



NORTH LAKES MUSTANGS FC MEMBER WELCOME DOCUMENT (JUNIORS)





INTRODUCTION

North Lakes Mustangs Football Club (NLMFC) is a community run club, placing a strong focus on fun, good sportsmanship and player development. The club was originally formed in 2006 and competed in the QCSA competition. In its inaugural season, the club fielded 10 junior teams, ranging from Under 7 to Under 14. In November 2018, the club federated with Football Brisbane raising its profile within the local area and proving that the club is league ready. In 2020, the NLMFC fielded 50 teams across all age groups.

The club is run entirely by volunteers from the President through to coaches, managers, equipment coordinators and more. We recognise the importance of supporting one another and building a club that is safe, fun and like a second home for our players and families. This also translates into an affordable option for families, as we believe that children shouldn't miss out on playing sport due to excessive registration fees. This affordability goal is achieved through a number of sponsorship agreements and through the support of our local Council.

This '*Member Welcome Document*' is designed to equip our families with all the information they need to maximise their experience with the club throughout the season. Good communication is essential in that regard, and this document forms part of that directive.

We hope that you and your player/s enjoy the upcoming season, and look forward to seeing all of them in action in the near future.



CLUB VALUES

Establishing, maintaining and exhibiting core values is essential to any club or professional organisation, and the NLMFC is no different. It's our DNA, our ethos and it's 'how we roll'.

Values are critically important aspects to promote both on and off the field, and for the Mustangs, these are known as the **HEART** values and include the following:

H umility	i.e. modesty, being humble, celebrating the positives without being disrespectful)
E ffort & E ncouragement	(i.e. putting in our best effort each time, encouraging our team mates instead of being critical)
A ttitude	(i.e. playing and training with a positive and determined attitude)
R espectfulness	(i.e. being respectful to our team mates, the opposition, our coaches, our families and our club)
T eamwork	(i.e. solidarity, cooperation, mateship, focus on the group as opposed to the individual)

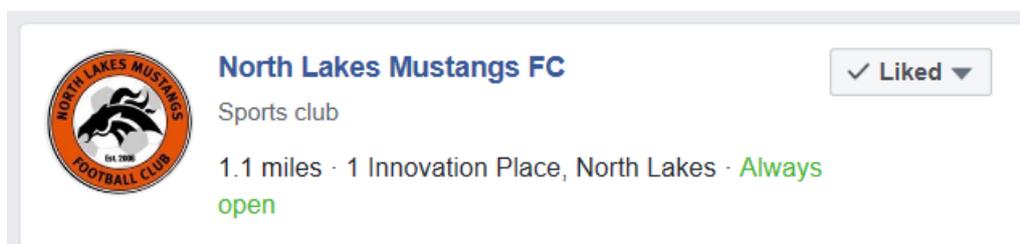
COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

The NLMFC uses a number of communication platforms to ensure information is passed on to its members. These include the following:

FACEBOOK

Our primary methodology for general communication is via Facebook. It is a great platform for the club to easily communicate to its active members and families, those that are affiliated with the club, our sponsors, external community groups, as well as Federal, State and Local Members.

Our Facebook page is called '**North Lakes Mustangs FC**'



Please **like** and **follow** us on Facebook to see all the information that gets posted on this platform. Doing this will enable you to receive notifications when info is released.

There will also be a **Closed Facebook Team page** dedicated to each and every team. That way, all family members within the team can communicate freely with each other, whether it be sharing team photos, or asking questions. This will also be the main communication tool that your coaches and managers will use to disseminate training and/or game info to everyone. For those not overly familiar to Facebook, a 'Closed' page is only visible to its members, so it is a private group.



It's also not uncommon for a Committee member (or the Club Facebook account) to be part of the group to help with answering any questions along the way as a general support option. The club will also forward posts to team pages from time to time.

Once your player/s is assigned to a team, a Facebook team page will be created and a family member directed there accordingly. If you are having difficulty in locating this page, please advise us via enquiries@northlakesmustangs.com.au so that we can help you get in touch with the team on that platform.

We understand that some people do not currently have Facebook accounts. We do, however, encourage you to set up one, as this will greatly assist with team communication – i.e. the coach/manager only needs to send information out once. Even if it is only a skeleton account, and personal details are kept to a minimum, you will still be able to get notifications, whether it be via the Facebook page or the associated Messenger app.

