ALBURY WODONGA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE GUIDE 2027



BACKGROUND & HISTORY

Since 1974, AWFA has proudly administered a successful Representative Program, featuring teams from U10 to U16. Each year, more than 250 talented players are selected through a comprehensive trial process held in October and November. Our Representative Program provides players with opportunities to further their footballing careers, offering access to elite coaching and development right here in the Albury-Wodonga area. Our teams compete in various prestigious tournaments across New South Wales and Victoria, including events in Bathurst, Geelong, and Shepparton.

These competitions give players valuable exposure and the chance to showcase their skills in some of the country's most prominent regions. With the development of new and improved local facilities, such as the state-of-the art Baranduda Fields completed in 2024, we anticipate hosting more high-profile tournaments in Albury-Wodonga in the coming years. A highlight of our program is the annual Representative Dinner, a special event where players and their families come together to celebrate the season’s achievements and strengthen our community bonds. To make participation as accessible as possible, AWFA seeks new sponsors at the start of each representative season, inviting parents and community members to explore our available sponsorship packages.

Through these valuable partnerships, we can offset program costs, providing new uniforms included in the program fee and ensuring no additional cost to families for a level playing field. For information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact us.



ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for selection in an AWFA Representative squad, players must meet the following requirements:

- Be registered with an AWFA-affiliated club for the season in which they are participating.
- Be registered in the age group corresponding to their age as of 1 January of the relevant year.
- Play within their designated age group unless a special exemption has been approved by the AWFA Executive Committee.

To be eligible for appointment to an AWFA Representative squad, coaches and managers must meet the following requirements:

- Hold a valid NSW Working With Children Check.
- Coaches must hold valid Football Australia (FA) and/or Football NSW (FNSW) coaching qualifications



PLAYER SELECTION POLICY

Prior to the beginning of the Representative season (December onwards), each Representative team will hold trials throughout October. These trials will take place over three weekends and comprise of training and games.

Following the completion of trials, coaches, in consultation with their selection panel, will select squads for the upcoming representative season. Squads will consist of 16 players, with the exception of the U10–U12 age groups, which will select 14 players to accommodate the 9-a-side format.

It is up to the individual coach's discretion to select their squad of sixteen players. It is also up to the coach and their selected panel who is selected and for what reason/s. The coach will then notify the Technical Director and the Executive Committee Member of the squad's members within 3 days of the last training session.

The Technical Director will notify the Secretary of AWFA and/or the Association Administrator within 48 hours of having received the team list from each coach. The team lists will be displayed on the AWFA website and via social media within 72 hours of being notified.

PLAYERS REQUIREMENTS

Once team has been published players are expected to acknowledge acceptance of position by informing Coach and via link register and pay $155 acceptance fee which will be deducted from their final representative fee.

All players are encouraged to attend all sessions. Any players that are unavailable will need to provide written advice as to their unavailability i.e., injured, medical certificate, family reasons, training or playing at a higher level. Total cost is $485 for Squad Players and $350 for Train On Players. Payment plans can be arranged by contacting AWFA.

Failure to communicate your absence may jeopardise your selection in an AWFA Representative team.



PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

Follow and abide by the Representative Player Code of Conduct Player Policies (as per AWFA Rules and Regulations 2.7)

6.4.2 Every player registered with an AWFA club is encouraged to make themselves available for selection in representative teams.

6.4.3 Any player who is not registered with AWFA cannot play in any championships or competitions in which the team is entered.

6.4.4 Any player who does not attend training or matches to the best of their ability may jeopardize their position in the squad. This will be at the discretion of the coach following consultation with the EC.

6.4.5 Any player who after notification of their selection fails to meet their representative commitments shall be suspended for no less than two club matches.

6.4.6 Representative players wishing to move from one club to another club may do so only after lodging a form 31 and getting the approval of the AWFA Board and so long as their movement does not result in that club having more than five representative players from the current representative program in a single representative team. This includes train on, below age and development players. U12's only four representative players are permitted from the current representative program in a single team. This includes train on, below age and development players.

6.4.7 **No Representative player** is allowed to move to a club and team of representative coach who is coaching the equivalent team at representative level.

