



PUKEKOHE

Association Football Club Inc

Muster Information 2026

What are musters?

All players 10th - 17th grades are placed into teams prior to the season starting in May. Musters are an opportunity for the club to see those who would like to play and figure out where their best fit might be within their grade. We have club volunteers who watch the muster games and give the club feedback about players.

Is it compulsory to muster?

No, previously this has been the case, but this year we are introducing a policy called 'Muster by Motivation'.

What is Muster by Motivation?

Attendance at Musters is optional; however, they provide an opportunity to help place players into teams and performance groups with others who share similar goals and motivation levels.

As long as you are registered and your fees are paid, you will be placed in a team.

If you or your child are happy to be placed in any team the club determines appropriate, there is no need to attend a Muster. Similarly, if you already have a coach and a full team of players who wish to play together, we can place you in the same team without attending a Muster.

If you are unsure where you fit, are new to the club, or have not already been invited into a team, we recommend attending a Muster. Attendance is also encouraged for players who are highly motivated and focused on performance.

Our aim is to form teams with players who have similar levels of motivation and commitment.

What grade do players muster in?

Grade year runs from 1st January to 31st December in any year - so

Turning 10 this year - muster in U10

Turning 11 this year - muster in U11 etc.

What about goalkeepers?

Goalkeeper sessions will be run alongside the rest of musters, that will also allow players to attend at least one outfield session as well if they choose.

How do musters work?

Your grade will have two allocated muster timeslots. **All muster on the Sunday** then you will have either Tuesday **or** Thursday to attend. Please turn up **a few minutes before** your allocated time. Please do not arrive too early as this creates congestion with other sessions, and do not be late as it causes confusion with placing players in groups that have already been sorted.

When you arrive, please head to the check-in desk under the marquee by the trees. Players will be marked off against their club registration or added if they are not yet registered.

(Please register prior to musters, it helps us plan.) The check-in team will give the player a bib with a number and they should wear it for the entire session, this then gets returned at the end of the session. Players will get a new bib and number for their second muster.

The check-in process and getting teams organised can take some time so please be patient with the club volunteers while this is done.

The first part of the muster session will be getting all players checked in and ready to go, and then the second part of the session will be the players playing casual small-sided (e.g. 5v5 or 7v7) games on a small pitch. Our volunteers will look at players and see how they interact with their team e.g. sportsmanship, leadership, and how they play technically, along with their confidence on the field.

What do players wear and bring?

Players should wear sports clothing, a hat, sunscreen and bring lots of water and snacks. We prefer the players to have soft-moulded boots on (no metal sprigs please) however if they don't have boots yet then sports sneakers are fine. Socks and shinpads are essential. We will endeavour to have some second-hand boots and shinpads for sale at the musters. They can be purchased with a gold-coin donation, or you can bring an old, clean and tidy pair of boots and exchange them for another pair instead. Donations of old boots and shinpads will be taken as well.

What do parents do during muster sessions?

We would appreciate it if parents ensure that their children have their bibs on and are ready to play before you leave. Parents are welcome to stay and watch however you must stay under the trees next to the carpark. There are no parents allowed next to muster games or in close vicinity to the players or volunteers.

What if I want my child in a specific team or with a friend?

Please email the club administrator – admin@pukekoheafc.com - with this request and related info, do not talk to the volunteers at musters about this as information may get lost.

What if the child isn't sure whether they want to play in a mixed or girls' team?

Please ask the child to muster in all sessions for both grades (e.g. U12 Mixed and U12 Girls) if possible, and if they can only make one session then please muster in the Mixed session. Any questions on this, please get in touch.

When will players know the team they are in?

Teams will be named via email approximately two weeks after the final muster. Please be patient over this time as a lot of time and work goes into this. From this point, if there is a coach already appointed then the coach will be in touch with the team after announcements to arrange a meet-up and training plans. If there is no coach, we will ask for volunteers from the parent group of the team.