EMAIL

The club will use email in a number of instances, such as:

- pre-season communications
- formal notifications
- answering general enquiries
- issuance of invoices
- details of up upcoming age group trials

As such, it is important to ensure we have your latest contact email address. Should your email address change at anytime, this should be updated in your 'PlayFootball' account, and also a note sent to enquiries@northlakesmustangs.com.au. Please note that this is the main enquiry email address, which is regularly accessed by Committee members. Please send all general email correspondence to this address.



Please note that emails can be problematic at times, depending on your security system settings. We have found that our group emails will sometimes be assigned to Junk or Spam folders and people therefore do not see them. This is another reason why contact via Facebook is the preferred method of communication.

As such, please check junk folders from time to time in case of any missed correspondence.

TeamApp

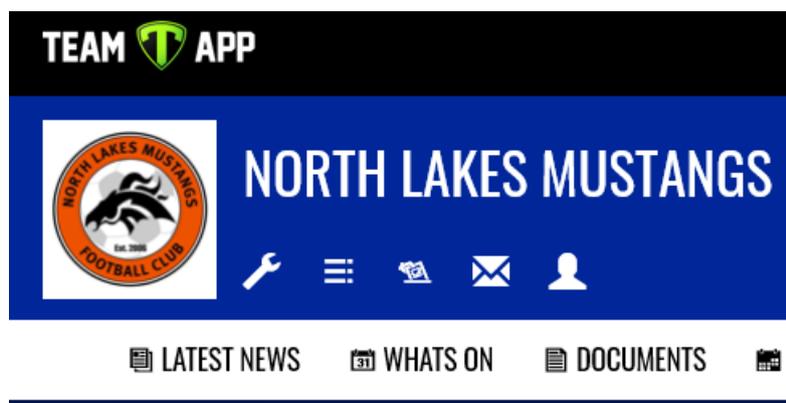
The NLMFC also uses an App to help provide various information to its active members.

Please go to your App Store / Play Store, search for and install TeamApp



The website for this programme is www.teamapp.com

Once installed, you need to set up an account and login. Once this has been done, search for North Lakes Mustangs:





You will need to request access to this account, which we will provide upon receipt of your request. You will also need to nominate the age group/s of your player.

TeamApp will be used as a notification tool for a number of messages, such as field closures due to wet weather, trial notifications, changes to the training schedule and the like. Team App will automatically send a duplicate of any notices to your nominated email address as well.

On this platform, you can also access important documents such as:

- Competition Rules
- Playing Formats
- Concussion Management Guidelines
- Coach and Managers Handbook
- Links to field status' for external clubs regarding Wet Weather

The **Wet Weather** link listed above is a very handy link to access, especially when the team is travelling to an away venue and there may be some uncertainty as to whether a field may be **Open or Closed** for play. This is where all clubs have their field status posted. If the field status on this page is Open, then it has been confirmed as Open.



GameDay App

This App is a valuable resource for all families, as it includes all **Season Fixtures** for the year once they are locked-in by Football Brisbane. This provides up to date fixture information, including locations, opposition teams, fields, maps, times and dates. At the start of the season, there may only be a handful of games listed to start with, however, the full season will be uploaded in the fulness of time.



Please go to your App Store/Play Store, search for, and install the GameDay App for ease of reference.

Once you have downloaded the App, you can search for a team by selecting the 'Teams' option at the bottom of the page, then select the 'Search' icon (magnifying glass at the top right of the page, enter 'North Lakes Mustangs' into the text box, then scroll down the page until you find your team.

