

# SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA

## 12 Years & Under Australian Football Championships

### RULES AND GUIDELINES

**Note:** These Rules and Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the School Sport Australia General Policies and General Championships Rules.

#### 1. COMPETITION RULES

##### 1.1 Rules of the Game

**1.1.1** The Championships shall be conducted according to the Laws of Australian Football, as published by the Australian Football League from time to time, unless specifically stated in these Rules and Guidelines.

##### 1.1.2 Order-Off Rule

**1.1.2.1** The umpire(s) in charge of a match may order a player from the field for a period of fifteen (15) minutes of actual playing time by use of a yellow card for:

1.1.2.1.1 verbal harassment,

1.1.2.1.2 abusive language,

1.1.2.1.3 other unseemly conduct detrimental to the game

1.1.2.1.4 any reportable offence according to the 'Laws of Australian Football'.

**1.1.2.2** Such player must report to the interchange steward on leaving the field and before returning. The player will be in the control of the team manager while off the field of play.

**1.1.2.3** The player sent off may be replaced by an interchange player. When this occurs, the umpire must show the card to the Interchange Steward and call time off. Time shall be signalled when the replacement player is in position.

**1.1.2.4** It shall be left to the discretion of the umpire whether the player sent off is reported.

**1.1.2.5** For a second offence during the game the player must be sent off for the remainder of the match, shown a red card and be reported. The player may be replaced by an interchange player.

**1.1.2.6** The field umpire(s) may send off a player for the remainder of the match if, in his/her opinion that player constitutes a menace to the physical well being of other players. Such a player must be shown a red card, reported and may be replaced by an interchange player.

**1.1.2.7** The field umpire(s) shall report a player by notifying the National Secretary or the Championship Convenor within an hour of the completion of the game.

##### 1.1.3 Interchange Rule

Any State / Territory may name up to 23 players for any game, of which only 18 may be on the field at any one time.

The ongoing interchange player must report to the Interchange Steward and enter the playing arena through the defined area. The player leaving the field must leave through the defined area. Failure to do this will mean that the player cannot return to the game.

##### 1.1.4 Stretcher / Carry Off Rule

Any player who is injured during a match and who, in the opinion of a Doctor, Trainer or Official, requires the assistance of a stretcher, shall be attended by the Team's training staff and either carried off or on a stretcher as soon as possible to ensure the health and safety of the player. The normal process of notifying the umpire will occur and the player shall remain off the field for a period of 20 minutes.

### 1.1.5 25 metre penalty

A 25 metre penalty will be awarded rather than the 50 metre penalty for the 12 Years & Under competition.

### 1.1.6 Kick into play after a behind is scored

A player of the defending team may only kick the football into play when the Goal Umpire has completed waving the flag to signal that a behind has been scored. If the defending player kicks the football before this time, the Field Umpire shall direct the player to kick the football again.

## 1.2 Player Participation

Qualifications for selection in teams to compete in this component of the Championships shall be 12 years and under as at 31 December of the year in which the Championship is held.

All students who participate in the School Sport Australia Australian Football Championships must remain in the host State/Territory throughout the duration of the Championships and be bound by all Championship arrangements, except in exceptional circumstances as per School Sport Australia policy.

## 1.3 Team Size

A team may consist of up to twenty-three (23) players. All players shall be eligible to compete in each match.

Upon arrival, prior to the commencement of the team's first match, if a particular player(s) cannot participate in the Championships then another player(s) can be substituted.

## 2. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The scheduling of the 12 Years and Under Australian Football Championships would commence on the second weekend of August or as soon as practicable after that date. The Championships will run from Saturday to Friday (7 days) with teams arriving on the Saturday. The Championships are not to run concurrently with the 15 Years and Under Boys and Girls Australian Football Championships.

### 2.1 Draw

The draw for an eight team Championship is listed below. The start times are suggested only and will be the prerogative of the Host Member Body to determine. If less than eight teams are participating then the Host Member Body in consultation with the National Secretary will prepare a round robin fixture. 'Play Off' or 'Cross Over' games will only be included if there are five or less participating teams. If there are less than eight teams participating then the game times will be four (4) twelve minute quarters with a five (5) minute break at quarter and three quarter time plus a ten (10) minute break at half time.

