

Spectator Sport

# New-look junior footy comp releases exciting fixture

THE Hamilton Kangaroos Junior Football Association has released an exciting new fixture for the 2017 season with up to five teams set to contest the newly established under-13 and under-16 competition.

Existing clubs St Andrew's, College-Magpies, Kokoda and St Mary's-Monivae are planning to enter teams into the new competition while Coleraine will return to the fold with teams in each age division.

Highlights of the new fixture see Coleraine host three 'Super Sunday's' where all games for the round will be played at the venue and they will also host the preliminary final.

Three games under lights have been scheduled at Melville Oval with all teams playing at least once and a night grand final is a possibility still being discussed.

All Hamilton teams are scheduled five 'home' games during 'Super Sunday's' at Pedrina Park where opportunities will exist to provide barbecues and other fundraising opportunities.

Hamilton Kangaroos Football Netball Club chairman John Pepper said it was extremely exciting to see the local competition come together and importantly underpinning the establishment of the Kangaroos Hampden Football Netball League under-16 football team.

"While a lot of the focus has been on the establishment of the under-16 Hampden side, we also understand the importance of maintaining a sustainable competition at a local level," Pepper said.

"This planned competition, with four teams from Hamilton and one from Coleraine, is crucially important to the future depth of players in our region, not just for the Kangaroos but for the many other clubs that have relied on the Hamilton Junior Football League as a feeder to their own senior teams.

"We have been working hard to provide a pathway for players of all standards, taking into account their level of commitment and preference for where they play.

The Kangaroos are committed to continuing the legacy of junior football in our town and will do everything they can to ensure that is achieved.

In a significant sign of this commitment, the Kangaroos have appointed former Hamilton



## Junior Football Association

THE Hamilton Kangaroos Junior Football Association has unveiled its new logo ahead of the 2017 season. Photo: SUPPLIED.

Junior Football League secretary Tara Bailey to administer the new competition and streamline tasks formerly completed by the HJFL.

Bailey said it had been decided in recent junior league meetings that in the best interests of

administering the new competition, all players would now become registered players with the Hamilton Kangaroos.

All Hamilton-based junior clubs will be holding a Special General Meeting on 27 March at

6.00pm where a formal resolution to voluntarily cancel the registration of the clubs will be voted on.

"In order to administer this new competition efficiently, all players in this competition will be registered members of the Hamilton Kangaroos Football Netball Club but will still play, train and effectively belong to the existing teams from the Hamilton Junior Football League," Bailey said.

"We are effectively taking away layers of governance and administration in an effort to provide a competition that is easy to play in, less onerous on club volunteers and much easier to manage.

It also provides the competition with a level of flexibility when it comes to ensuring even, competitive matches in both the under-13 and under-16 competition.

"While players will officially be registered with the Hamilton Kangaroos, all teams will still require coaches, team management, first-aid staff and club volunteers.

They will still train as individual clubs and maintain a high level of independence, including control of any retained and future club earnings."

Existing area agreements between the Hamilton Junior Football League and local leagues will be maintained in the new competition allowing players from neighbouring leagues to play in the new competition.

Pepper said there was still plenty of work to be done and playing numbers to confirm, but plans were well underway and the level of interest created by the new structure had been extremely positive.

"The sustainability of junior football in our region is the most important factor we need to address for the health of all clubs. As the premier club in the district we are aiming to lead the way."

College-Magpies, Kokoda, St Andrew's and St Mary's-Monivae will all begin training shortly while the Hamilton Kangaroos under-16 HFNL side is currently training under coach Bernie Porter on Thursday night's at Melville Oval.

Any player interested in participating in the new structure or parent requiring further information can contact Tara Bailey on 0400 106 867.