North lakes mustangs ×

- Teams
- Comps
- Clubs
- Leagues

21 ACTIVE TEAMS FOUND

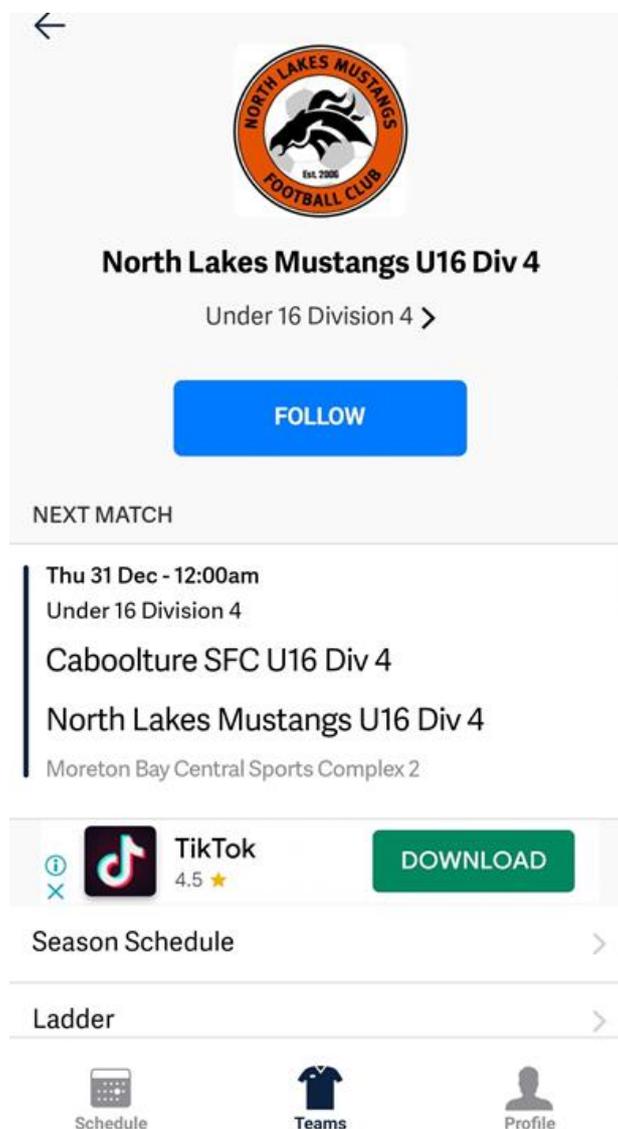
-  **North Lakes Mustangs U13 Div 1 Nth**
Under 13 Division 1 North
North Lakes Mustangs Football Clu... >
-  **North Lakes Mustangs Capital 3**
Vilic Law Capital League 3
North Lakes Mustangs Football Clu... >
-  **North Lakes Mustangs U13 Div 3 Nth**
Under 13 Division 3 North
North Lakes Mustangs Football Clu... >
-  **North Lakes Mustangs U13 Div 1 Girls**
Under 13 Division 1 Girls
North Lakes Mustangs Football Clu... >
-  **North Lakes Mustangs U14 Div 3 Nth**
Under 14 Division 3 North >


Schedule


Teams


Profile

Select your team, then select 'Follow' in the blue box. This will make that particular team one of your favourites for quick future reference.



You can then readily access fixture information, the competition ladder (Under 12 and upwards), and team statistics.

This is a great tool for all players and families to use, as it provides full season information for forward planning purposes.

Sports TG Website

The other way to locate season fixture information is via the SportsTG Website. This has every fixture of every competition and all associated information for your reference.

Click on the following link to access the competitions for 2021

[Competitions at FQ - Football Brisbane - SportsTG](#)

Note that this will remain blank until such time as the various competition fixtures are released. As various age groups are finalised, they will become available here.

Save this as a favourites location for ease of reference going forward.

For demonstration purposes, the 2020 season page can be accessed via the link below, which will provide all competition info from the previous season.

[Competitions at FQ - Football Brisbane - SportsTG](#)

Game Day Expectations

To help ensure all fixtures and training sessions during the season are conducted with the most benefit to the players, the Club has a number of expectations that families and players must adhere to. These include the following:

Punctuality:

Players must be in attendance for all training sessions and fixtures, unless otherwise notified to the Coach/Manager. This includes prior notification if the player is unwell, or away for various reasons. Early communication to the Coach/Manager will help with pre-planning for games and training sessions.

For **Training**, the Coaches should be in attendance approximately **10-15mins prior** to training start time, and the players approximately **5mins prior** to training start time.

For **Games**, Players and Coaches are to arrive at least **30mins** prior to kick-off for the Under 6, Under 7, Under 8 and Under 9 age groups. For Under 9 age groups and up, players are to arrive at least **45mins** prior to kick-off.

Game day Conduct:

Players and family members alike should at all times be respectful to Coaches, referees, other game day officials, and the opposition. Their conduct should always be in accordance with the **HEART** values as listed earlier in this document.

The team and its entourage of attendees should always be cognisant that they are representing the Club on Game Day, whether they be at home, or away. Disciplinary action may be undertaken should the need arise from any inappropriate behaviour.

