



TE PUKE HIGH SCHOOL

FOOTBALL HANDBOOK

Guiding Excellence, Sportsmanship & Community Pathways

WELCOME & PURPOSE: At TPHS, sport serves as a vital vehicle for developing our rangatahi (youth) holistically. We hold a proud history of sporting achievement and aim to build character, school pride, and athletic excellence through hard work, sportsmanship, and fair play. Guided by Sport New Zealand's *Balance is Better* philosophy, we emphasize multi-sport participation, player well-being, and long-term athletic growth.

KEY PERSONNEL & CONTACTS

Teacher in Charge (TIC)

Leaia Pelesala
leaia.pelesala@tepuke.school.nz

Director of Sport & Rugby

Martin Ash
martin.ash@tepuke.school.nz

Sports Coordinator

Ben Hopkins
ben.hopkins@tepuke.school.nz

Financial Assistance (Litt Fund)

Jocelyn Reardon
jocelyn.reardon@tepuke.school.nz

CORE SCHOOL VALUES (NGĀ UARA)

RESPECT <i>Whakawhanaungatanga</i> Demonstrating sportsmanship, integrity, and honour for opponents, officials, rules, and spectators on and off the field.	RELATIONSHIPS <i>Whanaungatanga</i> Fostering positive, constructive connections between staff, student-athletes, coaches, and whānau.	POTENTIAL <i>Whakapakari</i> Striving for continuous skill development, personal excellence, tactical growth, and individual achievement (Plus Ultra).	RESPONSIBILITY <i>Takohanga</i> Demonstrating self-management, punctuality, maintaining an 80%+ school attendance record, and personal accountability.	RESILIENCE <i>Manawaroa</i> Building mental toughness, physical conditioning, perseverance, and strong sportsmanship under pressure.
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CODE OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW & PATHWAYS

Core Goal: To build an inclusive, sustainable football programme that empowers rangatahi through player-centric skill development, competitive player pathways, and community collaboration.

Key Strategic Objectives:

- **Participation & Inclusivity:** Accessible teams across all skill levels from social players to 1st XI squads.
- **Character Development:** Embodying the 5 Rs to foster leadership, discipline, and personal growth.
- **Pathway & Community Links:** Alignment with local clubs (e.g., Te Puke United FC) and regional bodies (WaiBOP Football).
- **Competitive Performance:** Elevating regional profile in WaiBOP secondary school competitions.

LEVEL / TEAM	KEY SEASONAL ACTIONS	FOCUS & PERFORMANCE TARGETS
Senior Teams (Boys & Girls 1st/2nd XI)	Senior selections completed by Term 1, Week 6. Twice-weekly trainings at Litt Park. Winter Tournament Week entries.	Results-driven – top 3 finishes in WaiBOP divisions. High student retention, leadership, and tactical mastery.
Junior Teams (Years 9 & 10)	Junior selections completed by Term 1, Week 6. Multi-sport participation is strongly encouraged to prevent burnout.	Competitive in WaiBOP divisions, skill progression, positional rotation, tactical awareness, and fair play.

LEVEL / TEAM	KEY SEASONAL ACTIONS	FOCUS & PERFORMANCE TARGETS
Community Pathway (Club & Regional)	Direct pathway connection and alignment with local club Te Puke United FC and WaiBOP regional talent hubs.	Transitioning student talent to regional club level, player pathway sustainability, and post-secondary success.

TEAM SELECTION, TRIALS & PLAYING TIME

Trial Procedures & Transparency

- **Selection Window:** Senior and junior team selections occur by Term 1, Week 6. Dates and expectations are communicated well in advance.
- **Merit-Based Selection:** Teams are selected on merit by qualified coaches, the TIC, and designated evaluators to ensure fair and objective trials.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Selectors with direct family ties to trialists must declare the relationship and recuse themselves from scoring that candidate.

Playing Time Equity & Guidelines

- **1st XI / Premier Teams:** Played at an elite, competitive level. Playing time is performance and merit-driven at the discretion of the coaching staff.
- **Development & Junior Teams (Non-1st XI):** Coaches are mandated to give every player a minimum of half a game per fixture to encourage skill execution and equal development opportunities.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION & COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

To ensure fairness and maintain a positive sporting environment, TPHS enforces a structured multi-stage process for selection or game concerns:

STAGE	ACTION REQUIRED	DETAILS & EXPECTATIONS
STAGE 1	Mandatory Cooling Off 24-Hour Rule	Parents, carers, and players must wait at least 24 hours after a match or trial announcement before lodging a complaint or contacting staff. Immediate sideline confrontation is strictly prohibited.
STAGE 2	Informal Review Contact TIC Football	Submit an email to TIC Leaia Pelesala detailing the concern. A meeting will be arranged with coaching staff to provide feedback and constructive development goals.
STAGE 3	Formal Complaint Director of Sport Review	If procedural issues persist, submit a written complaint to Director of Sport Martin Ash. Scoring rubrics and trial assessments will be reviewed, with a formal resolution issued within 5 school days.

CODES OF CONDUCT

Player Code of Conduct

- **Academic & Behavioural Standard:** Players must maintain a minimum 80% school attendance record and exhibit positive classroom behavior to remain eligible for matches.
- **Commitment:** Attend all scheduled trainings and matches on time. Unavoidable absences must be communicated to the coach well in advance.

Spectator & Whānau Code of Conduct

- **Positive Sideline Culture:** Support players positively from the sideline; applaud quality play and effort from both teams. School sport is for student enjoyment and growth.
- **Respect Officials:** Accept referee decisions without argument. Never harass, question, or verbally abuse referees, linespeople, or team management.

- **Substance Policy & Gear:** Strict adherence to TPHS rules regarding alcohol, vaping, and banned substances. Students are financially liable for intentional gear damage.
- **Fair Play & Respect:** Show complete respect to referees, linespeople, opponents, and teammates. Foul language or abuse results in immediate stand-downs.

- **Zero Tolerance Policy:** Physical or severe verbal altercations will result in immediate removal from the sidelines and a potential ban from future TPHS fixtures.

LOGISTICS, UNIFORMS & STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

Fees & Payment Details

Sports fees cover competition registration, equipment, referee levies, and travel logistics. All fees must be paid in full prior to the start of the season.

Bank Account: 12-3217-0084683-02

Reference: [Student Name / ID & Football]

Financial Assistance (A. Lionel Litt Fund)

Financial constraints should never prevent a student from participating. Confidential support is available via the A. Lionel Litt Memorial Education Fund.

Contact: Jocelyn Reardon

(jocelyn.reardon@tepuke.school.nz)

Playing Uniforms & Apparel

Official playing kit is issued via Sports Coordinator Ben Hopkins. Custom team apparel (hoodies, tracksuits) must be ordered strictly through Legend Sportswear via the Sports Department.

On-Site ACC Physiotherapy & Vetting

Free on-site ACC physiotherapy (Boutique Physiotherapy) on Mon & Fri (8am-12pm). Consent forms required at main office.

All adult volunteers/coaches must complete a Police Background Check.