

What does it mean to play in a Finnish football club?

Club Operations Guide

The purpose of this guide is to provide new players and their parents or caretakers with information about the practices and operations of the football club and its team.



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1. CLUB ACTIVITIES

What does it mean to play in a Finnish football club?

When your child joins a football team, they also become a football club member. Club activities in Finland are governed by association laws, specifically the Association Act.

When your child joins a football club, they become a member of the association. You can join the club through its official website.

Club Staff

The staff of a football club supports the teams in various ways. They organize different events for the teams, for example. According to the Association Act, a football club must have a board of directors.

A club often employs an executive director who is responsible for the club's management.

In addition to the executive director, at least one other staff member often assists the executive director with various tasks.

2. TEAM ACTIVITIES

Training, Games, and Tournaments

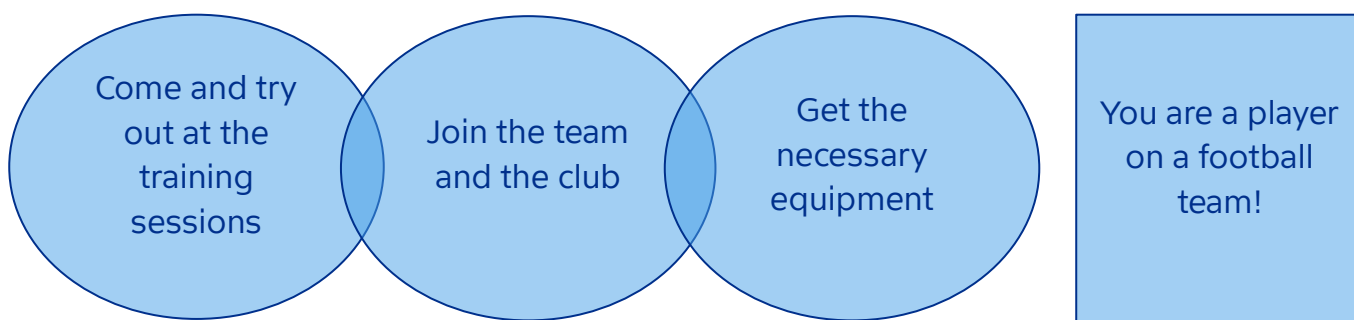
Every football team has weekly training sessions. In addition to these weekly football practices, the team may have games and tournaments. The team's events (training sessions, games, tournaments, and other activities) can be found in the team's event calendar. The event calendar is available online.

Important Aspects of Team Activities

- It is important to always arrive on time for training, games, and tournaments.
- You must inform the team whether you can attend training or other events.
- Players must have the appropriate equipment.
- The team has its own rules that must be followed.

Joining the Team

After the player has attended trial training sessions, the next step is to join the team and the club. The guardian must inform the team manager if the player wishes to join the team. After this, the guardian needs to pay the club fee, after which the player becomes a club member. The team manager will provide instructions on how to proceed



Communication

Communication between the guardian and the team is important. The team manager will inform the new player's guardian about the communication channels used by the team. The guardian must have a phone number and an email address.

Feel free to ask the team's staff any questions related to the team when you are at the field—they will be happy to help.