General Fixture Information

The fixtures and extent of travel for each team will vary between the age groups. Field sizes vary across the age groups as well, and are Included in **Annexure A**. General fixture information is provided below for each of the age groups.

Under 6 – 8

Generally, the Under 6 – 8 age groups will play within the Moreton Bay region, with home and away fixtures generally split evenly. However, as there are a number of Mustangs teams that play in these age groups, the majority of games will be played in North Lakes. Away games are very local, and will be held at venues including Caboolture, Redcliffe, Narangba and Petrie.

Home games for Under 6 and 7 teams will be played at **Aurora Park, Field No. 1 (Expedition Drive, North Lakes)**.

Home games for Under 8 teams will be played on the **North Lakes State College Field No. 2 (Off Innovation Place, North Lakes)**

Games will consist of **20min halves** and a 5min half time break in between.

Under 9 - 11

Generally, the Under 9 – 11 age groups will play within the Brisbane North catchment, with home and away fixtures split relatively evenly. Although, our Cross River teams may also play teams located in the inner Brisbane region.

As these age groups are split into three (3) 'Divisions' the venues for away games will vary.

Home games will be played on the **North Lakes State College Field No. 2**.

Games will consist of **20min halves** and a 5min half time break for Under 9's.

Games will consist of **25min halves** and a 5min half time break for Under 10/11's.

Under 12

Generally, the Under 12 age group will play within the Brisbane North catchment, with home and away fixtures generally split evenly. As these age groups are split into Divisions the location for away games will vary.

Home games will be played at **Kinsellas Park, Field No. 3.** (K3)

Games will consist of **25min halves** and a 5min half time break.

Under 13 & 14

Generally, the Under 13 and Under 14 age groups will play within the Brisbane North catchment, with home and away fixtures split relatively evenly. As these age groups are split into Divisions the location for away games will vary depending on the teams in their Division.

Home games will be played at **Kinsellas Park, Field No. 2, or North Lakes State College Field No. 2.** (NLSC 2)

Games will consist of **30min halves** and a 5min half time break for Under 13's.

Games will consist of **35min halves** and a 5min half time break for Under 14's

Under 15 & 16

Generally, the Under 15 and Under 16 age groups will play teams that are located on both the North side and South side of the City. As these age groups are split into Divisions the location for away games will vary depending on the teams in their Division. However, the venues for away games will most likely include some locations on the south side of the City.

Home games will be played at **Kinsellas Park, Field No. 2, or North Lakes State College Field No. 2.**

Games will consist of **40min halves** and a 10min half time break.

Games will consist of **45min halves** and a 10min half time break.

General Season Information

Generally, the season for our Junior players will extend for approximately 18-20 Rounds (subject to the age group).

Under 6 to Under 11 MiniRoos:

- Round 1 will be 24th April
- Final Round (18) 11th Sept
- No Finals series included (no competition ladders apply).

Under 12 Divisional:

- Grading games will be conducted across 4 weekends in March (6th, 13th, 20th, 27th)
- Round 1 will be 24th April
- Grand Final played 11th Sept

Under 13 – Under 16

- Round 1 will be 14th March (7th March for U14 Div. 1)
- Grand Final played 19th September

Note: the 2020 season was a unique situation, with the season delayed due to COVID-19. On the basis that no further restrictions are required, the standard season timeframe is expected to be run.

Fixtures are not usually played during the Easter/June-July/September school holiday breaks, although they may be played on the first Saturday of a holiday break as required to complete the season fixtures.



External Tournaments

Throughout the year, a number of tournaments are held at various locations – and the age groups eligible to attend these tournaments will also vary.

These include pre-season tournaments and also mid, or end of season tournaments. The NLMFC will notify its Coaches and Managers of any upcoming tournaments that are advertised, and teams are more than welcome to participate in such events as they wish. Entry into these tournaments usually attracts a small registration fee (circa \$10 - \$20 per player), which is the responsibility of the entrants to pay.



Coaches and Managers

The vast majority of our Club's volunteers reside in each of our teams. Of all members, our Coaches and Managers have the most direct contact with players and their families during the season, and their dedication to the kids is greatly appreciated. Without people fulfilling these roles, there is no season for our kids.

Coaches

Coaches are appointed to each of our Junior teams ahead of the season. The sooner this occurs, the sooner the team can begin training. Given we are a community-based club, our Coaches are all volunteers. They are usually associated with a player within the team, or, they are a Senior player that is looking to do some coaching as well.