Disciplinary Policies

6.7.1 Any player or club being found guilty of acting against or not abiding by these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and subject to any penalty the EC, MC or DC shall decide.

6.7.2 Any incident or send off reports sent to the AWFA from a representative tournament competition organiser will be handled by the AWFA DC.

COACH & MANAGER EXPECTATIONS

Coaches

- Provide high-quality coaching and training for their squad
- Prepare players for competitions/tournaments
- Conduct appropriate quality football activities to enhance the players' experience within the Representative Program
- Create a fair and inclusive environment
- Sign and return applicable forms

Managers

- Ensure that all players are dressed appropriately for matches & training
- Ensure successful management of the team
- Ensure welfare of the players in their care-Ensure off-field matters are dealt with efficiently and effectively
- Provide support to the coach and support staff
- Sign and return applicable forms

Coaches and Managers Policies

6.3.1 All representative coaches and managers shall have a current NSW Working with Children Checks

6.3.2 All representative coaches and managers must complete registration in accordance with 4.25. (Registration)

6.3.3 No coach shall be permitted to move to a club to coach in the equivalent age group which they are the representative coach



PLAYER FEE BREAKDOWN



2027 Fees:
Squad Players $485
Train On Players $350



WHATS INCLUDED IN THE UNIFORM?

Included in your registration fee is a uniform pack for each player. Uniform fittings and the first training session will take place on 19 October 2026 at Latrobe, Wodonga.

Our new official uniform supplier is **Fury**

Players will receive:

- A playing strip (shirt and shorts)
- A training kit (shirt)-2 pairs of socks
- An AWFA Representative Polo
- An AWFA Representative Tracksuit Jacket
- An AWFA Representative Bag

Train-Ons will receive a Training Kit, Jacket and 2 pairs of socks.

Optional Items will be available to purchase, AWFA will advise of these options.

WHATS IN IT FOR PLAYERS?

Registering to play Representative Football presents many benefits for players and their families.

These include, but are not limited to:

- Access to high-quality coaching (TSP Programs)
- Access to scouting and accelerated progression through the footballing pathways
- Increased training & developmental sessions
- Exposure to higher level of competition at tournaments throughout NSW and Victoria
- Potential selection to state and national-level representative teams
- Family-friendly community
- Make new friends with players & families they wouldn't normally play with

AFTER SELECTION

Team selections will be announced shortly after all Representative team trials have concluded. Players and their families will be notified individually via email by the coach or Technical Director. Selections will also be published on the AWFA website at www.awfa.asn.au.

Some players may be selected as Train-On players. These players remain involved with the representative team they trialled for and act as reserves for tournaments and matches. Train-On players will receive a training kit and socks, with any additional gear available for purchase at their own expense.

Should a selected player be unable to fulfil their commitments or choose to withdraw from the program, a Train-On player may be offered their position at the coach's discretion.

Following the announcement of team selections, coaches and team managers will contact players and families with further information regarding the next steps. This will include required forms, training schedules, communication channels, uniform requirements and registration details.

Representative registration fees are payable in four instalments, with a $155 deposit due upon accepting selection, followed by the remaining balance in January, March and May.

Players must register through PlayFootball and Dribl, following the same process used for their AWFA club registration, and select AWFA Representative as their club.

Active Kids vouchers are accepted for Representative registrations. Your team manager will provide a link outlining the available registration packages and payment options.



TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

Travelling and booking of accommodation if/when required for tournaments throughout NSW, Victoria and the ACT is the responsibility of the individual i.e. a player and their family/guardian, a coach, a manager, a volunteer.

AWFA may subsidise travel for those who transport AWFA equipment to and from tournaments – this is up to the discretion of the AWFA Board.

SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship packages are available for individual teams and can assist in relieving some of the costs associated with the program, for a sponsorship package or more information, please email Kiera hayes at secretary@awfa.asn.au

PHOTOGRAPHY

During the season, a player may be photographed, or video recorded during the game or at an event, either individually or as a part of a larger group. That photograph or image may then be published, with identifying information, via the AWFA website or social media channels.

Please inform your Team Manager that you wish to opt your child/s out of these photos



Coaching Guidelines

All coaches will receive a Technical Director Coaches Handbook and age-specific training plans.

Coaches must commit to one primary coaching role and avoid dual commitments with Murray United or similar programs.

