

SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA
Boys and Girls 15 Years & Under
Australian Football Championships

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Section A – Championship Overview

- A - 1.** These Rules and Guidelines should be read in conjunction with School Sport Australia Policies, Championship Protocols and the Sport Championship Organisational Manual.
- A - 2.** The Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football, as published by the Australian Football League from time to time, with the exception of B - 3, B - 4.1, 0, B - 4.2, B - 4.3 and **Error! Reference source not found..**
- A - 3.** The Championships shall be conducted in accordance with a current Memorandum of Understanding between School Sport Australia and the Australian Football League.

A - 4. Championship Length

The Championships will normally run from Sunday to Saturday (seven (7) days) with teams arriving on the Saturday.

A - 5. Eligibility

For both the boys and girls Championships, qualifications for selection in teams to compete in this component of the Championships shall be 15 Years & Under as at 31 December of the year in which the Championship is held.

A - 6. Age Dispensation

There is no age dispensation granted to teams participating in the 15 Years and Under Australian Football Championships.

A - 7. Team Size

A - 7.1 For both the boys and girls Championships, a team may consist of up to twenty-five (25) players.

A - 7.2 Player Substitution

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.

A - 8. Attendance at Championships

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

Section B – Competition Structure

B - 1. Program / Schedule

B - 1.1 The Australian Football Championships will consist of the Boys 15 Years & Under and the Girls 15 Years & Under competitions hereby known as the School Sport Australia Australian Football Championships.

B - 1.2 The scheduling of the Australian Football Championships would commence in the last week of July or as soon as practicable after that date. The Championships are not to run concurrently with the 12 Years and Under Australian Football Championships.

B - 2. Draw

B - 2.1 The draws for both the Boys and Girls Championships of 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 teams are listed below.

B - 2.1.1 For an eight (8) team competition

For an eight team competition, or seven teams plus an Invitation / Multiple team: Two groups to be formed based on the previous year's placings: Group A - 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th. Group B - 2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th. If an Invitation / Multiple team is included, the team to be numbered 8. Round one matches for each group to be a round robin competition, then teams be placed one to four.

Program:	Saturday (pm)	Teams arrive
	Sunday	Opening and Round 1
	Monday	Round 2
	Tuesday	Education Excursion
	Wednesday	Round 3
	Thursday	Cross Group Finals
	Friday	Rest Day
	Saturday	Finals, Closing and teams depart

B - 2.1.2 For a seven (7) team competition

Full round Robin. Each team playing 6 matches (No Finals). Should a bye occur in the draw, the host member body be asked to implement the School Sport Australia Multiple Team Policy.

Program:	Saturday (pm)	Teams arrive
	Sunday	Opening and Round 1
	Monday	Round 2
	Tuesday	Round 3
	Wednesday	Education Excursion
	Thursday	Round 4
	Friday	Round 5
	Saturday	Round 6
	Sunday	Round 7, Closing and teams depart

B - 2.1.3 For a six (6) team competition

Round Robin competition. Teams play a total of 5 matches. Each team playing each other.

Program:	Saturday (pm)	Teams arrive
	Sunday	Opening and Round 1
	Monday	Round 2
	Tuesday	Education Excursion
	Wednesday	Round 3
	Thursday	Round 4
	Friday	Rest Day
	Saturday	Round 5, Closing and teams depart

B - 2.1.4 For a five (5) team competition

Round Robin and 'Play Off' series. Teams play a total of 5 matches. The host member body is to provide an appropriate game for the 5th placed teams on the last day of competition.

Should a bye occur in the draw, the host member body be asked to implement the School Sport Australia Multiple Team Policy.

Program:	Saturday (pm)	Teams arrive
	Sunday	Opening and Round 1
	Monday	Round 2
	Tuesday	Education Excursion
	Wednesday	Round 3
	Thursday	Round 4
	Friday	Rest / excursion / clinic / fitness skills testing etc.
	Saturday	Round 5 and teams depart

B - 2.1.5 For a four (4) team competition

Single Round Robin followed by Cross Over Finals. Each team is to play 5 games.

Program:	Saturday (pm)	Teams arrive
	Sunday	Opening and Round 1
	Monday	Round 2
	Tuesday	Round 3
	Wednesday	Education Excursion
	Thursday	Cross Over (1v4 & 2v3)
	Friday	Rest Day
	Saturday	Finals, Closing and teams depart

B - 2.2 General

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 member body 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.

B - 3. Duration of matches

B - 3.1 Girls 15 Years & Under

B - 3.1.1 All matches shall consist of four quarters of fifteen (15) minutes duration.

B - 3.1.2 In all matches there will be no 'time on' added (except for the Blood Rule, serious injury, stretchers and send off) with intervals of five (5), twelve (12) and five (5) minutes. Amended Sept 2016

B - 3.2 Boys 15 Years & Under

B - 3.2.1 For the seven (7) team competition the length of each quarter shall be fifteen (15) minutes.

B - 3.2.2 For all other competitions the length of each quarter shall be sixteen (16) minutes.

B - 3.2.3 In all matches there will be no 'time on' added (except for the Blood Rule, serious injury, stretchers and send off) with intervals of five (5), twelve (12) and five (5) minutes. Updated Sept 2023

B - 3.3 General

B - 3.3.1 The host member body is to provide an additional ball to be kept by the interchange steward as a strategy to save time.