The roles that Coaches play will evolve and change from year to year. For example, an Under 7 coach will have a very different role to an Under 14 coach. On a high-level basis, the following initiatives will apply to each age group:

Under 6/7 - promote engagement on the ball and fun, both at training and fixtures. Basic skills such as dribbling and passing are introduced via different fun games that can be played.

Under 8/9 – as above, but also more focus on skills using both feet, basic structural play, using the ball to create space, using the keeper in play.

Under 10/11 – more advanced structural play, '360 degree football', looking for and finding space, playing with width, decision-making, playing backwards, keeper more involved in play.

Under 12 – as per 10/11, however, using more strategic thinking to outplay opponents. Keepers highly involved in play, exercising patience on the ball. More advanced decision-making – i.e. when to press, when to hold up play, knowing when to tackle. Players begin to specialise in specific positions.

Under 13+ - as the players develop and get older, the plays become more advanced and strategic thinking becomes more of a focal point. More focus on technical aspects of the game are developed and players continue to specialise in specific positions.



For teams in the Under 6 to Under 8 age groups in particular, we encourage family members to be involved in the coaching roles available, which can be also be co-coaching arrangements if desired. The kids love it when their family members are involved and it can be a very rewarding experience for the adults too. We can support you in these roles, provide drills that are specific to the age group. Training and games are both intended to be fun learning environments, and the kids thrive accordingly.

Coaches receive a free club polo to be worn at training and on match days.

Managers

The team will require the role of Team Manager to be assigned from within the group. This is a fairly straight forward role (especially for Under 6 – Under 11 ages), is more admin focussed, as well as a support role to help the team function. This role includes the following tasks:

Under 6 – Under 11

- Sending out team information to the players each week, including fixture info
- Setting fruit and jersey washing rosters
- Handing out jerseys at game day time
- Liaison between the team and the club as applicable
- Submitting any clothing apparel orders/enquiries as applicable

Under 12 – Under 16

Duties include all of the above (U6-U11) as well as the following:

- Setting the team up on the competition platform
- Entering results from weekly fixtures once complete
- Preparing match sheets prior to each fixture

Managers also receive a free club polo to wear during match days.





We hope that your player/s and family all enjoy the upcoming season with the North Lakes Mustangs FC, and we look forward to seeing the kids on action very soon.

Yours in Football

North Lakes Mustangs FC Committee

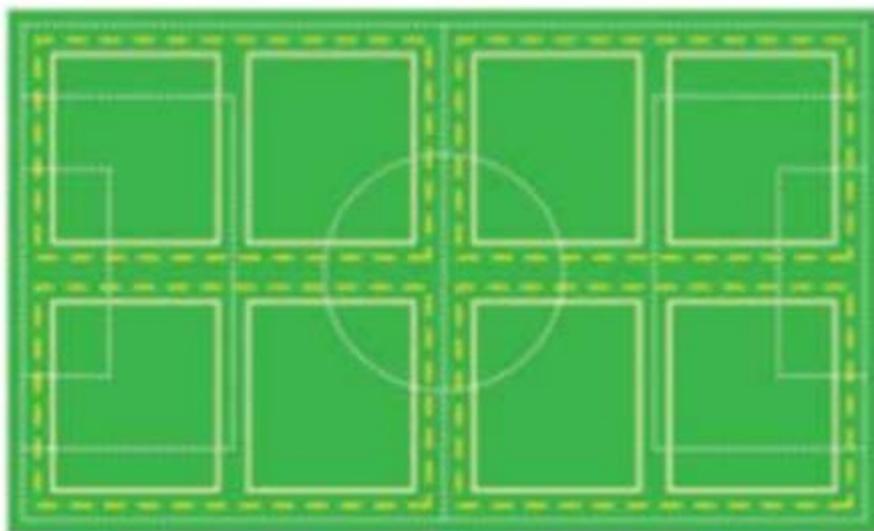


Annexure A – Field Sizes

Modified Field Sizes for Junior Football. Note Under 13 and up play on a full-size pitch.

