



SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA

12 YEARS & UNDER FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

RULES & GUIDELINES

1. These rules are to be read in conjunction with the School Sport Australia General Policies.
2. Unless otherwise stated FIFA rules shall apply.
3. **Sport Participation Policy**

Age Dispensation may be granted to a State or Territory for these Championships as allowed through the School Sport Australia Sport Participation Policy.

Added June 2019

4. **Student Referees**

Competing states/territories are invited to nominate one student referee with each competing team. The host state will appoint three accredited referees for each match. Each match will have a referee and two assistant referees. A fourth official may also be appointed for each fixture if personnel are available.

Appointed referees must have a current FFA registration and a minimum of one season of practical experience at FFA sanctioned games.

States are required to advise student referee nominations to the host state no later than eight weeks prior to the competition. Under no circumstance are parents of participating players allowed to be referee or be an assistant referee.

5. **Duration of Matches**

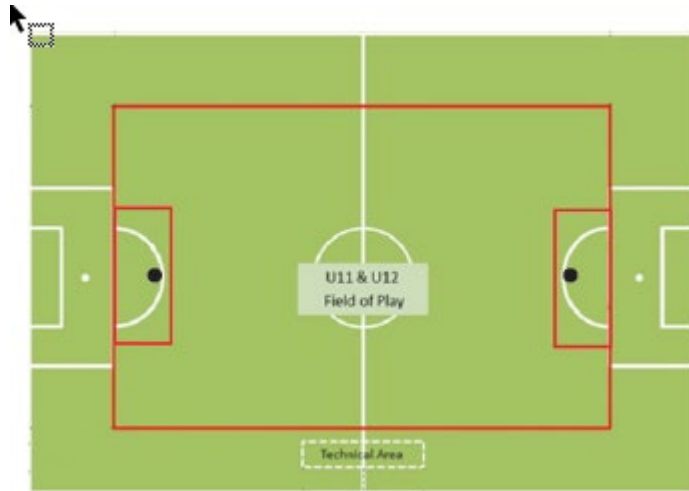
All matches will be played with 25 minutes each half, with stoppage time added on. There will be a five (5) minute half time break. Competition matches should only be scheduled Monday to Friday and not weekends.

6. **General Match Day Format**

- a) Squads shall be limited to a maximum of fourteen (14) players. Matches are conducted with 9 players per team eg: 9 v 9 including the goalkeeper with a maximum of 5 substitutes.

Amended February 2019

- b) A FIFA & FFA approved size 4 match ball shall be used.
- c) The pitch size should be 70 metres (length) x 50 metres (width). The playing area should be set-up in an orientation of penalty box to penalty box, if within an existing pitch. **see illustration below*



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- d) Field markings are required and painted lines for pitch markings must be a different colour to any existing line markings used for other pitches.
- e) Goal size dimensions are 5 metres in width and 2 metres in height. Permanent or portable goals must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Consumer Notice No.28 of 2010.
- f) The goalmouth dimensions have a depth of 10 metres and width of 20 metres. The Penalty Spot is positioned 8 metres from goal line. The "goalmouth" is the area defined and marked for the goalkeeper in which they can handle the ball.

7. Specific Competition Rules

The 12 Years & Under competition is played under FIFA Laws of the Game with modified rules to assist players in their development, these are:

- a) **Goalkeeper:** To restart play after a save or gathering the ball with their hands, the ball must be thrown or rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet, within 6 seconds. The goalkeeper is not allowed to kick or dropkick the ball from their hands.
- b) **Goal kick:** Goal kicks can be taken from anywhere within the penalty area.
- c) **Corner kick & Free kick:** Opponents must be at least 5 metres away from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.
- d) **Discipline:** For any fouls that would ordinarily result in a red card, the match official will instruct the player to leave the field of play for the remainder of the match, any player sent from the field of play may be replaced by another player at the time of the offence. In this instance, neither team will be required to play with fewer than 9 players.

8. Coaching

Coaches are permitted to coach during the game from the technical area and must abide by the School Sport Australia Codes of Conduct.

9. Interchange

- a) Each team may make unlimited interchange.
- b) Interchange shall take place on the sideline, at the halfway line when the ball is out of play and as directed by the referee and/or the assistant referee.

10. Judiciary

- a) At the pre-Championship meeting, each state will nominate their delegate to sit on the judiciary. The Championship Convener will chair the judiciary and select three delegates not involved in the issue before them to be a member of the panel.
- b) Any player cautioned three times during the Championship, or sent off, shall be dealt with by the Judiciary as soon as possible. If possible, the relevant referee shall attend.
- c) The Judiciary shall have the power to impose a suspension of one or more games on any player dealt with under Rule 9 b).
- d) Written appeals must be lodged with the Championship Convener and shall be dealt with by a Championship Judiciary Committee chaired by the Championship Convener, the National Football Advisor (if in attendance) and one team official from each participating state. Each state shall be allowed one (1) vote.

