

WHAT IS THE JUNIOR FRAMEWORK?

New Zealand Football's National Player Development Framework provides an aligned, cohesive structure in order to meet the needs of players across all levels of the game. There are progressive stages within the framework, with each stage having clear objectives, guidelines and structures so that coaches and administrators are better equipped to meet the needs of our players, right up to adult ages. The Junior Framework is ultimately the foundation of future participation in our game, leading towards lifelong involvement in the sport, as well as being the platform for producing future professional and national team players.

Regardless of motivation or ability levels, players should enjoy a high-quality experience at all stages. The framework aims to meet the needs of all young players, while ensuring they can move across the spectrum from community recreational sport right through to the talent perform pathway.

As you can see from the diagram, the Junior Framework offers programmes across three pathways during the Discovery and Skill Acquisition phases. In this document we focus on our affiliated community participation players who play within clubs, where three standardised programmes are offered; McDonald's First Kicks (4-6 Years), McDonald's Fun Football & Futsal (7-8 Years) & McDonald's Mini Football & Futsal (9-12 Years).

Recreational programmes are available which focus on providing more opportunities for kids to play, experience and hopefully fall in love with Football and Futsal. Community Recreational programmes such as Football festivals, Fun Futsal centres and holiday programmes are informal, flexible and aim to attract new players to our game long term. This provides our community participation players with more opportunities to play more football in and out of season.

Also available are the NZF Skill Centres. These provide an aligned, co-ordinated approach to players aged 9-12 years who are wishing to access a higher level of provision. Its main aim is to provide a structured programme for players, in an enjoyable environment that maximises player development.

Throughout the Junior Framework programmes are offered in the form of "Girls Only" and "Mixed" formats to support female participation and development:

GIRLS ONLY PLAYER PROGRAMMES

Girls Only provision helps to meet some of the social needs that may not be met in a more male-dominated environment. This has been shown to help to further engage female players, helping to grow the game and increase the depth of competition.

MIXED GENDER PLAYER PROGRAMMES

Mixed gender programmes may offer female footballers an alternative environment with an appropriate challenge point to support their development.