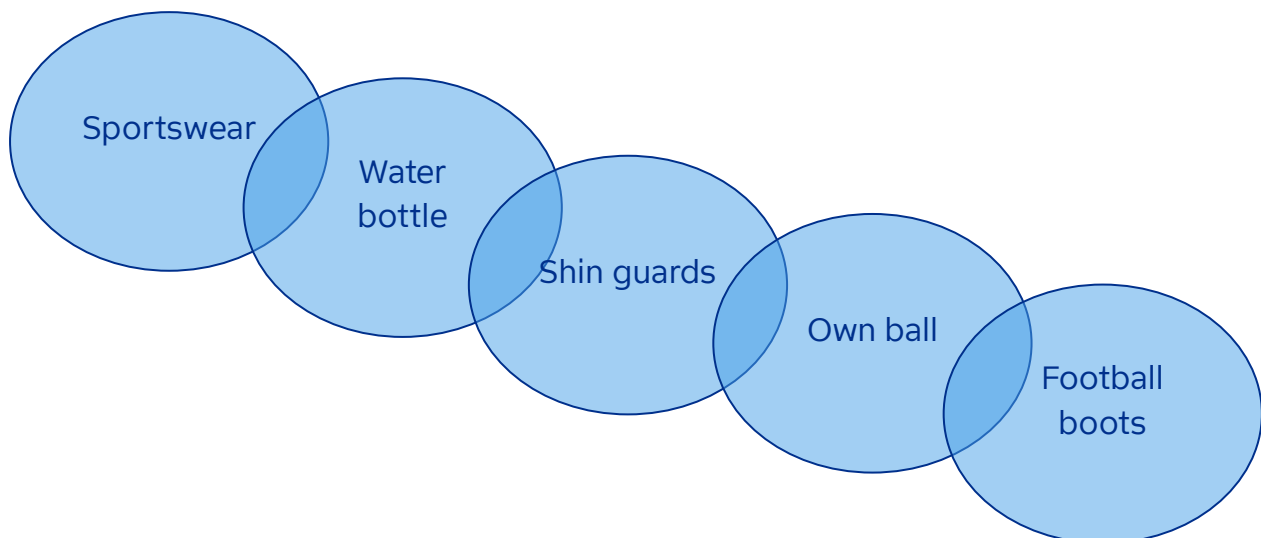
Equipment

When starting to play football, you can first come to the training sessions for a trial. Football boots may not be necessary at the very beginning. It is a good idea to bring a water bottle and your ball to the first training sessions. However, once you join the team, you will need to acquire all the required equipment.

Each team and football club has its own rules regarding the appropriate clothing for training. However, the player should ideally have the following equipment for every practice session:

- Sportswear
- Water bottle
- Shin guards
- Football boots
- Own football

Each team also has a team uniform, which is always worn during games or tournaments. The team may also have other clothing items that the player needs to order. The team manager will provide information on which equipment needs to be ordered when the player joins the team.



3. TEAM ROLES

The team's decisions are made by the team management, which is selected at the parent meeting. The team management consists of parents chosen to serve as the team manager, treasurer, and possibly other roles as needed. Coaches may be appointed by the club and/or selected from among the parents.

The coach leads and guides both the games and the training sessions. Team practices usually take place during the time slots reserved by the club.

Different Roles Within the Team

Team management

The team management makes direct decisions regarding team matters. The team management usually consists of individuals selected from among the parents during the parent meeting.

Coaching staff

Coaches may be appointed by the club and/or selected from among the parents. The coach leads and guides the training sessions and games. The coach plans the team's activities and events. There is often one head coach for the team. Several assistant coaches may support the head coach.

Team manager

The team manager supports the coach and the team and also takes care of the team's finances. You can always contact the team manager if you have any questions.

Treasure

The treasurer is responsible for managing the team's account and paying bills.

Team attendant

The team attendant's duties include assisting during training sessions and matches. The team attendant often takes care of the team's equipment and provides first aid.

Other roles

During the parent meeting, other team roles and their responsibilities are defined. These roles can include, for example, an equipment manager, who is responsible for ordering the team's uniforms.

The Role of Parents in Club and Team Activities

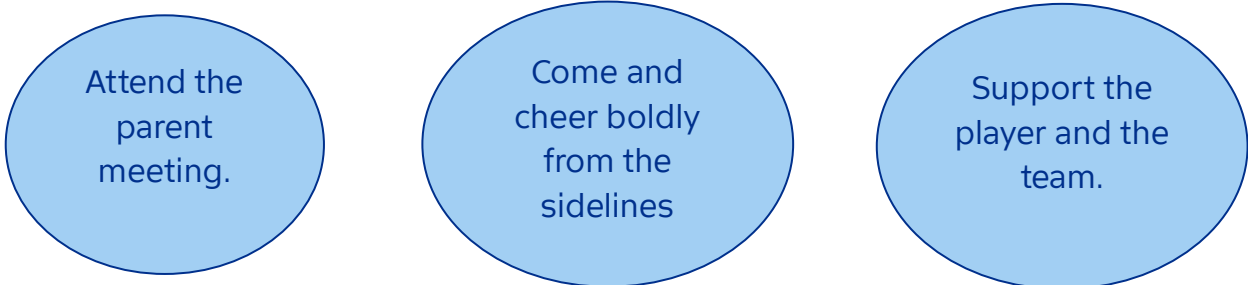
During the team's parent meetings, upcoming events are discussed and decided upon together. The team's rules of conduct and funding methods are also agreed upon. Attending the parent meetings is essential. By participating, you will gain important information about the team.

There is a lot of volunteer work in football activities. The team is funded by money collected from parents or other sources, such as fundraising events or sales. It is also a great way to get to know other parents.

Parents' presence and encouragement at games are highly encouraged. Feel free to come and watch how your child and their teammates have developed during training.

Club activities often rely heavily on volunteer work, and your child's team also needs a support group of parents to function. Team activities involve working together and include various roles that require volunteers. Volunteers are parents who are not paid for their work.

