



VIRGINIA UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB NEWSLETTER

March 2022



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To All Members

We are 2 weeks into pre-registration with our official registration day to be held on Sunday, 27th of February, and the response thus far has been amazing. Thank you to all those returning players who have already registered and we look forward to welcoming new players on Sunday.

As the season officially kicks off before Easter this year (unconfirmed), I thought it fitting to give some of the new parents some insight as to how the league/season works, as well as re-affirm the VUFC code of conduct and finally inform you of some exciting developments within the club.

REGISTRATION

Prior to anyone participating in any matches, it is essential that ALL players are registered with the DCLFA, as well as with VUFC. The registration process is simple, and all forms are available via your coach or easily downloadable from our website (www.vufc.co.za). Please can you ensure that these forms are duly completed with the specific photographs and school stamps and returned to your coach timeously.

TRAINING & MATCHES

All teams are coached voluntarily by parents (some teams may elect to introduce a qualified coach at an additional fee—generally the older age groups). Each age group will have an 'age group head' who generally has coached the previous year and knows the formats etc. who can assist newcomers. The details of each age group head can be found on our web site. We encourage all parents to involve themselves and assist the coaches, especially with the younger age groups as well as provide support to the coach.

All games from under 9 and below are non-competitive and are meant for fun as well as the development of the child's skills and knowledge of the game.

All the rules which detail the field sizes, team size etc. are available for download on our website (www.vufc.co.za) and we encourage parents to read and familiarize themselves with them. We would also like to encourage you to read our code of conduct which details how we expect our players and players parents to behave.

Once teams are formed, the coach will provide details of fixtures and venues before every Sunday game. This correspondence usually happens via email and/or in WhatsApp groups and will also be available from our website so please ensure that the coach has all of your information so you can be kept informed of happenings. Details and maps with directions to competitor clubs are available on our website for your convenience.

All players will be issued with kit and players will need to provide their own boots, shin pads and socks (red socks, available from Mr. Price).



VUFC CULTURE AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Virginia United Football Club has a proud history dating back 53 years to 1968 when it was founded. Our history is based on a strong community culture as well as a code of conduct which has contributed to our success. I would encourage everyone to please read, understand and acknowledge this code of conduct:

WINNING

Winning is important but it's not the only thing. Good sportsmanship, personal development, fair play, enjoyment, friendship and new life experiences are all part of the soccer experience.

LOSING

Remember that at the end of the day someone has to be beaten. It is a pointless exercise to lay the blame on others, rather use the opportunity to learn from your mistakes. Always encourage yourself and others to do the best that you can even when the odds are against you. As long as you try you are a winner, the only way to lose is to give up.

POSITIONS

Teamwork is the only way to reach your goal, which means every position on the field is as important as every other position. Preventing a goal is as vital as scoring a goal. A good team is prepared to share the glory and share the disappointment. (Not everybody can be a striker!)

TEAMS

Team selection is always a difficult task as there are a limited number of positions in a team and not everybody can make the A team. Keep in mind that it is often beneficial for a borderline player to play down a team as this allows for more opportunity on the ball and over time this builds confidence and experience and results in a better player.

PRACTICE

Skipping practices lets the whole team down, consistent attendance is necessary for improvement of individual skills and it is imperative for working on team tactics. The more time spent practicing the greater the reward, so training need not be limited to official practices. Experimentation and trying of new things as well as established drills should be encouraged. Please don't interfere with any equipment that is not yours and be responsible for your own equipment.

RULES

Rules are there for good reason and enhance the overall experience for players and spectators. Please stay off the field during matches and stay away from the goal posts. Abusive language and swearing will not be tolerated; the club can be fined for such transgressions. Cheating in any form is of course considered disgraceful.

REFEREE

A referee only has two eyes and cannot see everything. Do not publicly criticize or question their fairness or ability. Most often referees are voluntary and take on the role as nobody else is prepared to take on the responsibility. The referee's decision is final.

OFFICIALS

Committee members, managers and coaches are all voluntary and dedicate their time and energy to the club for free. Open, two-way communication is essential and encouraged for the smooth running of the club. Concerns should be directed at the correct officials at the correct time. Remember sideline groaning and criticism only manifests in negativity. Please update your coach as to medical conditions, attendance and any other relevant information that may affect the player's performance and enjoyment of the game. Also bear in mind that coaching from the sideline is disruptive for the players and only leads to confusion.



PLAYERS

Advice to players is that they should play for their own satisfaction not to please their parents or coaches. Don't be scared to lose and remember that the effort you put in will equal the results you get out. Training, discipline and repetition will eventually pay off. Always display good sportsmanship.

RESPECT

Negative comments and sarcasm serve only to offend, belittle and aggravate others. Promote a culture of tolerance by showing respect to opposition teams, match officials, spectators and teammates. Any form of abusive language is considered unacceptable. Be considerate towards others from different cultural and economic backgrounds. Also consider that not all teams and players share the same talents and abilities, rather encourage than ridicule. Have respect for the grounds by taking care of all property and equipment and by not littering.

Set a good example and have fun!!

COVID-19

We sincerely hope that we will have an uninterrupted season this year, however we still need to be cognisant of COVID and we will ensure that all necessary precautions are observed and upheld.

CLUB UPLIFTMENT AND DEVELOPMENTS

I am sure that you have all seen the great strides we have taken with the various projects undertaken last year, many of which were cut short due to the shortened season as a result of COVID.

We intend to resume where we left off and are dedicated to even further improvements and upgrades.

For those of you are completed the online registration, we enquired as to whether you would be willing to assist with sponsorships or donation, and we have been overwhelmed by the hugely positive response and high percentage of people who are willing to assist.

