team requires. Importantly, the cost will be determined by the level of coaching required to support the team.

For 2020, we have aligned the basic Junior and Youth club fees for Waitakere City and Norwest United at \$190. Players selected for one of the Westcoast Ranger managed teams would then have additional costs for the coaching associated with that team and skill centre sessions, which if attended previously, were paid for separately each term. It also includes training kit, which is important to create a culture of team unity as well as ensuring all players are training in comfortable, warm and dry gear.

We have compared our cost range with what other clubs are charging for comparable teams and we are definitely on the lower side. Comparably, the fee structure is both competitive and realistic, covering only the associated costs with providing the structure to support these teams.

I couldn't afford that level of fee!

Come and talk to us, or contact our Community Football Development Manager Tom Hoey confidentially (027 585 1486) and discuss this with him.

The clubs are not in a position to carry the costs for this additional coaching, however we would also be disappointed if an aspiring player missed out on a key opportunity.

Who will I actually be playing for

For 2020 all teams will be playing for either Waitakere City or Norwest United – Westcoast Rangers is simply the partnership the Clubs have formed to help coordinate this work. If the clubs choose to continue their approach of working together, it is likely that next year ALL these teams will play for the Westcoast Rangers.

Some of the times advertised are too early for players who are travelling distances from school, can these be changed?

We have amended some of the try-out times and will look further at the practice sessions. A key factor is around availability of grounds and lighting, however we will look at this further.

If I attend the try-outs does that commit me to paying the fee?

No it doesn't, if you have player who has talent, or who aspires to do more, than this is the best opportunity for them to be seen by the clubs and for you and the clubs to firm a view about what might be best for their football. If a player is provided an opportunity we will then discuss the fees, at this point a player would need to make a decision.