Being involved in the team's activities is rewarding, allowing you to share in the joyful moments brought by your child's hobby. It is also a great way to spend quality time together.



Attend the
parent
meeting.

Come and
cheer boldly
from the
sidelines

Support the
player and the
team.

4. CLUB AND TEAM FEES

Club Membership and Activity Fee

The club fee is paid to the club when joining a football team, and it is the same amount for every player in the club. The club fee is paid annually. This fee covers, among other things, training for all staff members and the support provided by club employees to the team. The club may also organize various events and activities for its members (mainly players), such as skill schools, football camps, or the club's year-end celebrations.

Team Monthly Fee

The team's monthly fee is paid directly to the team or the club. This fee varies from team to team, whereas the club's activity fee is the same for all players. The team's monthly fees cover training facilities, tournament fees, possible coaches' salaries, and other expenses related to the team's activities.

Player License and Insurance

If a player participates in matches, they must have a player license and insurance. The player gains the right to represent the club once the player license has been paid. This right means that the player can participate in official matches and tournaments with the team. When purchasing a player license (license), you can also obtain insurance that covers travel to training sessions and games. The family can also purchase insurance independently or use existing insurance policies. Insurance is mandatory for children and young people. Please note that the insurance must also cover injuries sustained during competitive sports.

Volunteer Work

We want all children to have the opportunity to participate in sports. For this reason, the team engages in volunteer work, in which all parents are encouraged to participate. Volunteer work means tasks done together, from which the entire team earns money. The money earned from volunteer activities helps keep the team's monthly fees reasonable. There are many different types of volunteer work, such as bake sales or selling various products.

5. COOPERATION WITH AUTHORITIES – WHERE TO FIND HELP

Basic Social Assistance

You can apply for basic social assistance from Kela if your income, assets, and other resources are not sufficient to cover your essential daily expenses, such as food and housing. Before applying for social assistance, check if you are eligible for other benefits from Kela.

What Expenses Can Be Covered?

Basic social assistance cannot be used for all types of expenses. It is intended for essential expenses, such as housing and food. The expenses covered by basic social assistance are divided into the basic amount and other basic expenses.

The basic amount includes:

- Food expenses
- Clothing expenses
- Minor healthcare expenses (e.g., over-the-counter medications that do not require a prescription)
- Expenses for personal hygiene and household cleanliness
- Use of local transportation
- Newspaper subscriptions
- Telephone and telecommunications costs, including internet connections
- Hobbies and recreation
- Other similar everyday living expenses.

Applying

- Apply for basic social assistance online: www.kela.fi/asiointi
- You can also apply using a form, which you can get from Kela offices or download from the website: www.kela.fi/lomakkeet
- If you cannot apply online or with a paper form, you can also:
- Apply verbally. In that case, call Kela or visit a Kela office.

Support from Your Municipality

You can also get assistance from the municipality where you live. Information about the support and services provided by your municipality can be found on the municipality's website or at the social services office. Municipal support may include supplementary or preventive social assistance.

Source and Additional Information

www.kela.fi/documents/10180/0/Perustoimeentulotuki_esiteKela.pdf

Help and Advice

Each municipality has a social ombudsman. The social ombudsman's role is to advise clients on matters related to social welfare and clients' rights. You can get advice on matters such as social assistance from the social ombudsman. You can contact the social ombudsman if you are dissatisfied with the treatment or service you received in social welfare. You can also contact them if you need advice. Social ombudsmen primarily provide advice over the phone, but you can also arrange a meeting. The services are free of charge for clients.

You can get the contact details of your municipality's social ombudsman from the municipal switchboard, and they are often available on the municipality's website.

Source: <https://www.valvira.fi/sosiaalihuolto/sosiaalihuollon-asiakkaan-asema-ja-oikeudet/sosiaaliasiamies>

Support from Your Club or Associations

Many football clubs have their support funds. The purpose of these funds is to support the club's low-income players. The player's guardian can ask the team manager about the possible availability of a support fund.

Various associations support children's sports activities.

6. SPECIAL SITUATIONS

I Want to Quit Playing Football

If a player wishes to stop playing football, a notification must be given to the team manager immediately. If the team has any rules regarding quitting, they must be followed. Any unpaid monthly fees must be paid before quitting. The club membership and activity fees will not be refunded if a player quits.

Long-Term Illness or Injury

A refund of the activity fee may be considered if the player, for example, is seriously injured or must move to another location. An official medical certificate is required for any injury or illness. If a player is injured and must be away from training for an extended period, the monthly fee may not need to be paid. Teams may have different rules, which is why attending the parent meetings is important.