We thought that we would document our 'project wish list' and see if anyone is in a position to assist or contribute:

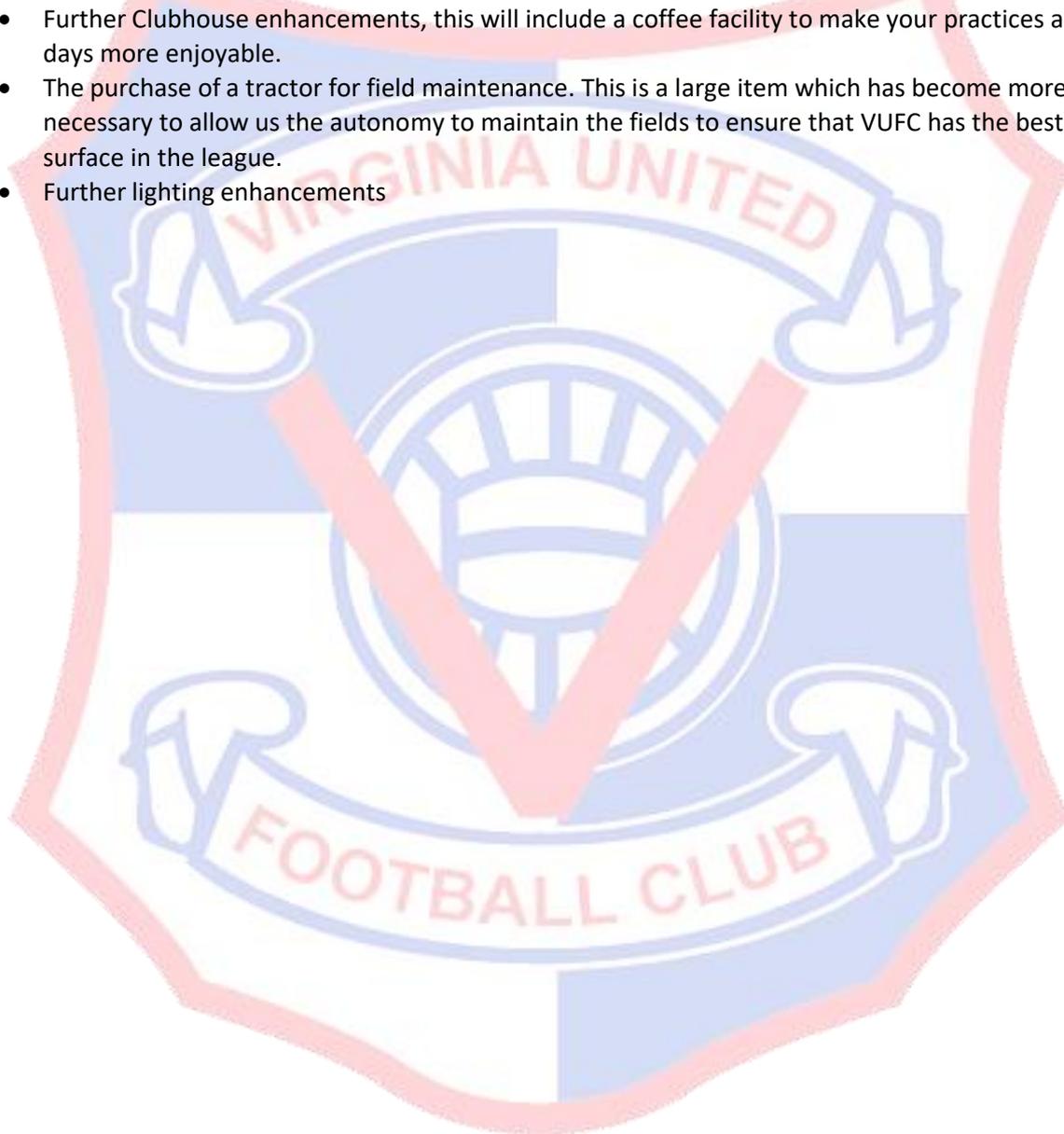
- Field poisoning
- Fertilization of all fields
- Hollow-tinning and field aeration
- Weed removal
- Clubhouse repaint
- Roof structure upright replacement
- Ceiling repairs
- Balustrade repair and upgrade
- Signage upgrade
- Flood lighting repairs and upgrade



2022 GOALS

It is our goal to continuously upgrade our facilities and some of our future plans include:

- The complete replacement of the aging boundary fence to complete where we finished last year. We do have a sponsorship program whereby members can sponsor a panel/s towards its completion.
- Further Clubhouse enhancements, this will include a coffee facility to make your practices and match days more enjoyable.
- The purchase of a tractor for field maintenance. This is a large item which has become more and more necessary to allow us the autonomy to maintain the fields to ensure that VUFC has the best playing surface in the league.
- Further lighting enhancements





SOCIAL MEDIA

You can find us on the web at www.vufc.co.za , on our Facebook page (@virginiaunitedfootballclub) and on Instagram (vufc_kzn) Please follow our pages and tag us in any social media posts and pics, we'll run some competitions and raffles throughout the season via these online channels so please make sure you are following us. We'd love to grow our social media presence this year and with your help we will be able to do that.

DID YOU KNOW?

VUFC are excited to have entered an Over-35 team into the league this year. This is a team made up of many familiar faces and their games promise to be extremely entertaining. Their first home game is on the 26th May at 19h30. We encourage everyone to come down and support.

I would like to wish every boy and girl all the best for the 2022 season. Remember, it's not all about winning, it's about learning the game, growing your skills, making new friends and above everything else, having lots of FUN! Until next timesee you at the grounds.

On behalf of the VUFC Committee, regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "G. Allen".

Glenn Allen,
VUFC Club Chairman

