



Welcome to the Mighty Berlin Crocodiles



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I. Introduction to the Berlin Crocs

The Berlin Crocodiles have been founded in 2001. Initially only a group of 6 guys, Berlin didn't find much success in its early years of the **Australian Football League Germany (AFLG)**. But with a growing international presence in Berlin and a lot of effort by some committed Crocs, the club has grown in the past years, with up to 50 active players on the list in 2011.

With growth has come success, as the Crocs unexpectedly took out the 2009 Division II Premiership and reached the AFLG Grand Final in 2011. So we dare say it is exciting times at the Crocs.

Berlin Australian Football Club e.V. | Vereinsregister Amtsgericht Charlottenburg | Vr.-Nr. 21343



II. How the AFLG works

There are currently 6 teams in the AFLG comprising Hamburg, Cologne, Munich, Stuttgart, Frankfurt, and Berlin. Each team will play each other twice, once at home and once away.

Transport: In 2012 the Berlin Crocodiles will organize transport for minimum 20 persons (a full team) per away game. Transport will be by train (ICE) or hired bus. The exception is the away game to Hamburg, the closest AFLG city to Berlin, where a very cheap train option using local trains will be organised.

As away games need to be planned and paid in advance, some rules will apply as soon as a player registers for a particular away game. These rules will be sent out to each player and the beginning of a season – in case you do not have them for some reason, please contact us under info@berlin-crocodiles.de.

Accommodation: As teams usually have to travel quite far to play an away game, an overnight stay (Saturday to Sunday) can be considered. We usually split the group and some players drive back to Berlin right after the game, others stay overnight. Some teams in the AFLG will offer to host the travelling team. If this is not the case, we will book a cheap hostel in the city. The away trips are always a lot of fun, regardless of the result; with the home team always taking out the away team on the Saturday night.

Costs: weekend for transport and accommodation range from €45 - €75 dependant on destination and host accommodation offered.

Rules: rules differ from the regular AFL rules here and there.

- Each team is allowed to have a squad of 20 players
- Maximum numbers on-field is 16 from each team
- Minimum numbers to bring to an away game is 12. Anything under that number and the game is automatically forfeited (80:0)
- 4 quarters of 20mins each
- 2 x 10mins break + 20mins break at half-time
- 1 - 2 umpires (usually one from each club playing each other. Future AFLG fixtures are looking into organising mutual umpires for each game)
- Goal posts are shorter than normal AFL height
- Each AFLG teams ground is different in size, width and length
- Rules: AFLG rules they differ from AFL rules here and there and, unfortunately, from umpire to umpire. Generally they follow AFL rules with a little more leniency.



IV. What does being a Berlin Crocodile mean?

About half the players of the Crocs are German (native Berliners as well as from all over Germany), the other half is made up of foreigners from many different countries. Over the years, our foreign players have seen the Crocs as an opportunity to lay a foundation in their new city. This is precisely what the Crocs represent; a very open and friendly group of people, in-which players have been able to develop strong bonds and a home-away-from-home. We are open and keen to learn about all backgrounds and religions – and to help you adjust and give hints, tips, advice and lend-a-hand in setting-up in Berlin.

For German players, the club is a great opportunity to get in touch with a great mixture of people, and to experience Australian lifestyle. As most conversations are in English, it is also a great opportunity to improve your English. But don't be afraid: the majority of all Crocs speak German as well!

The sole basis of the club (and most AFLG teams) functions and operate by people who work for the love of the club and footy. The work they do is 100% voluntary. So everything you see happening, is done by someone at the Crocs who is giving up their own personal time to help the club.

We don't have any set rules for our players, but if everyone can lend-a-hand here and there throughout the season at training, on game-day and other social events; it makes it a lot easier for everyone. Plus it builds a good sense of sportsmanship.

V. Training

Crocs train either at Maifeld near Olympic Stadium (this is where we have our home games as well) or at Schiller Park in Berlin Wedding – a public park in the northwest of central Berlin. For more information, click here: <http://berlin-crocodiles.de/club/our-homeground>

Training during the season:

Tuesday and Thursday from 6.00/6.30pm until 8.00/8.30pm (depending on daylight)

Start date: End of March

End date: Last training before the Grand Final

After most training session the boys go for cheap food and beer around the corner.

