

Sporting Peer Program – Kirstie Edwards (A Path to Follow)



The Sporting Peer Program hosted by A Path To Follow, in partnership with Ormond JFC, is designed to maintain and enhance community connection between young people and their community, with its underlying philosophies based in the prevention and early intervention of mental wellbeing challenges. It provides opportunities for your young members to develop important life skills alongside a like aged peer and senior coach. It sets the foundations for a more sustainable model of coaching for Ormond JFC, where a safe and supported path is set for young people to enter leadership roles and/or gain life skills much needed for their futures.

Our 2023 season consisted of 8 Junior Coaches across U8s, U9s, U10s, U11s & U12s. All the 8 Junior Coaches participated in the program in previous years. We lost two Junior Coaches

toward the end of the season due to competing commitments. While all attended training nights, some also attended games, where appropriate, and took on relevant game day roles. All senior coaches autonomously and capably supported our Junior Coaches; ensuring benefits were shared across both the Junior Coaches and their players.

Our program at Auskick included 6 Junior Coaches: 4 new to the program. This season a former Junior Coach and current club player, coordinated the Junior Coaches. Like previous seasons, the Junior Coaches thrived. Unlike previous seasons, “red shirt” volunteer numbers were down, so our Junior Coaches played an even bigger role on some sessions. They all stood up to the test and the Auskickers loved having them a part of the season again.



The 2023 Sporting Peer Program can only be as effective as all of us make it. As such, we would like to make special mention of those people who continue to participate and champion our program. Week in and week out, the Senior Coaches of the teams dedicated time and commitment to mentoring their Junior Coaches; thank you. To the Junior Coaches’ parents, thank you for your encouragement of your children and your continued belief in what we do. To Mike, our outgoing president, for his continued belief and support of the program. To Bernie and Jason, Auskick Coordinators for the season, whose amazing organisation and communication supported Nate to independently coordinate the Junior Coaches at Auskick. Thanks Nate, for letting me have my Saturday sleep ins back and being a great Peer Leader to the Junior Coaches at Auskick.