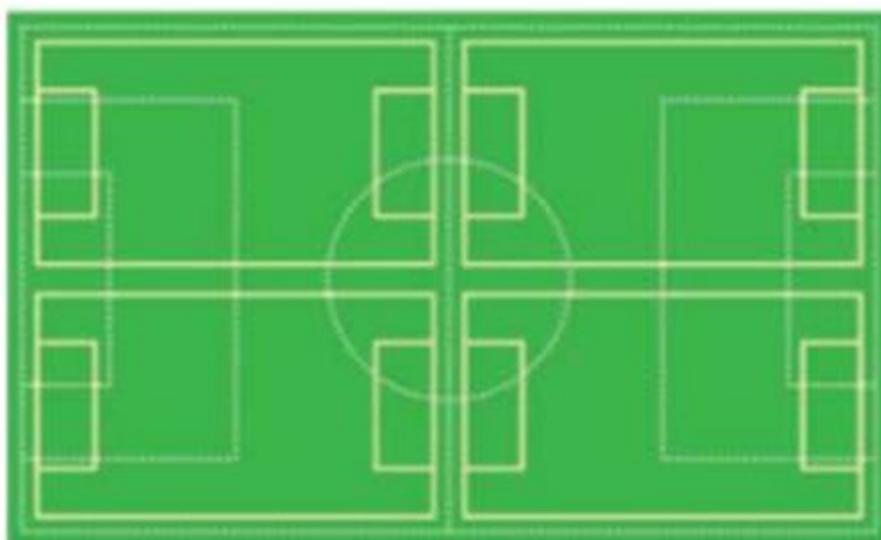
Under 6 & 7

Up to 8 pitches on a full-size football pitch



Under 8 & 9

Up to 4 pitches on a full-size football pitch



Under 10 & 11

Maximum of 2 pitches on a full-size football pitch. Alternatively 1 pitch can be set-up penalty box to penalty box.



Under 12

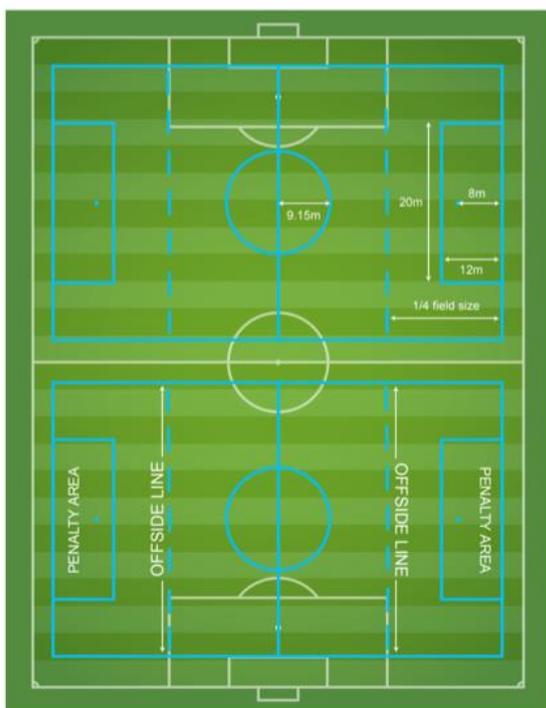


Diagram 1: Two Under 12 playing fields per full size playing field.

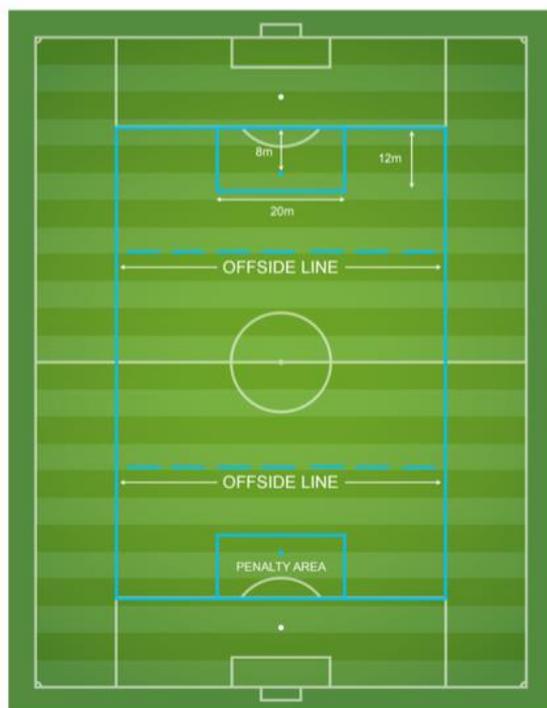


Diagram 2: One Under 12 playing field per full size playing field.

Annexure B - Field Locations



Aurora Park Fields - North
Lakes