Feedback has highlighted significant challenges arising from:

- Coaches holding simultaneous roles within both the AWFA Representative Program and Murray United
- Players participating concurrently in AWFA and Murray United programs, particularly at Pre-NPL level

To address these issues, the following principles apply:

- Coaches must commit to one primary coaching role when engaged with the AWFA Representative Program
- Dual involvement across AWFA and Murray United coaching roles is not supported
- Players are advised to select one representative pathway to minimise clashes, workload, and missed development opportunities

These measures are designed to:

- Improve training attendance and consistency
- Reduce physical and mental load on players
- Enhance the overall representative experience

Support families through clearer scheduling and expectations

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

Participation in the AWFA Representative Program is voluntary.

This guide provides clear expectations to support high-quality coaching, player development, and value for families.

The AWFA Representative Program does **not** seek to pressure any player or coach into participation. Rather, this guide establishes a **clear, transparent framework** that supports:

- High-quality coaching
- Consistent player development
- Competitive opportunities aligned with Football NSW standards
- Value for money for parents and caregivers

All policies and structures outlined in this document have been developed in direct response to feedback from parents, players, and coaches, with the ultimate aim of delivering the **best possible representative football experience**.



Training Schedule – Summary Tables

U10 – U13 Training Schedule (Monday Evenings, Latrobe Wodonga)

Date Period	Time	Notes
19 Oct – 7 Dec 2026	5:00 – 6:30 pm	Includes uniform fitting on first session
Dec 2026 – Jan 2027	—	Christmas & School Holiday Break
1 Feb – 22 Mar 2027	5:00 – 6:30 pm	Pre-tournament training block
Late Mar – Mid Apr 2027	—	Easter & School Holiday Break
19 Apr – 28 Jun 2027	5:00 – 6:30 pm	Tournament preparation & championships

U14 – U17 Training Schedule (Monday Evenings, Latrobe Wodonga)

Date Period	Time	Notes
19 Oct – 7 Dec 2026	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Includes uniform fitting on first session
Dec 2026 – Jan 2027	—	Christmas & School Holiday Break
18 Jan – 22 Mar 2027	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Pre-tournament training block
Late Mar – Mid Apr 2027	—	Easter & School Holiday Break
19 Apr – 28 Jun 2027	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Tournament preparation

DETAILED TRAINING SCHEDULE

All training sessions will be held at Latrobe, Wodonga, on the dates and times listed below, primarily on Monday evenings. If you are unable to attend a scheduled session, please notify your coach or team manager.

These dates have been set to provide players and families with a clear and consistent timeline for the representative season, following numerous enquiries regarding the training schedule. Training will proceed at Latrobe on the scheduled dates and times, regardless of individual player availability or school holiday periods. The only exception will be occasional off-site training sessions to accommodate players travelling from out of town. Any changes to the schedule will be communicated by the AWFA Technical Director.

In the event of hot weather, some training sessions may be rescheduled to weekend mornings. The AWFA Technical Director will advise of any changes.

U10-U13 Age Groups

Session Time: 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Pre-Christmas Program

Date	Time	Notes
19 Oct 2026	5:00pm - 6:30pm	Includes Uniform Try-On
16 Nov 2026	5:00pm - 6:30pm	
23 Nov 2026	5:00pm - 6:30pm	
30 Nov 2026	5:00pm - 6:30pm	
7 Dec 2026	5:00pm - 6:30pm	



DETAILED TRAINING SCHEDULE (Cont')

Break: Christmas & School Holidays

2027 Program

Date	Time
1 Feb 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm
8 Feb 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm
15 Feb 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm
22 Feb 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm
1 Mar 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm
8 Mar 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm
15 Mar 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm
22 Mar 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm

Break: Easter & School Holidays

Date	Time
19 Apr 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm
3 May 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm
10 May 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm
17 May 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm
24 May 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm
31 May 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm
7 Jun 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm
21 Jun 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm
28 Jun 2027	5:00pm - 6:30pm

DETAILED TRAINING SCHEDULE (Cont')

U14-U17 Age Groups

Session Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Pre-Christmas Program

