

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. What are the main differences between Minkey and Junior 3/4?**

- Minkey:
  - Teams are typically made up of 6 - 7 players
  - Training will run for the first half hour and then they will play a game against another Minkey team for the second half hour
  - Games are played on a one-quarter size field
  - Players are taught the basic rules of how to hold and hit with the stick, and are encouraged to listen to their coach and participate
- Junior 3/4:
  - Teams are typically made up of 10 players
  - Training will run for the first half hour and then they will play a game against another Junior 3/4 team for the remaining 45 minutes (20 minutes each way, with a 5 minute break at half time)
  - Games are generally played on a full-sized field
  - Players are taught the basics of field positions and game strategies, and are encouraged to play as a team and further develop their basic skills

### **2. Can my child try out before signing up for the season?**

Yes! We will be running a Welcome Back Round for new and returning players on Saturday 27 June. Minkey (Pre Primary to Year 2) will participate between 8.30 and 9.30am, and Junior 3/4 will participate between 9.45 and 11.00am. There will be skills drills, fun games and an opportunity to meet other players and the coaches.

### **3. How are the kids allocated to a grade?**

In most cases, the grades will align with the school years.

- i.e. Minkey 1: Pre-Primary and Year 1
- Minkey 2: Year 2
- Junior  $\frac{3}{4}$ : Years 3 and 4 combined

### **4. Does my child need equipment and a uniform to play?**

Yes, kids playing at Melville are expected to wear the club uniform that is available at the Uniform Shop. Players also require a hockey stick, shin pads and a mouth guard to participate.

Uniform: white shorts, maroon club T-shirt and striped white and maroon socks.

Equipment: stick, shin pads, mouthguards

### **5. Can my child play without a mouthguard?**

No. Mouthguards are a compulsory piece of equipment and the Club policy is that all players should have a mouthguard prior to taking the field for practice or games. Mouthguards are available at your local chemist, or from a specialist dental technician.

### **6. My child is in Year 3 and has never played before, do they have to join Junior 3/4?**

Generally, we would encourage your child to have a go and then make a decision. However, if you (or your child) would feel better to enter at the Minkey level, communicate this to the Minkey Coordinator.

### **7. Can my child play in a team with their friends?**

We have many requests for friends to be placed into the same team and we endeavour to honour all requests. Unfortunately this is not always possible. There are a lot of considerations when allocating

teams including coaches' requests, mixing up of teams from previous years, balancing numbers of girls and boys, and ages.

**8. Why has the Club changed the Minkey 3 and Grads games from prior years?**

These changes have come as a result of feedback in recent years that children in Minkey 3 are often ready to move on to a larger field format. We want our kids to enjoy the game for as long as possible and to feel confident as they progress through the grades, so we have made these changes to the competition structure.

**9. Will the BBQ be running on a Saturday morning and Friday night games?**

With current Covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to confirm this at this time.

**10. Will the games still run if it is raining and cold?**

Games will continue to run unless there is lightning or wind conditions where we would consider it unsafe for the players and coaches. To the extent that a game will be cancelled, your team manager or coach will endeavour to let you know as soon as possible.

**11. Will the Junior 3/4 competition include other clubs?**

For 2020 this is unlikely. At this stage, we anticipate that teams will only play against other Melville teams at our home grounds at Morris Buzacott Reserve.

**12. This all sounds great, can I help out?**

Most definitely, yes! We would appreciate any help that can be offered.

In particular, we are looking for assistance in:

- Setting up the fields (Saturday mornings)
- Coach and manager roles
- Co-ordinating extra events within the season
- Coordinating the BBQ
- Assisting with the BBQ