
DIRTCRAFT DEVELOPMENT SQUAD OVERVIEW

2025 & 2026 SEASON

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Development Squad Vision & Values

Vision

The Development Squad vision is to enable individuals to grow their potential in MTB while developing skills and experiences that are transferable to other areas of life.

Values

Integrity	Accountability	Mindset	Self-Awareness
Independence	Growth	Resilience	Grit
Courage			Service

What makes up Development Squad

The 2025/2026 Development Squad will focus on Cross Country only.

Sessions

Our education sessions make up our workshops (one to four hours) or camps (multiday) and are delivered to riders, or parents or both. They have a range of objectives and delivery methods. Education sessions are designed to have no repeating content (although there will be purposeful revision).

Winter format: Term 3 2025 + Term 2 2026

Workshops every second week or so (on a Saturday or Sunday morning)

Online Workshops when Highfit is rained out.

Summer format: Term 4 2025 + Term 1 2026

Workshops every Monday afternoon at Summerhill from 4.30pm to 6.15pm

Event trips

Being a part of Development Squad enables access to race trips. Each year during the race season (January to April) the DirtCraft Development Squad attend several races with event trips. DirtCraft coaching/management staff (volunteers) attend these trips along with the Development Squad riders. DirtCraft coordinate and book accommodation, vehicle transport, meals etc. Each trip has an additional cost but works out to cost around \$160 per day to cover these expenses.

Locations we've taken trips to:

Wellington, Nelson, Waikato, Palmerston North, Blenheim, Taupo, Picton, Christchurch, Dunedin, Queenstown, Auckland, Melbourne AUS, Los Angeles USA.

Races we've taken riders to: Karapoti, Enduro nationals, XCO Nationals, Oceania Champs, XCO national series, Junior World Cups, various Enduro events.

1:1 Guidance

A rider is encouraged to initiate 1:1 meeting with the head coach or assistant coach to obtain guidance on their training, goal setting, interpretation of workshops and resources and real-world challenges they face throughout the season. The rider is eligible for 3 hours minimum of guidance time with the coach of their choice. This can be conducted via phone call, face time or face to

face catch up. If organically necessary, a rider may be eligible for more time if required. This is on a case-by-case basis. This by default puts the coach in a mentoring role in addition to coaching role.

Camps

Camps are planned to occur in Tauranga twice a year. Once in December, around a week or so prior to Christmas and sometime in the T1/T2 School Holidays. We are always open to other camp venues so if you have contacts or a location that could accommodate us at an affordable rate please get in touch.

Training guidance

DirtCraft is trying to avoid setting custom training programmes for riders, as it is expensive. Instead, we're encouraging riders to utilise skills sessions, development squad sessions, HighFit, events and 1:1 time to build a sustainable and enjoyable approach to training.

Other Benefits & Opportunities

Guest speakers & high-profile athlete appearances

Often, we'll have guest speakers and high-profile athletes or educators engage with DirtCraft. The Development Squad will be invited to these opportunities to connect with these individuals or groups.

Up to 2 DirtSkill groups annually

Riders will be able to access 1 DirtSkill group per term which is included in the annual cost.

Parent & Rider communication platform.

Development Squad will provide a WhatsApp platform for parents and riders to engage, communicate and coordinate with one another.

Provisional Workshop Dates for the remainder of 2025

12 th July	6 th October	24 th November
20 th July	13 th October	1 st December
2 nd August + HS Trial	20 th October	8 th December
17 th August + HS Trial	3 rd November + Y8 Trial	15 th December (camp)
6 th September + HS Trial	10 th November + Y8 Trial	2026 Workshop calendar pending.
21 st September + HS Trial	17 th November	

Value Breakdown

Cost Overview

The Development Squad annual payment can be paid over the year if pre-arranged. But the rider must commit to the whole season.

Quantifiable Value

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| • Selection and or renewal process to establish standards. | Valued at \$50 |
| • Around 40 to 50 hours of sessions across workshops. | Valued at \$900 |
| • At least 2 hours of parent engagement in workshops. | Valued at \$60 |
| • Facilitate event trips outside of the region. | Valued at \$180 |
| • At least 3 hours of 1:1 guidance. | Valued at \$210 |
| • Summer & Autumn Camps | Valued at \$700 |
| • Up to 2 DirtSkill groups annually. | Valued at \$390 |

Total quantifiable value included in the package: \$2490.00 + savings

Unquantifiable Value

Unquantifiable value will enable to rider to access:

- Supported environment to explore, test and develop who they are (Integrity).
- Autonomy with decision making and leading their development (Independence).
- Push comfort zones, boundaries and navigate a range of experiences (Courage).
- Facing consequences for decisions, goals and actions (Accountability).
- Shaping world view from peers, mentors and experiences (Growth Mindset).
- Navigate adversity through events, training and social interaction (Resilience).
- Belonging and connection through our rich team culture (Self-Awareness).
- Consistently work to challenge their own thoughts, abilities and skills (Grit).
- Partake in initiatives that help causes greater than themselves (Service).
- Engage with people in a range of environments (Maturity, Teamwork, Respect & Fun).
- Parent & Rider communication platform.
- Financial guidance within Mountain Biking
- Guest speakers & high-profile athlete appearances.

Total unquantifiable value = A better prepared capable young adult who can transfer skills developed in the Development Squad into life.

Discounts

The retail cost for this programme is **\$2490.00**

However, we are providing the following discounts:

Loyalty discount (riders who have been with DirtCraft 24 months+)		-\$185
Ambassador discount (optional)		-\$555
Obtaining DirtCraft Partnerships	Can range	-\$50 to 3000
Rider Assistance Initiative (by application)	Per year up to	-\$1000

For the 2025/2026 season we expect most riders to go for the ambassador discount at least. This combined with the returning rider discount and founding member discount will bring the cost to **\$1750.**

Find out more about the Ambassador, Finder's Fee and Rider assistance initiative in the **'Development Squad Details'** document.

Application & Selection

New rider intake

The purpose of this the following design is to allow a trial phase to ensure that the squad is a good fit for an individual without financially committing to a whole season. This enables year 8s to get a taste of what it's all about.

Interested riders' year 9 to year 12 may be involved in the Development Squad (see below). Year 8s may participate through a trial phase in term 4. At the end of the trial, year 9-12s who are a good fit will join the squad in October.

All year 8s & unsuccessful year 9-12s will be allocated some guidance from the Coach on their Development Matrix to work on over the coming months ready to apply the following year. This enables time for improvement and may lead to their intake being fast tracked the following season.

Returning Riders

Current riders who want to continue in the squad to not have to reapply. They will need to complete the **Development Matrix, Rider Agreement** again and are encouraged to read the **Development Squad Overview** (this document) so all parties are clear about intentions and expectations for the upcoming season.

Interested Riders Year 9 to Year 12

Riders who fall into this category should read and understand the **Development Squad Overview** (this document), complete an **Application** including the **Development Matrix**,

Upon a successful application, riders will be invited to participate in the squad for a trial period for the **August and September workshops**. Cost: \$350 (if accepted into the team, then this is reduced from the annual fee). Acceptance to occur at end of September.

Interested Riders Year 8

Upon submitting the **Development Matrix** and reading the **Development Squad overview** (this document) riders may attend the **first two November workshops** as a trial assuming they meet behaviour expectations. Cost: \$85

If you want more information or details. Please view the Devo Expectations, Details & Declarations document (EDD) for 2025 & 2026. There are no major changes to this document from the 2024/2025 season.