Off-season: the Crocs Committee tries to organise an indoor training facility. When this is not possible, we will try to organise a semi-regular training or facility get-together e.g. join a basketball team, rent out an indoor soccer pitch etc. Information will be published on our facebook site or and by email.



VI. Berlin League

An idea developed in late 2010, this league was built to support the development of our international players and to allow the possibility for all players to play an official game of Australian Rules Football (AFL), no matter the level of skill.

The league rules are slightly different to those of an AFLG game, most notably with a format of 9-a-side. Each of the 4 clubs has their own name and individually supported by an official AFL team. In the league's 1st year of 2011, West Coast Eagles, Fremantle Mariners, Melbourne Demons and Adelaide Crocs have jumped onboard top to supply Guernsey for this exciting new intra-Berlin League. The first season was great with up to 50 players coming together at Schillerpark to play and watch and many (particularly German) players new to the Crocs who tried out footy for the first time in their life. The East Berlin Mariners took the flag and won the cup.

Fixture, rules & conditions can all be found on the Crocs website:

<http://berlin-crocodiles.de/season/berliner-comp>

There is also a separate document to explain all the rules in details. Please ask our coach Troy Pedder for further info.

VII. Annual Membership

Amount:

Annual (1.1.-31.12): 60€

Half-yearly (1.1. - AFLG Round 5 and Round 6 - 31.12) 30€

The money is used for training equipment, as subsidy for away games or for any other costs the club has – so it goes back to the players 100%.

Payment:

You can wire us the money or let us withdraw it from your account. Cash should be exceptional.

3 training sessions are for free – after that, players will be asked to join the club.

Any questions regarding membership can be sent to finance@berlin-crocodiles.de



VIII. Berlin Crocodiles Gear + Merchandise

On-field Gear (Guernsey, socks and shorts)

The on-field gear will be given to players on the game days for both AFLG and Berlin League games. The players will return the gear at the ground after the completion of the game.

The purchasing of Berlin Crocodiles on-field wear is possible and based on availability. If you would like to buy a Guernsey, please contact the Crocs Committee.

Available Merchandise: <http://berlin-crocodiles.de/club/shop>

- Crocs T-shirt
- Crocs Track Suite
- Crocs Team Photo
- Stubby Holders
- More items to come soon...

III. Club Structure

As an association according to German law, the Berlin Crocodiles have an **elected Board**, to be (re-)elected and exonerated each year during the yearly General Meeting. The Board confirmed/elected in December 2011 is:

- President: Daniel Karsch
- Vice President: Troy Pedder
- Treasurer: Fabian Lindner

The Board coincides with the **Crocs Committee** – a group which actually runs the club and does the everyday work. Tasks include team management (home and away game planning), events, ground, merchandising, internal communication, membership, strategic development, etc. The committee can be contacted through info@berlin-crocodiles.de

Further specific contact persons and email addresses are:

Sponsorship: Daniel Thomas – marketing@berlin-crocodiles.de

Public Relations: Christoph Schneider – pr@berlin-crocodiles.de

President: Daniel Karsch – president@berlin-crocodiles.de

Finance: Fabian Linnder – finance@berlin-crocodiles.de

Website: Steffen Risse, Geordie Dostal, Dee Pabst – webmaster@berlin-crocodiles.de

Coach: Troy Pedder – coach@berlin-crocodiles.de



Official Information

Address:

Berlin Australian Football Club e.V.
c/o Daniel Karsch
Bundesallee 127
12161 Berlin

Email contact: info@berlin-crocodiles.de

Website: <http://berlin-crocodiles.de>

Official Facebook Site: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Berlin-Crocodiles/121485747965840>

Internal Facebook Group (only Crocs can be members, for internal discussions only):
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/2414357380/>

WELCOME TO THE CLUB - CROCNATION!

