

Altona Junior Football Club

Female Program and Pathways

Our commitment to increasing participation and fostering long-term growth in female football

“Female” is intended to include all people of female sex, as well as female-identifying or non-binary people.



Vision

Be Your Best

Mission

**Create a safe and inclusive
environment where
members play, develop and
succeed**

PROGRAMS	Auskick (Ages 4-7yrs) <i>Engage and have fun</i>	Junior Football (7 – 16yrs) <i>Develop skills, teamwork and have fun</i>	Senior Football (U18.5yrs) <i>A more complex and faster competition</i>
CHALLENGES FOR FEMALE FOOTBALL	• Societal norms to not play football • Lower participation compared to boys • Lack of role models	• Preference for all-female teams • Lower participation compared to boys • Staying engaged and limiting drop-outs	• Retaining players in lieu of education and work
ALTONA JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB'S COMMITMENT 	Embed a connection at the grassroots level • Appoint an Auskick Liaison Officer to promote the opportunities for female footballers at AJFC • Share Auskick program information and gender diverse imagery on AJFC social media to maximise reach to families with females • Help create female role models by encouraging AJFC female players (U12-U16) to assist with coaching the all-girls Auskick group • Organise an Auskick all-girls grid game at half-time of a senior home game	Build a pipeline to offer female-only teams • Appoint a Female Coordinator to help advocate and champion female footballers • Implement initiatives to attract and recruit new female players and maintain existing players, to sustain offering female-only teams into the future • When proactive recruitment efforts do not allow for female-only teams we will offer mixed teams for U8 – U14 consistent with the league rules • Recognise and reward the football skills of females across all age groups • Create opportunities for interaction across female player age groups via the training schedule (e.g. same day, oval & joint sessions) • Link motivated female players to high performance football training opportunities • Recruit and appoint Coaches (female if possible) before pre-season to instil confidence in club capability and capacity	Create female leaders and role models • Administer the female team in the short-term, with the goal of forming a female-only Altona team in 2027 • Early planning to forecast player numbers, regular communication to keep players informed and consideration of all options to keep females playing football (e.g. merger, player permit) • Tailor the training schedule to the needs of the female playing group to help balance life responsibilities • Request senior female players present jumpers to the junior female players at the season launch event • Build the senior female profile by promoting achievements to the AFC community • Establish a transition plan for AFC to assume leadership and administration of the senior female team