Day 1 (Sunday)	Opening Ceremony			
	Stage 1 - Round Robin Games' Format			
	Round 1		Round 2	
	9.30 AM	Round 1 – Game 1	1.10 PM	Round 2 – Game 1
	10.25 AM	Round 1 – Game 2	2.05 PM	Round 2 – Game 2
	11.20 AM	Round 1 – Game 3	3.00 PM	Round 2 – Game 3
Day 2 (Monday)	12.15 PM	Round 1 – Game 4	3.55 PM	Round 2 – Game 4
	Round 3		Round 4	
	9.00am	Round 3 – Game 1	12.40 PM	Round 4 – Game 1
	9.55am	Round 3 – Game 2	1.35 PM	Round 4 – Game 2
	10.50am	Round 3 – Game 3	2.30 PM	Round 4 – Game 3
Day 3 (Tuesday)	11.45am	Round 3 – Game 4	3.25 PM	Round 4 – Game 4
	Round 5		Round 6	
	9.00am	Round 5 – Game 1	12.40 PM	Round 6 – Game 1
	9.55 AM	Round 5 – Game 2	1.35 PM	Round 6 – Game 2
Day 4 (Wednesday)	10.50 AM	Round 5 – Game 3	2.30 PM	Round 6 – Game 3
	11.45 AM	Round 5 – Game 4	3.25 PM	Round 6 – Game 4
Round 7				

Last Stage 1 pool round and Excursion Day	9.30 AM	Round 7 – Game 1	1.30 PM	Round 7 – Game 3
	10.40 AM	Round 7 – Game 2	3.00 PM	Round 7 – Game 4
	Excursion Session 1 Teams playing in afternoon games will have their education excursion in the morning		Excursion Session 2 Teams playing in afternoon games will have their education excursion in the afternoon	
<b>Stage 2 - Pool Games.</b> Pool placement will be determined by final placings after the Round Robin Games. 1 <sup>st</sup> through 4 <sup>th</sup> will be placed in Pool A, 5 <sup>th</sup> through 8 <sup>th</sup> will be placed in Pool B. Where two teams are tied on the same number of points, then the result of the match in which they played each other shall determine their position. Where three or more teams are tied on points, then the percentage in the games where they played each other shall determine their position.				
Day 5 (Thursday)	Pool A		Pool B	
	9.00 AM	1 v 4	10.45 AM	5 v 8
	12.30 PM	2 v 3	2.15 PM	6 v 7
Day 6 (Friday)	Pool A		Pool B	
	9.00 AM	4 v 2	10.45 AM	8 v 6
	12.30 PM	3 v 1	2.15 PM	7 v 5
Day 7 (Saturday)	Pool A		Pool B	
	9.45 AM	3 v 4	8.15 AM	7 v 4
	12.45 PM	1 v 2	11.15 AM	5 v 6
	Closing Ceremony			

Amended October, 2016

At least twelve (12) weeks prior to the commencement of the Championships the Championship Convener shall submit to all States/Territories a tentative program of matches. Any State/Territory wishing to submit an alteration to the tentative program of matches must do so within two (2) weeks of receiving it. Any amendment to the program shall be circularised as early as possible to all States/Territories.

## 2.2 Points Allocation

For all competition three (3) points shall be awarded for a win, and two (2) for a tie and one (1) for a loss.

## 2.3 Method of Determining a Winner

At the completion of the competition, where two or more teams finish on equal points, joint winners will be declared and percentages will not be used to determine outright winners.

Former rules 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 removed October, 2018

## 2.4 Duration of matches

2.4.1 Match formats shall be as follows:

2.4.1.1 Stage 1 Round Robin Games shall consist of two fifteen (15) minute halves with a seven (7) minute half time break.

2.4.1.2 Stage 2 Pool Games shall consist of four fifteen (15) minute quarters, a five (5) minute break at quarter and three quarter time and a ten (10) minute half time break.

Amended October, 2018

2.4.2 In all matches there will be no 'time on' added (except for the Blood Rule, serious injury, stretchers and send off).

Amended October, 2018

Former rule 2.4.3 removed October, 2018

## 2.5 Wet Weather

**2.5.1** Decision on wet weather day to be determined by the National Secretary or the Championship Convenor in consultation with participating team managers and officiating umpires.

**2.5.2** Should wet weather interfere in the Championships, then the State / Territory leading the competition shall be declared the winner. If two or more States/Territories are leading the competition they shall be declared joint winners.

## 3. FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT

### 3.1 Field Size

All games to be played on a standard sized oval without modification.

Added November, 2018

### 3.2 Match Equipment

All match balls to be supplied by the host School Sport Australia member body.

Amended September, 2016

All 12 Years & Under games to use a size 3 leather ball unless the National Secretary decides a synthetic ball would be better.

Amended September, 2016

### 3.3 General:

**3.3.1** Team lists: The Team Manager is to submit three team lists, including the interchange bench players and officials, in writing to the Umpires/Ground Manager prior to the commencement of the game. Team lists will be provided by the Host State/Territory.

**3.3.2** Team Management must ensure that each player has an individual water bottle for use by the player before, during and after the game.

**3.3.3** That spare footballs are kept at each end behind the goals during games.

### 3.4 Uniforms

Teams may allocate jumper numbers from one (1) to twenty eight (28) with numbers of contrasting colours.

