



Barnstoneworth United FC - Orange Financial and Hardship Policy

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Introduction

Barnstoneworth United Football Club - Orange (BUFC) is dedicated to promoting fair play and fostering an inclusive, positive atmosphere both on and off the field. In alignment with our commitment to inclusivity, the Club strives to provide an environment where as many players as possible can enjoy the game.

As a community-focused sporting club, BUFC aims to engage children, families and adults in playing and supporting football while offering assistance to those facing financial challenges to ensure they can participate.

Purpose

The aim of this Policy is to set forth guidelines and procedures for players facing financial difficulties, ensuring that all individuals have the opportunity to participate in football. This Policy is designed to support those who may be unable to play due to economic constraints, promoting equal access to the sport for every player.

Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for financial support, applicants should demonstrate a genuine need for assistance. While possession of an Australian Low Income Health Care Card that is current at the time of application is preferred as evidence, individuals who do not hold this card but believe they are eligible for support are encouraged to provide a brief summary of their situation along with any relevant supporting documentation.

Assistance Available

The Policy's financial support is designed to cover the following:

- Reduction in fees to be paid by the applicant (part or total)
- Additional time (payment arrangement) to pay all or part of registration fees due
- In exceptional cases, funding may be provided to cover purchase of compulsory personal playing equipment (kit)

The Financial Hardship support is not designed to support the following:

- Travel expenses (public transport fares or petrol)
- Additional equipment or uniform other than the items nominated above (eg. Soccer balls, Club merchandise etc)

Financial hardship support is subject to the availability of club funding and will be granted based on applications that clearly demonstrate genuine need and eligibility.

How to Apply

To apply for financial assistance, applicants will need to submit a letter no longer than one page to barnies@bufc-orange.com outlining the following:

- Circumstances of hardship
- Type of support requested (e.g. fees, kit)
- Support documentation (e.g. copy of Low Income Health Care Card)
- Contact details

Assessment Criteria

- Applications will be assessed on a needs basis, not first come first serve.
- All applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the Club Executive Committee. Executive consisting of, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- A response of the application outcome will be issued within three (3) weeks of receipt.
- An interview with a member of the Exec-committee may be required if further information relating to your application is required.

Payment plans

- All players entering into a payment plan must pay at least 25% of the total fee of the payment plan upfront to establish the plan prior to participation.
- The upfront fee must be paid in full before the player is registered or begins training.
- Players on a payment plan are required to make scheduled, regular payments as agreed upon at the time of registration.
- This plan will be agreed and provided in writing to the player or their guardians.
- Payments must be made by the due dates specified in the payment schedule.
- Failure to make a scheduled payment by the due date will result in suspension of the player's registration and participation until the outstanding balance is settled.
- The club reserves the right to suspend or revoke registration if payments are not received within 2 weeks of the due date or unless otherwise agreed.
- Players or their guardians must communicate with the club's administration if experiencing payment difficulties; alternative arrangements may be considered at the club's discretion.
- Continued non-payment may lead to termination of the player's registration and exclusion from club activities until all outstanding fees are settled.

Privacy

BUFC appreciates the sensitive nature of details relating to applications for financial assistance. Further, BUFC respects the privacy of all applicants and will only request the minimum amount of information required to assess the application.

Applications will only be viewed by the following Executive members of the BUFC Committee:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

The broader BUFC Committee will be advised about the overall decisions made in respect to this policy. The nature of this information will be limited to the total type and amount of support distributed. Should there be a need to deviate from this process the applicant will be informed, and consent requested prior to the distribution of any personal information more widely.