



History – Overview

The history of organised soccer/football on the Central Coast is relatively short when compared to other sports played locally. While football competitions had been held in both Sydney and Newcastle since the 1880s it wasn't until 1952 that the first documented organised football competition was formed on the Central Coast. The only known record recovered prior to 1952 are three newspaper articles in 1924, yes 1924, in which a team "Gosford United" organised games against other interested bodies and organisations. These articles can be found on page two over.

The subsequent growth of the sport in the past 60 years, however, has been spectacular and consistent. Football is not only by far the largest participation sport in the district but the governing body, Central Coast Football (CCF), is the fourth largest sporting organisation in NSW.

The first association (the Brisbane Water District Soccer Football Association) was established in 1953 and ran for the next seven years. There was a proper competition for men as well as some social junior and women's games. A Central Coast representative team was also selected to participate in the NSW State Amateur Associations Cup which the Central Coast team won in 1957 after being runners-up the previous year. Local teams which played in those years were: Gosford, Coast United, The Entrance, Catherine Hill Bay, Milson Island, Mount Penang, Woy Woy, Davistown, Saratoga, Ocean Beach and Long Jetty,

From 1960 to 1964 the men's game is not documented well but there were numerous licensed clubs mainly RSL or Memorial Clubs which sponsored their members to play against other clubs from the region and beyond. It was generally a weekly or fortnightly affair and the whole family was involved with social games organised for the juniors and the women.

In 1963 the Central Coast Junior Soccer Football Association, later CCSA, was established by a handful of keen and dedicated enthusiasts supported by the NSW Amateur body based in Sydney. It wasn't an easy road, but the seeds had been sown. In 1965 the CCSA established a senior men's competition as well. The CCSA from day one fielded Representative teams for the better players to play against other regions. The game developed from those early days and all areas of the Central Coast now have a club with a total of 23.

In 1976 a women's association was formed and has since moved forward to be the fastest growing sport today. In 2000, both bodies (men's and women's) amalgamated to form the Central Coast Football organisation, of which we know today.

Today, CCF has its own ground, Plum Park at Lisarow, which in 2013 underwent a multi-million dollar upgrade with around 13,000 registered players from Under 5s to Over 45s. There are also representative teams in the NSW Leagues from Under 9s to Men's and Women's First Grade.

The Central Coast region has the luxury of having its own national A-League team - the Central Coast Mariners, which since the inception of the League in 2005, has been one of the more consistent clubs. Central Coast is also blessed with a world class, not to mention picturesque, stadium situated on the Gosford waterfront.

2013 marked the 50th anniversary of CCSA/CCF and a number of activities took place during the year including a formal dinner in July and the launch of a book documenting the history of Central Coast football from 1952 to 2013.

CCF is dedicated to the maintenance of its history. This website has been created so fellow enthusiasts may observe, and also contribute, important events and achievements, which will enhance the game's legacy in the Central Coast region and beyond.

Remember, history is made today, not yesterday.

AK/KB 7-Nov-17

| Player Growth | |
|---------------|-------|
| 2017 | 13945 |
| 2015 | 13794 |
| 2013 | 12556 |
| 2011 | 12833 |
| 2009 | 13153 |
| 2007 | 13325 |
| 2005 | 11432 |
| 2003 | 11098 |
| 2001 | 10053 |
| 1999 | 8576 |
| 1997 | 7333 |
| 1995 | 6780 |
| 1993 | 5950 |
| 1991 | 5300 |
| 1989 | 4650 |
| 1987 | 4450 |
| 1985 | 4350 |
| 1983 | 4200 |
| 1981 | 4000 |
| 1979 | 3800 |
| 1977 | 3650 |
| 1975 | 3506 |
| 1973 | 2362 |
| 1971 | 1936 |
| 1969 | 1436 |
| 1967 | 1353 |
| 1965 | 890 |
| 1963 | 230 |

SOCCKER.

1924

A meeting of the Gosford United Club was held on Tuesday night. Mr. C. Metyard presided. Various matters were discussed. It was moved that Monday and Thursday nights be chosen for training purposes; that a room be secured for holding the meetings. It was decided that each playing member contribute 3d per week to the funds. The Secretary and Treasurer to be invested with the right of banking the funds in the Government Savings Bank. The match with the Boys' Home was cancelled owing to the Home not having sufficient Soccer players. A practice match is to be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

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1924

A match was played between Gosford and Kenilworth on Monday last, Kenilworth winning by 3 goals to 1. Considering that some members of the Gosford team had never played together before, they showed good form. There was a large crowd of onlookers, who seem much interested in the game.

A meeting was held on Tuesday night. Gosford United will meet Metyard's Eleven on Saturday to commence at 2.30 p.m. Team chosen to represent Gosford United as follows:—H. Walsh, D. Craig, A. Tait (captain), R. Pritchard, Blakeley, A. Howard, H. Butwell, B. Shields, F. Smith, J. Craig, J. Parsons. Reserves: J. Boyd, M. Todd, W. Jopson.

SOCCKER.

1924

Gosford United v. Boys' Home.

A meeting was held last Tuesday night of the Gosford United Soccer Football Club, to elect officers and decide Club colors and matches, &c. A practice match has been decided on with the Boys' Home at their ground on Saturday next. The players selected to represent Gosford are:—C. Souriset, P. Bailey, N. Walsh, H. Farrell, A. Howard, J. Boyd (captain), H. Walsh, H. Butwell, F. Bridges, G. Ross, J. Weir. Reserves: N. Diacopoulos, F. Smith, W. Jopson.