



This is a proposal from the Canterbury Flyers Frisbee Club to all the Heads of Sport in local secondary schools ...

[to be read out by the Director of School Sport Canterbury, Kerry Henderson].

The Canterbury Flyers are a Christchurch based Ultimate Frisbee club who are spearheading an initiative to develop the sport of Ultimate in Secondary Schools across the region. This initiative is supported by our national sports body, the New Zealand Flying Disc Association (NZFDA) and similar programmes are likely to be launched in other regions in the near future.

Details about the sport of Ultimate are contained within the handouts that accompany this presentation, so for brevity this cover note simply explains the main points of the proposal.

The Canterbury Flyers and NZFDA are non-profit organizations and so the motivation behind our proposal is not financial, but drawn from a desire to make the sport of Ultimate more accessible to young people.

Most players in New Zealand started Ultimate at varsity and all wish they had discovered the sport at a much earlier age. In addition to the sheer fun and novelty of playing a team sport with a Frisbee, there are several educational benefits linked to Ultimate. The non-contact nature allows for mixed play on equal terms. The throwing and catching skills are quite different from ball sports and this often allows different students to become the strongest players. Most important of all, Ultimate is self-officiated – even at the highest levels. This requires players to respect team mates and opponents equally and encourages a true sense of Fair Play.

Our initiative has three key components:

- School Ultimate Packs;
- Coach Education Sessions; and
- Skilled Demonstrators.

The packs will contain everything a teacher needs to introduce Ultimate to students either within the sports curriculum or as an extra-curricular activity: discs, cones, lesson plans, skills & drills, curriculum links and much more. These packs will be available from the start of Term 1 next year.



To show teachers how to make the most of these packs, we plan to hold a series of coach education sessions which will be delivered by the best Ultimate coaches and players in the country – Christchurch happens to be the home of the NZ national team captain and two of the national team coach-selectors.

It is essential that new players – teachers and students – understand what Ultimate looks like when played. We plan to facilitate this using a library of instructional videos and DVDs that will be available for **free** loan from the club. In addition we have about a dozen experienced Ultimate players, based locally, who have signed up to act as “skills demonstrators”. Teachers will be encouraged to arrange a convenient time for one or two demonstrators to assist in the early skills sessions with their students – this should be particularly helpful where teachers have not yet mastered the skills or rules themselves and will also be at **no cost** to schools.

To provide an incentive for schools to set up Ultimate teams, we plan to organise a one-day Ultimate Tournament early in Term 2. The exact date, location and size of the event will depend on the level of interest shown by schools and would be run according to the standards required by School Sport Canterbury. Further events and the possibility of including Ultimate as one of the Wednesday afternoon sports could also be explored in the coming months.

Finally, a few words about other young Ultimate players across the South Island. There are two teams who train regularly up in Nelson and another in Westport at Buller High School – all three have said they would be willing to make the trip to Christchurch for a School Ultimate tournament. Locally, there is now a regular Junior Ultimate session at Kendall Park every Tuesday evening attended by youth group students from Burnside and Riccarton High Schools. A little further south there are plans to host a session introducing Ultimate to Aoraki Heads of Sport at Ashburton College in the very near future.

If you would like us to keep you informed about developments or simply wish to find out more about the sport of Ultimate, Deborah Kell, from Ashburton College has a Sign Up Sheet.

Many thanks for your time.

Dave Neilson
Canterbury Flyers Frisbee Club – Schools Initiative 2004