Amended April, 2018

State and Territory Uniform colours:

Australian Capital Territory	- Royal Blue and Gold
New South Wales	- Navy Blue and Sky Blue
Northern Territory	- Ochre, Black and White
Queensland	- Maroon and White
South Australia	- Red, Gold and Navy
Tasmania	- Red, Bottle Green and Yellow
Victoria	- Navy and White Vee
Western Australia	- Gold and Black

States/Territories must notify the National Secretary of any changes to uniform at least twelve (12) weeks prior to the commencement of the Championships for endorsement and circulation to competing States / Territories.

## **4. MATCH OFFICIALS**

### **4.1 Ground Officials**

- 4.1.1** Two official timekeepers shall be appointed by the Host State/Territory to act in concert for all matches.
- 4.1.2** A Ground Convenor and an Interchange Steward should be appointed for each game.
- 4.1.3** A Sports Medicine person be supplied at each field by the Host State, provided within the budget.

### **4.2 Umpire / Student Officials**

- 4.2.1** Each participating Team should bring a field and a goal and a boundary umpire who are current Secondary students. Preference should be given to Secondary school students holding or gaining Level 1 accreditation. Where this is not possible the State/Territory must notify the host State/Territory and the National Secretary one (1) month prior to the Championships. Student Officials will be supplied with one full Umpiring uniform for the Championships and provided with lunch when officiating.
- 4.2.2** The Host State/Territory is responsible for appointing a suitably qualified Umpires Coordinator and evaluator. The Umpires Coordinator must attend the Pre-Championships meeting which will discuss rules and players/coaches codes of conduct. Should the Umpire's Coordinator not be available to attend the Pre-Championships meeting, then a written statement containing rules and expectations shall be produced by the Coaches/Managers/Championship Organisers at the Pre-Championships meeting and this is to be given to all officiating umpires prior to the commencement of the competition.
- 4.2.3** The Host State/Territory will appoint a teacher as the Umpire Supervisor to the Championships in addition to the Umpire Coordinator. Funding for this position will come from the Championship budget.
- 4.2.4** Where possible neutral field umpires be appointed to pool and round robin games.
- 4.2.5** Before all games field umpires should introduce themselves to both coaches, shake hands and briefly address the teams. Umpires will check for safety of all boots at the beginning of each game. Gloves and jewellery are not permitted.
- 4.2.6** Competent boundary and goal umpires shall be appointed. If such umpires are not accredited, they should receive training for their duties.
- 4.2.7** In addition to goal umpires, a neutral scorer shall be appointed.
- 4.2.8** Interpretation or clarification of rules should be requested by the team manager through the Umpires Coordinator following the completion of matches.

### **4.3 Team Officials**

#### **4.3.1 Coaches:**

In the spirit of the game and in order to promote the development of the game, tactics such as 'tagging', 'flooding' and dropping players behind the ball are discouraged.

#### **4.3.2 A Runner:**

Coaches of playing teams will be restricted to occupying the Coach's bench during playing times, except in the case of a serious injury. A designated team official, other than the coach, will be allowed on the field to attend injury and to act as a runner. The designated team runner should be an adult and must wear an official uniform supplied and maintained by the participating State or Territory. The uniform is to adhere to the colour and design as stipulated by the National Secretary.

Amended October, 2017

#### **4.3.3 General:**

##### **4.3.3.1 Sports Trainer:**

Each participating team is encouraged to provide a qualified Sports Trainer as part of their Team Management.

#### 4.3.3.2 Water Carriers:

Each team shall be entitled to use three (3) water carriers. Each water carrier must be clearly identified, must not engage in coaching of individuals in teams whilst on the field of play, must avoid areas of actual play and must not remain on the field for extended periods of time. The water carriers are to wear an official uniform supplied and maintained by the participating State or Territory. The uniform is to adhere to the colour and design as stipulated by the National Secretary.

Amended October, 2017

#### 4.3.4 Team Officials Area:

All Coaches & Team Officials shall stand a minimum distance of at least 1.5 metres from the boundary.

### 4.4 Tribunal / Protests

#### 4.4.1 Reported Players

The National Secretary, in consultation with the Executive of the State/Territory conducting the Championships, shall submit to the Pre-Championships meeting, for approval, its proposal for the constitution of the Tribunal to arbitrate in cases of players being reported by Umpires for field offences.

Reports shall be dealt with by the Tribunal as soon as possible, in the presence of the umpire(s) who made the report.

The Tribunal shall have the power to impose a suspension of one or more games on any player reported by an umpire and found guilty.

#### 4.4.2 Protests

In the event of a protest concerning any match played during the Championships, such protest in writing must be lodged with the National Secretary or the Championships Convenor, within two (2) hours following the completion of the match concerned.

A copy of the protest must also be lodged with one of the managers of the team protested against within the same period.