11. Points Scoring

- a) Win - 4 points
Draw - 2 points
Loss - 1 point
- b) In the event of a draw in the play-off game, joint placing shall be declared.
- c) Should weather prevent the completion of the Championship then the state leading the Championship shall be declared the winner.

12. Game Draw

- a) The Championship shall be conducted in accordance with the School Sport Australia General Policies.
- b) Where there are 5 or 6 competing teams, the championship shall consist of a single round robin plus pool games. (All teams play each other to determine two (2) pools. Pool games – each team plays each other team within the pool.)

The pools are to be arranged at the completion of the Round Robin matches. Pool A to be teams placed 1, 2 and 3. Pool B to be teams placed 4, 5 and 6.

Points are to carry through into the Pool matches.

Championship positions (i.e. 1st, 2nd and 3rd) will come from Pool A. Should teams be equal on points at the end of the Round Robin, Pool rankings will be determined as follows:

- The winner when the teams met in the Round Robin will be determined to be in Pool A.
- In the event of the teams finishing equal on points during the Round Robin or where there are more than two teams on equal points, places will be determined in the following manner:
 - i) if one State was the winner during the Round Robin, that state is placed higher.
 - ii) if the Round Robin result was a draw, the State with the superior goal difference is placed higher.
 - iii) if this is the same, the State scoring the most number of goals is placed higher
 - iv) if this is equal, the Championship Convener will organise the drawing of lots to determine the higher placing.

In ii) and iii) above, for positions 1-4, only those goals scored in games contested by the top four teams will apply.

School Sport Australia medals are awarded to Pool A teams only.

- c) Where there are seven (7) or eight (8) competing teams, the Championship shall consist of a single Round Robin.

Round 1 Monday	Round 2 Tuesday	Round 3 Thursday	Round 4 Friday
5 v 7	7 v 3	1 v 7	2 v 3
3 v 4	6 v 4	3 v 6	6 v 1
1 v 2	2 v 5	2 v 4	4 v 5
5 v 6	3 v 1	5 v 1	7 v 2
4 v 7	6 v 2	7 v 6	1 v 4
		3 v 5	

Over a 4 day competition, each team has 2 “double headers”

For 8 teams, the draw will require re-distribution for “double headers” over the scheduled match days:

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7
1 v 2	1 v 4	1 v 6	1 v 8	1 v 7	1 v 5	1 v 3
3 v 4	2 v 6	4 v 8	6 v 7	8 v 5	7 v 3	5 v 2
5 v 6	3 v 8	2 v 7	4 v 5	6 v 3	8 v 2	7 v 4
7 v 8	5 v 7	3 v 5	2 v 3	4 v 2	6 v 4	8 v 6

- d) No teams to be scheduled to play more than two (2) full games in any one day.
- e) There should be at least a period of one (1) hour between consecutive matches.
- f) At the end of the competition, where two (2) or more teams finish on equal points, joint places will be declared.
- g) At each year’s post championship meeting a ballot is to be conducted for the allocation of the following year’s draw.

13. Invitation Teams

- a) Invitational teams shall only be included in order to eliminate a bye.
- b) When an invitational team is included to eliminate a bye the host state shall decide whether to include a second host state team or invite another competing state team to supply a second team in the Championship.

14. The host state must advise the dimensions of the fields to all competing states in the information bulletins sent to all states and territories as soon as these dimensions are known.

15. It is strongly recommended that the host state submits a ground report which includes pitch orientation & dimensions, surface and quality of ground. This should be included in the first information bulletin.

16. Where possible, water and ice containers should be provided in central locations for easy access.

17. Sports trainers – a minimum of 1 sports trainer must be available at the venue.

**SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA
SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

John Barlow	SA	2003
Greg Voss	NSW	2004
John Marciniak	SA	2009
Cameron Heath	VIC	2012
Craig Harris	NSW	2013
Tony Carvajal	WA	2016
Mary Fabris	SA	2016
Marian Lesnicki	SA	2016
Narelle Kruger	NT	2017

**SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA
ECLECTIC SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Annette Harasymiv	ACT	2004	Football / Cross Country
Pat Munn	NT	2006	Football /Hockey
Jane Slater	NT	2012	Football/Hockey
Andrew Higgins	VIC	2013	Football/Australian Football