

NORTHCROSS INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL

26 June 2017

Dear Parents & Players

At Northcross we put an enormous amount of time and effort into our school football teams in order to achieve the best result, and over the years the results speak for themselves, multiple HARBOUR, AUCKLAND and even NATIONAL titles.

In training sessions, games, at the North Harbour and Auckland Tournament and in some club games we have had a good look at the crop of 2017 players, both Y7 and Y8's, as we decide on the NX Football squad for AIMS.



The work we do with the boys is always rewarding, to see their faces after winning a tournament is priceless and the thrill that comes from playing a good phase of football and the team comradery is why we do this. On the reverse side is the disappointment of squad non selection and when we have so many good players to choose from this is always a very difficult and sometimes painful process. Jack, Nathan and I have spent much time discussing player options, starting line-up and team structure. We have a bunch of criteria that we take into consideration when doing this:

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| * ATTITUDE | * Contribution | * Preferred foot |
| * Speed | * Consistency | * Attendance |
| * Size | * Coach-ability | * Commitment |
| * Skill | * Physicality | * Versatility & |
| * Combinations | * Decision making | * Determination |

Our choices are driven by pure ability in the above categories. We also consider balance of KEEPERS/DEFENDERS/MIDFIELDERS & ATTACKERS. Players earn extra points if we believe they can offer us something in a couple of positions.

We are so fortunate at Northcross to have such a depth of talent in football. This year we are very strong in both the Y7s and Y8s and although we would love to take 20+ players this is, of course, not possible. It is unfortunate for me that we can't keep all the lads and parents happy. This is just the reality of competition and we all have to deal with it. Please note we will not be entering into any correspondence regarding player selections.

As of this week we have 14 confirmed players and 6 reserve players. If your child has made the reserve list we are asking them to make a commitment to training and working as part of the squad as we prepare for AIMS (there will be 9 aside games and tournaments for all these players) and they may be called on if there is a reason to replace any player in the AIMS team. We also believe that this will contribute enormously to their development as footballers.

We will endeavour to keep trainings to 2-3 a week with a combination of mornings 7.15 am and Friday afternoons. With the onset of winter weather we have the use of the Gym on Tuesday mornings. I will continue to txt out details of trainings and games and it is important that the lads check the This Day Notices as well.

We ask each of the players to commit to do the following in our lead up to AIMS:

- o Attend all trainings when able (if unable to attend please send me a text or email). If you have committed to the AIMS team you may need to sacrifice being involved in other school teams or events if these hinder your ability to attend trainings or meetings.
- o Build healthy eating habits both at school and at home
- o Hydrate in trainings, games and during fitness
- o Rest and sleep well;
- o Improve on fitness, strength and speed (have regular fitness sessions each week)
- o Keep up with work in class – complete tasks and build on their learning.

If your son has been selected as part of the 14 man squad but you have decided that they will not be attending AIMS please let us know asap so we can make spots available to other players. Details will be out very soon regarding costs and the upcoming parents meeting.

We have been very impressed in the way our 2 teams have performed on and off the field, in trainings and in games and are looking forward to the challenge ahead. Thanks for your support.

Yours in Football

Murray Toohill - Manager

Jack Caunter – Coach

Nathan Cranney - Coach