**2022 Season Welcome and Information**

Dear Thunder family

I would like to officially welcome both new and returning Thunder players and families to the 2022 season. I trust that you are well rested and ready for another busy year of football.

This year we celebrate our 10th year as a football club representing the South West Queensland region and providing football pathways for our players. We look forward to celebrating this significant milestone with all current and past players, members and officials.

This letter provides a range of important information for club players, families and officials. I am currently awaiting advice from Football Queensland regarding the impact of COVID on training and game arrangements, particularly given the increased infection rates associated with the Omicron variant. I will keep you informed when we receive this advice.

**NEW 2022 CLUB CALENDAR**

You will find the new 2022 Club Calendar on the club website at www. [www.swqthunder.com.au/calendar](http://www.swqthunder.com.au/calendar). This calendar will be updated throughout the season to reflect changes and additions as they occur.There are some important club events in the 2022 Club Calendar that players and officials should be aware of. These events include:

**SWQ Thunder FC Pre-season Summer Holiday Clinic Wed 19 – Fri 21 January**

**Further details to come via email and social media**

**Compulsory Season Launch and Club & Team Photo Day 1.30 pm Sat 29 January**

**All players and officials required to attend**

**SWQ Thunder FC vs Toowoomba All Stars (5pm Women & 7pm Men) 5pm & 7pm Sat 29 January**

**All players and officials encouraged to attend**

**Final date to place new KAPPA Clothing Orders in Majestri for start of season Mon 31 January**

**Compulsory Junior Club Information Evening (City Golf Club) 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm Wed 2 February**

**All Junior players, parents and officials required to attend**

**Compulsory Senior Club Information Evening (City Golf Club) 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm Wed 2 February**

**All Senior players and officials required to attend**

**FQPL1 Men vs Magpies Crusaders United (Round 2, 1st Men’s Home Game) 6.00 pm Sat 5 March**

**FQPL1 Women vs Western Pride (Round 1, 1st Women’s Home Game) 3.45 pm Sat 19 March**

**FQPL1 Men vs Western Pride (Round 4, 2nd Men’s Home Game) 6.00 pm Sat 19 March**

**2022 COMPETITION CALENDARS**

Also attached to this letter is an overview of the Football Queensland competition calendar. This overview will help you to plan your football and family commitments throughout the season. The competitions that our SWQ Thunder FC teams compete in are marked with a yellow/blue arrow.

Our club’s 2022 Combined Draw calendar for all teams from Under 11 to Seniors is also attached. These draws are subject to change during the season and this calendar will not be updated to reflect any ongoing changes. It is recommended that players, families and officials download the GameDay app via the App Store and Google Play Store and save their favourite teams. While the draws have been released by Football Queensland, these are not yet available in the GameDay app.

The draws for Under 9, Under 10 and Under 12 Girls have not yet been released as these teams play in the local Toowoomba Football League. Competitive matches for these teams are scheduled to commence immediately after the Easter school holidays.

**CLUB COACHES AND MANAGERS**

The list of coaches and managers appointed to each team is attached to this letter. There are a number of vacancies that still need to be filled. If you are interested in applying for any of these vacancies please contact:

* Coach positions - Mike Mulvey at [mikemulvey@swqthunder.com](mailto:mikemulvey@swqthunder.com)
* Manager positions – Janelle Sothmann at [swqthunderfc@gmail.com](mailto:swqthunderfc@gmail.com)

Coaches and managers will be briefed on the season ahead at Club Officials meeting that is likely to be held on the evening of Tuesday 18th January. This will be confirmed with coaches/managers in the coming days.

