



Message From The Presidents

To our wonderful Players, Families and Supporters,

You may have already heard through the grapevine, but today we would like to formally announce some fabulous news. The two committees have voted to merge our two great clubs - the Balwyn Tigers Junior Football Club and the Greythorn Falcons Football Club to become the **Balwyn Greythorn Junior Football Club (BGJFC)** for season 2020 – onward!

The Committees from both clubs have been working hard in the background to bring this to life. Our key focus is to provide the best possible football development program for all of our boys and girls. We want to ensure all of our beautiful children have the opportunity to develop their skills and love of the game in a safe, friendly and community environment.

The merger of our two clubs will provide a great junior football pathway for all of our players, a fantastic social network, the best Club facilities in the YJFL and most importantly, a true family football community.

We are both proud clubs with a rich history within junior football, our aim is to respect and maintain both histories and create new history as one new powerhouse, the **Balwyn Greythorn Junior Football Club (BGJFC)**! Your coaches are all committed for Season 2020, your Committee is committed for Season 2020, our retention of both Home Grounds is committed for Season 2020, it's great news and the vision ahead is clear.

Over the next few days we will be launching a competition for all of our families to suggest what our Club Moniker, Logo, Jumper and Song should be. Every idea will be welcomed, so we encourage everyone to get on board with your ideas and send them through!

There is still much to be done, but our ever-present commitment to you, our Club Family, is that we will always keep the players and families as our number one priority and we will provide you with regular updates along the way.

This is a really exciting time for everyone and we ask each and every one of you for your support. We have included a series of FAQs below for your consideration, and if you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak with your Team Coach or Team Manager over the weekend. Likewise, we will each be available at our respective club functions over the weekend to answer any questions in person.

Grant Chisnall

President

Balwyn Junior Football Club

Richard Lindsay

President

Greythorn Falcons Football Club

FAQs

Why are we doing this?

This merger brings together two proud clubs, combines the resources that we have at our disposal and creates a new powerhouse club in our community. Given we share the same postcodes, the same friendship circles and school affiliations, we all agree that this just makes sense. Importantly, we also see this as an excellent opportunity to provide the best possible coaching and development program in the region and we are backing this with further investment in our Football Department to ensure all of our kids have access to the best resources to learn and grow within our game.

Is this going to change our culture?

We are both very proud community clubs, and given the relationships we have in our area, we believe this is going to enhance our connection to each other. Without a doubt, there are going to be issues or concerns along the way, but what is refreshing is the respectful relationships the committees, team managers and coaches have each established as we worked through this merger process.

What are the coaches going to do?

We have already locked in the commitment from our coaching group for next year and the coaches have each had a chance to meet with each other and discuss some of their initial thoughts for next year. They, in consultation with the TMs and families will work through the logistics of training for next year.

Which team will my child be playing in next year?

We will be working through with the coaches and the team managers to determine the best team allocations for next year. As a starter, the kids will be training as complete squads throughout pre-season.

Which grounds are we using?

We are keeping both grounds which means we will retain some of the best footy facilities in the league. The intent is that the kids will train together as squads at their respective age groups and the coaches will work together to determine the ground allocations for training. Game day details will need to be worked out with the football department and communicated with the league for next year's fixture scheduling.

What will be the new name, colour, strips and song?

We have established a sub-committee with representation of the two clubs and engaged an external branding expert to guide our new design process. Part of our process will involve a community competition, where we are seeking your input to help develop our new design and livery. Part of our process will involve a community competition, where we are seeking your input to help develop our new design and livery. The details of this competition are being distributed on Monday and we will have a two-week window for your feedback and input. Our intent is to be able to present the new moniker, jumpers and design by 1st September.

Will we have to pay for new kit?

As a part of the registrations for next year, each child will be provided with one full playing kit at no additional cost.

What about Auskick

We will be running two Auskick programs next year - our Friday night sessions at Balwyn Park and our Saturday morning sessions at Greythorn Park.