

# **JUNIOR DIVISION REPORT 2017**

## **– David Braiden**

Another huge year for new and young players in the U6 to U10 age bracket. Again, FHC's recruiting and retention was second to none in the state. The crowd on a Wednesday night would consistently rival a Premier League home game. FHC ran a huge Super 8's (U8) intra-club competition in 2017, with 11 quarter field teams training and playing on a Wednesday night under the direction of master coach Brendan Sheehan. FHC's U10 Super-League competition, this year saw 4 FHC teams playing and we welcomed 2 teams from Caroline Springs HC into the competition on a Saturday morning. The future is looking bright with a huge amount of talented kids running around in these young age-groups!

FHC fielded U10 teams in the HV Northwest Girls and Mixed half-field competitions, with our girls bringing home the flag with 14 wins from 14 games for the season and the mixed (boys) team finishing a strong second.

In 2017, FHC fielded four U12 teams (one girls and 3 x mixed). The U12 Mixed Shield team had competitive season finishing mid-table. The U12 Mixed Pennant team battled hard all season against a lot of travel and many another clubs first U12 teams. A young U12 Girls Pennant team improved steadily during the season to end up missing out on finals by less than 2 points. U12 Mixed District NW team tried hard, had fun and improved during the season.

The U14 Girls Shield team again had a new look and brought together a mix of new and experienced players that improved week after week and only narrowly missed playing finals. The U14 Mixed Shield team was very young this season, one week having five players on the field that still qualified for U12s and had a very competitive season finishing mid-table. U14 District Northwest team became a well-oiled machine that had a great season and made it all the way to the semi-final.

The U16 Mixed Shield team once again was very competitive in the premier junior completion for most of the season, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and bowing-out in the elimination-final. The U16 Northwest team struggled with numbers for much of the season, but that didn't stop them finishing 4<sup>th</sup> and to the elimination final. The U16 Girls Shield team had another dominant season, sitting in top spot most of the season, finishing 1<sup>st</sup> and winning the flag. That was 4 consecutive grand finals for many in the group.

Another entertaining season for the mixed U18s, a mixed bag of results and just finishing out of the finals by the narrowest of margins.

Thank you to all the coaches that dedicate their time, being out there front and centre, to teach and inspire these young kids to be their best. Behind the scenes there is also a huge amount of effort by age-group coordinators and team managers – thank you for all your efforts during the season. Thanks also to all the parents that have generally helped out around the club and with the canteen, getting kids to games on time and showing great support.

I would like to thank the FHC board for their support over the last five years along with the key people that formed the junior committee during that time (coordinators), it could not all happen without all your hard work.