The protest shall be adjudicated by a Protests and Disputes Committee consisting of one (1) delegate from each State/Territory competing in the Championships, but excluding the delegates of the States/Territories concerned in the dispute.

The President of the host State/Territory member body or his/her nominee, shall be chairperson, and shall have a casting vote only. The National Secretary shall summon a meeting of the Protests and Disputes Committee as soon as possible after the receipt of the protest.

No appeal shall be made to any outside organisation, and the decision of the Protests and Disputes Committee shall be final.

## 5. TROPHIES, AWARDS

### 5.1 Major Trophy

The Alex Howe Trophy, which shall be held by the winning State / Territory for twelve (12) months. The name of the winning team is to be engraved on the Trophy at the expense of the winning State / Territory. It shall be the responsibility of this State / Territory to see that the Trophy is with the National Secretary in time for presentation to the winner of the succeeding Championship.

### 5.2 The R. G. Newman Shield

The Richard G. Newman Shield recognises one Team, which extols the virtues which Richard upheld throughout his long association with the School Sport Australia Australian Football 12 Years & Under Championship. The team will include the 23 players and the designated Team Officials. The Shield will be presented at the Closing Ceremony and appropriate pins/medallions will be given to each member of the winning team. The cost will need to be included in the budget.

The successful team will be judged on the following criteria:

**5.2.1** The team which demonstrates outstanding ambassadorial aptitudes for their State/Territory and the game during the Championships on and off the field.

**5.2.2** Demonstrated exemplary Sportsmanship by team members.

**5.2.3** A recognised team commitment by all to all-working as a team.

**5.2.4** An inclusive attitude to all educational and sporting components of the Championship.

**5.2.5** An ability to have fun.

The following areas are provided as a guide to the selection panel in determining the successful Team: Functions; Team presentation; Game conduct and general behaviour.

The award will be judged by a selection panel consisting of the Championship Convenor, the Championship Umpires Coordinator and chaired by the National Secretary.

### **5.3 ASSNFC Life Membership and School Sport Australia Service Awards**

<b>LIFE MEMBER</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>YEAR</b>
AW Alphen	QLD	1958
CE Woodward	SA	1960
G Lewis	TAS	1961
A Howe	QLD	1963
AE Browne	SA	1963
H Lewis	WA	1964
LN Pearson	SA	1966
EPJ Fleming	TAS	1967
TE Leonard	VIC	1968
KW Miller	WA	1969
CA Bryce	QLD	1970
JG Pullen	TAS	1971
CJ Robb	VIC	1972
RT Lawn	WA	1973
RD Boyce	QLD	1974
RA Hall	SA	1975
RK Hood	TAS	1977
JP Lorenz	VIC	1978
V Nelson	WA	1979
Les Rauert	NT	1980
G Munn	SA	1982
Roy Wyatt	QLD	1982
Kerrie Hardie	NSW	1984
Colin Crawford	VIC	1985
Dennis Scully	TAS	1986
Colin Steinert	SA	1986
Alan S Mclean	VIC	1987
Len Davies	VIC	1987
Barry Watson	TAS	1987
Geoffrey Sinclair	WA	1987
David Probert	TAS	1988
Dave Power	NSW	1988
Brian Deslandes	NT	1989
Richie Mann	VIC	1989
Gordon Curtis	SA	1990
Reg Pearce	VIC	1991
G Russell	QLD	1991
Roger Bean	ACT	1992
Richie Almond	VIC	1993
Robert Dean	VIC	1993
Murray Tippet	SA	1994
Jack Ensor	WA	1995
Ian Penn	VIC	1997
Peter Atkinson	NT	1997

**SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA  
SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS  
(\*FORMERLY KNOWN AS ASSNFC LIFE MEMBERSHIPS)**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>YEAR</b>
Rod Diggle*	NT	2000
Don Stanley	VIC	2000
Robert Ash*	NSW	2001
Richard Newman	SA	2001
Bob Bevan	NSW	2002
Owen Dunlop	NSW	2002
Ray Barrett*	WA	2004
Graeme Hadley*	WA	2004
Peter Smith*	WA	2004
Ian Temby*	WA	2004
Phillip Jackson*	NSW	2005
Bill Taylor*	NSW	2005
Alan Perrin *	NT	2006
Bruce Westley	SA	2006
Donna Mincham	NT	2007
Brendan Parkes *	QLD	2008
Luke Soulos *	VIC	2008
Trevor Wilson *	VIC	2008
Glen Hidson	NSW	2010
Travis Irvin	NSW	2010
Bruce Norton *	VIC	2010
Gus Wenzel	SA	2011
Bill Bond *	VIC	2011
Terry Plozza	VIC	2012
David Gilmore *	VIC	2012

Andrew Higgins	VIC	2013	Football/Australian Football
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## 6. OTHER

### 6.1 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Host State/Territory will organise a Professional Development session for all participating Team Officials during the Championships.