Date	Time	Notes
19 Oct 2026	6:30pm - 8:00pm	Includes Uniform Sizing
16 Nov 2026	6:30pm - 8:00pm	
23 Nov 2026	6:30pm - 8:00pm	
30 Nov 2026	6:30pm - 8:00pm	
7 Dec 2026	6:30pm - 8:00pm	

Break: Christmas & School Holidays

2027 Program

Date	Time
18 Jan 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm
25 Jan 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm
15 Feb 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm
22 Feb 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm
1 Mar 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm
8 Mar 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm
15 Mar 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm
22 Mar 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm

DETAILED TRAINING SCHEDULE (Cont')

Break: Easter & School Holidays

Date	Time
19 Apr 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm
3 May 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm
10 May 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm
17 May 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm
24 May 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm
31 May 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm
7 Jun 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm
21 Jun 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm
28 Jun 2027	6:30pm - 8:00pm

Conclusion: NSW Country Championships



Tournament Schedule – Summary Tables

Below is a list of tournaments that we will be competing in, please note that your coach may enrol your team in more tournaments as they see fit. This schedule also does not include additional gala days or practice matches that might be organised as well.

Boys Representative Teams

Age Group	Tournaments	Timing
U10-U12	JDL Tournament (Goulburn); Wagga Wagga Gala Day; Josh Kennedy Cup (Albury); Merino Cup (Goulburn)	March - June
U13-U16	Bathurst Cup; Merino Cup (Goulburn); Wagga Wagga Gala Day; Josh Kennedy Cup (Albury); NSW Country Championships (U13 & U14)	February - July
U17	Shepparton Cup; Bathurst Cup; Maccas City Cup; Josh Kennedy Cup (Albury)	February - October

Girls Representative Teams

Age Group	Tournaments	Timing
U10-U12	JDL Tournaments (Goulburn); Wagga Wagga Gala Day; Josh Kennedy Cup (Albury); Merino Cup (Goulburn)	March - June
U13-U16	Bathurst Cup; Merino Cup (Goulburn); Wagga Wagga Gala Day; Josh Kennedy Cup (Albury); NSW Country Championships (U13 & U14)	February - June

PATHWAYS

An important component of the AWFA Representative Pathway is our involvement in the Talent Support Program (TSP), with approximately 20 boys and girls from across our representative program participating each year.

Our younger players, up to and including Under 12s, also participate in Junior Development League tournaments delivered by Football NSW. These tournaments provide valuable opportunities for talent identification, development workshops and exposure to a higher level of competition.

The TSP is a key part of the national player development pathway, supporting emerging talent and creating opportunities to progress to events such as the Emerging Socceroos Tournament later in the year. Through the AWFA Representative Program and the Football NSW TSP hub based in Albury, players can access additional high-level coaching, mentoring and development opportunities to help prepare them for the next stage of their football journey.



FAQ'S

How do I know when and where training is?

The training schedule is outlined in this booklet. Any changes will be communicated by your team manager or coach.

What if my child/s cannot attend training/a match/a tournament?

Please notify your team manager of any unavailability, and they will advise you of the next steps.

Please note: Representative football takes priority over AWFA league football. Where representative tournaments clash with AWFA league fixtures, players are expected to attend their representative commitments. Failure to prioritise representative football may result in disciplinary consequences imposed by AWFA.

What if my child/s circumstances change and have to withdraw from a team?

Please inform your team manager, who will inform the coach and Technical Director who will then inform you of next steps if required.

If I have an issue with any matter, who do I speak to?

Please notify your team manager or coach, who will liaise with the Technical Director and determine the appropriate course of action.

I cannot afford the registration fees – what are my options?

AWFA is committed to making representative football accessible to all players. Payment plans are available through Dribl to help families spread fees across multiple instalments.

For the 2026/27 season, AWFA has reduced player fees and absorbed a portion of program costs to minimise the financial burden on families.

If further assistance is required, please email gm@awfa.asn.au. Requests will be assessed individually by the AWFA Board. Please note that financial assistance is not guaranteed.



Key Contacts

Technical Director
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0403678885
td@awfa.asn.au

General Manager
Stephanie Jory
gm@awfa.asn.au

Administration
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The Albury Wodonga Football Association Representative Program is proudly sponsored by The Commercial Club Albury and Fury.