

SOUTHLAND JUNIOR FOOTBALL ANNUAL REPORT 2011

It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report for the 2011 season. We had 55 teams, up 6 teams on last year's figures. This year was the first year of the New Zealand Football Whole of Football plan which has, as its main focus, the smaller sided non-competitive games with parallel skills alongside. This was run by co-ordinators from the clubs involved, at various venues and had 14 teams. The feedback has been very positive with the games being enjoyed by the players involved.

The breakdown with last year's figures in brackets is as follows:

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
8 th Grade	14 teams	(7 th - 7)
9 th /10 th Grade	12 teams	(8 th 9 th 10 th - 18)
11 th /12 th Grade	16 teams	(16)
13 th /14 th Grade	7 teams	(6)
15 th / 16 th Grade	6 teams	(4)

The total number of registered junior players in 2011 was 637

All games were played at Turnbull Thomson Park, club grounds and Tapanui. The 15th/16th grade also used the senior fields at O'Rorke or Sandy Point. The 9th/10th Grade was divided into Top 6 bottom 6 after one round. 11th and 12th grade had 8 teams in each grade. Only the 13th/14th grade had a bye, with 7 teams. The 15th/16th grade was an even competition and had some close results throughout the season. It was good to welcome Southend United junior teams back into the competition for 2011.

We had to cancel only two games during the season which has been the same for many years. This year we changed holiday and Queens Birthday games. Confusion occurred over holiday games so may have to change this in the coming season. Unfortunately we never played the Eastern 9th/10th grade Southland exchange games, as the cancellations bit into this competition, so hopefully we can reschedule into the coming season.

This season we had decided not to have knockout games to allow more time for Representative teams to practice. The committee, however, bowed to pressure and slotted in these semis and finals, which meant some double- up of games were required to accommodate these. The finals were hotly contested with some going to penalty shootouts to decide.

The artificial turf has been used to the maximum with games and practices scheduled on it and also Ken and Barry's academies. With the new Whole of Football plan being introduced, we lost our SBS sponsorship. We thank SBS for their support over the years and we now welcome on board the ASB, who this coming season will be just as supportive.

Many thanks must go to the dedicated club coaches, fun-football coordinators, helpers, managers and referees during the season. Also much appreciated was the encouragement of all the parents and supporters on the sidelines. Once again a huge thank you to Stu Munro for the Southland Football website, that players, parents and coaches go online to have up- to -the minute information of Junior draws, results, tables and notices.

The representative portion was the same format as last season with Festival of Football matches, prior to the main tournaments in the October holidays, which were later this season. All our representative teams competed well at their respective tournaments. The 11th grade Southland

Gold won our local tournament. The 14th Grade Girls team also achieved a high finishing position.

We recognised and rewarded all achievements at the Rep break up held in early November. Congratulations to those players who have been selected in National Talent Centres. Special thanks to Wendy for carrying out the secretarial duties along with her other commitments for women's football. Thanks to Ken and Barry for their commitment in providing Junior based programmes and implementing the new, Whole of Football Plan that has taken a large portion of their time. I am sure they love their new office in a wonderful building that has had so much input from Ken. This facility will further help the development of football in Southland. Thanks to my committee that have contributed in all discussions to produce an exciting and fruitful season.

My personal thanks go to all club personnel who have worked tirelessly to give players a football team experience with all its highs and lows.

All the best for the festive season and we look forward to another action packed 2012 season.

Lance Kiddey
Southland Junior President