



New Members Policy / Welcome

Introduction

By means of this letter, we would like to inform all potential new members of our club about the 'Becoming a member at FC Geleen-Zuid' policy.

First of all, we would like to note that we are super happy with every new member. The game of football is the most fun there is and we wish everyone the chance to experience it for themselves. Unfortunately, we cannot always provide that opportunity. The biggest challenge for us is finding enough volunteers to support our association.

How can I register?

All applications to start playing need to go through the youth committee's e-mail: jeugdcom-missie@fcgeleenzuid.nl. To register, we need at least a name, a date of birth, an e-mail address and a telephone number. You will always receive an answer to your e-mail, which may take a while due to the amount of e-mail that comes in. You cannot register in the club house or on the football pitch.

When do new members start?

There are roughly 3 times when we add members:

1. **During the change of seasons** - this covers the period May to September each year. The old football season ends in June. The new season starts again in August. At the end of each season, the teams for the new season are formed. This exercise shows us the available spots in the teams for new players;
2. **When someone stops playing football** - when a player quits, there is room for a new member. This happens only sporadically;
3. **When we start a new team** - when we start a new team, there is room for at least 10 players. This happens a few times a season across different ages.

When is there room?

Within FC Geleen-Zuid, we classify players by age. The age category is determined by the age reached in the year the season ends. A player born in 2014 will be 10 years old in 2024 (regardless of whether this is at the beginning or end of the year). This player will play in the Youth Under 10 (JO10) category in the 2023-2024 season.

We have determined the maximum number of players who can play football in each age group and team. The maximum number of spots has to do with several factors. We do not exceed this maximum number. Has the maximum number in the teams been reached? Then the teams are full and we can only add players if someone quits or a new team starts. We cannot tell in advance how long this will take.

How do we add members?

The moment there is space, we invite potential new members to come for trial training. This is always and only done by the youth committee. There is no point in coming to the complex and asking to train with us.

As a new member, you may train 4 times to experience football and determine if you like it. After these four sessions, you must tell us whether you want to start. The moment you want to start, you will receive an official registration form from the youth committee, which must be filled in and signed (by a parent/guardian for players under 18) and handed in. This can be done in the club house or digitally to the youth committee's e-mail address.

New players are assigned to the lowest team within an age category. There, the player can get used to playing football and train to become better. When the player is ready, matches may also be played. How long this takes differs per player. It is not possible to play in another team, for example because a friend plays there. Twice a year (in December and in May/June), the teams can be rearranged (based on different criteria) and the composition of the teams may change.



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What do we do if there is no room?

If there is no place, we will place the potential new player on the waiting list for the relevant age category. As soon as there is a place free, we will check which player on the waiting list is first entitled to a place. This is done as follows:

1. New players whose parent/guardian is or will be trainer/leader/coordinator on a team (it does not have to be their own child's team) will get the chance to start playing football first. We always try to make room for these players. Actually, you can say that if a parent/carer is willing to come and help out at training sessions/games, the player concerned can start the fastest;
2. New players whose parent/carer fulfils a different role within the association will be given a second chance to start playing football. By another role, you can think of:
 - a. Club House committee (helping in the club house for 4 hours once every 6 weeks);
 - b. Youth committee (supporting in facility matters around football);
 - c. Activities committee (helping organize events a few times a year);
 - d. Management committee (helping to maintain the complex a few times a year);
 - e. Sponsorship committee (helping to find and retain sponsors).
3. New players whose sibling is already playing football with us will have the third opportunity to start playing football. With this, we try to avoid parents having to go to two different clubs to let their children play football;
4. We then classify on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Moreover, we expect **all parents/carers** to contribute to the team their child is playing in. This is not voluntary, it is mandatory. This includes washing shirts, transport to away games, setting out the pitch (for younger teams), assistant-referee (older youth categories) and refereeing (younger youth categories) and more small tasks.

We classify according to age as mentioned earlier. As a result, it may happen that a player who has been on the waiting list for a shorter period of time can start earlier because there is only room in that age category.

Information / Trial training / Come and watch / Costs

Anyone is free to inquire about the possibility of starting to play football. Even if a player is already on the waiting list, we do not mind inquiring about the status. We always try to give a correct insight as far as we can. Of course, someone may have to wait a long time to start playing football at our club. Although we do not like that either, we cannot place players if there is no room.

We regularly get questions about whether someone can come to try-out training, to see whether the player likes playing football. Our policy is that players can only come for trial training if there is room in a team. If teams are full, there is no place for trial training.

Of course, you are free to come and watch training sessions and matches at our complex to get a feel for what things are like with us. On our website (www.fcgeleenzuid.nl) you will find the training schedule and match schedule each week. In general, the younger groups (up to 13 years) train between 18:00 and 19:30 and older groups (from 14 years) from 19:30 to 21:00. The very youngest groups (up to 10 years of age) train on Mondays and Wednesdays.

You can also find the cost of playing football with us on our website: <https://www.fcgeleenzuid.nl/de-club/club-info/contributie.html>.