**TRAINING COMMENCEMENT & ARRANGEMENTS**

SWQ Thunder FC teams will train on the days, times and venues as outlined below. Training will commence for each team as indicated. Minor changes may occur to these times from time to time and will be communicated to players and their families as required. Each Team Manager will set up a communication group (Facebook, WhatsApp etc) to communicate important messages to their respective teams.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Teams** | **Training Days** | **Training Times** | **Training Venue** | **Training Commences** |
| **FQPL1 U23 & Senior Men** | Monday  Wednesday  Thursday | 6.45 pm Warm Up  7.00 pm – 8.30 pm | Highfields Sport & Recreation Park | Mon 3/1/2022 |
| **NPL Under 18 Boys** | Wed 5/1/2022 |
| **FQPL1 U23 & Senior Women** | Monday  Wednesday  Thursday | 6.45 pm Warm Up  7.00 pm – 8.30 pm | Kratzke Oval, Highfields | Mon 10/1/2022 |
| **NPL Under 13 - 16 Boys** | Monday  Wednesday  Friday | 5.45 pm Warm Up  6.00 pm – 7.30 pm | Captain Cook Oval | Mon 17/1/2022 |
| **NPL Under 16 Girls** | Monday  Wednesday  Thursday | 5.15 pm Warm Up  5.30 pm – 7.00 pm | Kratzke Oval, Highfields | Mon 3/1/2022 |
| **SAP Under 9 - 12 Boys** | Monday  Wednesday  Friday | 4.15 pm Warm Up  4.30 pm – 5.45 pm | Captain Cook Oval | Mon 31/1/2022 |
| **SAP Under 12 Girls** | Tuesday  Thursday | 4.45 pm Warm Up  5.00 pm – 6.30 pm | Kratzke Oval, Highfields | Mon 18/1/2022 |

**PLAYFOOTBALL REGISTRATION**

Soon all players (or their parents) will be emailed instructions to register with PlayFootball, the codes registration portal for all player and officials. Please complete this registration as soon as possible as players will not be able to take the field for trial games unless registered with FFA/FQ.

**TEAM AND CLUB COMMUNICATION**

Team Managers will use text messages, social media (Facebook, WhatsApp etc) and email to communicate messages to their respective teams. All urgent messages (e.g. training cancellations) will be communicated via text or social media. More detailed, non-urgent messages will be communicated via email.

**PLAYER FITNESS**

Our Technical Director, Mike Mulvey, has provided feedback to the Board that the general fitness level of our players needs to improve to be more competitive playing elite level football. Players are encouraged to resume pre-season training with an elevated level of fitness.

**PRE-SEASON GAMES**

Team Managers will communicate details of pre-season games to their respective teams.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

It is recommended that players, families and officials connect with the club through [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/swqthunder/), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/swqthunderfc/) or [Twitter](https://twitter.com/SWQThunderFC) for regular updates. The [club website](https://www.swqthunder.com.au/) contains a range of important information.

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – MIDDLE RIDGE PARK**

The Club has been collaborating with the Toowoomba City Council and local football and sporting clubs to find a regular home ground for our SAP and NPL teams. I am pleased to advise that in 2022 our SAP and NPL teams will play matches at Middle Ridge Park. We will also train at these fields after Easter (when cricket season ends).

This arrangement will allow 2 games to played at the same time and enable greater opportunities for additional revenue for the club through canteen operations and/or arrangements with external mobile caters.

**CLUB SPONSORS**

The club would like to acknowledge our Club Major Sponsors for their significant contribution to our Club. Thanks to Clive Berghofer Land Sales, Total Tools and Clifford Gouldson Lawyers for their ongoing support.

**BOARD DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors and their portfolio responsibilities are listed below. These directors work tirelessly as volunteers to ensure that all players, officials and spectators are able to enjoy their weekly football.

**DIRECTOR (Football Performance) Stef Hlaca** [stefhlace@swqthunder.com](mailto:stefhlace@swqthunder.com)

**DIRECTOR (Football Operations) Jason Hall** [jason@swqthunder.com](mailto:jason@swqthunder.com)

**DIRECTOR (Registrar, Membership, Grants & Governance Michael Clarkson** [michaelclarkson@swqthunder.com](mailto:michaelclarkson@swqthunder.com)

**DIRECTOR (Football Development & Engagement) David Scutt** [davidscutt@swqthunder.com](mailto:davidscutt@swqthunder.com)

**DIRECTOR (Finance) Emma Bowdler** [emmabowdler@swqthunder.com](mailto:emmabowdler@swqthunder.com)

**DIRECTOR (Media) Laurie Pasante** [media@swqthunder.com](mailto:media@swqthunder.com)

**DIRECTOR (Sponsorship, Fundraising, Events & Uniforms) Karen MIller** [karenmiller@swqthunder.com](mailto:karenmiller@swqthunder.com)

Janelle Sothmann is no longer able to be a Director of the Club due to her employment with Football Queensland, however she will continue to play a key role as General Manager (Football Operations).

**General Manager (Football Operations) Janelle Sothmann** [swqthunderfc@gmail.com](mailto:swqthunderfc@gmail.com)

I look forward to meeting with you all at the various club events early in the new year.

Yours Faithfully

Luke Stenhouse

President

South West Queensland Thunder FC