B - 4. Game Protocols / Specific Rules / Results

B - 4.1 Order-Off Rule

B - 4.1.1 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:

B - 4.1.1.1 verbal harassment;

B - 4.1.1.2 abusive language;

B - 4.1.1.3 other unseemly conduct detrimental to the game;

B - 4.1.1.4 any reportable offence according to the 'Laws of Australian Football'.

B - 4.1.2 Such player must report to the Interchange bench on leaving the field and before returning. The player will be in the control of the team manager while off the field of play. Updated Sept 2023

- B - 4.1.3** The player sent off may be replaced by an interchange player. When this occurs, the umpire must show the card to the Interchange bench and call time off. Time shall be signaled when the replacement player is in position. Updated Sept 2023
- B - 4.1.4** It shall be left to the discretion of the umpire whether the player sent off is reported.
- B - 4.1.5** 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. He may be replaced by an interchange player.
- B - 4.1.6** 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.
- B - 4.1.7** The field umpire(s) shall report a player by notifying the National Australian Football Advisor or the Championship Convenor within an hour of the completion of the game.

Interchange Rule

- B – 4.2.1** For both the boys and girls Championships, Any member body may name up to 25 players for any game, of which only 18 may be on the field at any one time. Updated November 2023
- B - 4.1.8** The ongoing interchange player must 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 he cannot return to the game. Updated Sept 2023

B - 4.2 Stretcher / Carry Off Rule

Any player who is injured during a match and who, in the opinion of a Doctor, Trainer of 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 twenty (20) minutes.

B - 4.3 40 metre penalty for Girls 15 Years & Under

A 40 metre penalty will be awarded rather than the 50 metre penalty for the Girls 15 Years & Under competition.

Amended December 2020

B - 4.4 Wet Weather

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

B - 5. 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.

B - 6. Method of Determining a Winner

B - 6.1 For a Seven or less team competition teams shall meet each other on at least one occasion; and in the event of two or more teams finishing with equal match points, they shall be declared joint winners. Under no circumstances shall percentage of points scored for and against be counted.

B - 6.2 For an Eight team competition where two teams are tied on points within their group, then the result of the match in which they played each other shall determine their position. Where three teams are tied on points, then the percentage in the games where they played each other shall determine their position.

All teams will then play a Cross Group match in the following format:

1st Group A	vs.	2nd Group B	(Match 1)
2nd Group A	vs.	1st Group B	(Match 2)
3rd Group A	vs.	4th Group B	(Match 3)
4th Group A	vs.	3rd Group B	(Match 4)

B - 6.3 Should a tie occur at the end of full time in any Cross Group match, the 'No Drawn matches' procedures in B - 6.4 shall apply to determine the winning Team.

The finals would then take place:

Winner match 1	vs.	Winner match 2	(determines 1st & 2nd)
Loser match 1	vs.	Loser match 2	(determines 3rd & 4th)
Winner match 3	vs.	Winner match 4	(determines 5th & 6th)
Loser match 3	vs.	Loser match 4	(determines 7th & 8th)

The National Australian Football Advisor is authorised to use some flexibility in the finals part of the draw (apart from the Grand Final) to ensure that teams have the chance to play teams that they have not already played, in consultation with the teams involved.

B - 6.4 No Drawn matches**B - 6.4.1 Playing of Additional Time**

Should a tie occur in any Cross-Over Finals Match other than the Grand Final, the following procedure shall apply to determine the winning Team -

B - 6.4.1.1 the Goal Umpires shall immediately consult with each other to confirm that the score of each Team is identical and if that is the case, the field Umpires shall signal to the Timekeepers that the Match is to proceed into Additional Time;

B - 6.4.1.2 after a five (5) minute rest period (which shall commence from the time the Field Umpires signal that the match is to proceed into additional time), additional time shall be played;

B - 6.4.1.3 each team shall maintain the same end as at the completion of ordinary time for the first five (5) minute period of additional time and shall change ends immediately after the first five minute period;

B - 6.4.1.4 upon receiving the signal by the Field Umpire, the Timekeepers shall sound the siren in accordance with the normal start of each quarter, being -

B - 6.4.1.4.1 two minutes prior to the official start time - three times;

B - 6.4.1.4.2 one minute prior to the official start time - twice;

B - 6.4.1.4.3 official start time - once.

B - 6.4.1.5 except for the Coach and those persons permitted to enter the playing surface under Regulation 11.9, no person shall enter the playing surface during any period before or during the playing of Additional Time;

B - 6.4.1.6 before the commencement of additional time, the Coach may enter the playing surface and address the players. The Coach must leave the playing surface on or before the sound of the three sirens signifying that two minutes remain before the commencement of additional time;

B - 6.4.1.7 the Timekeepers shall sound the siren once to signify the end of each period of additional time until a Field Umpire acknowledges that the siren has been heard and brings play to an end;

B - 6.4.1.8 at the conclusion of additional time, the team which has scored the highest points is the winner of the match;

B - 6.4.1.9 if the scores are still tied at the end of the second period of additional time, in a game that requires a result, the siren shall not sound until a score is recorded.

B - 6.4.1.10 Ready to Play and Sanctions

Each Team shall move into position and be ready to commence play at the start of additional time. A team whose team is not ready to commence play shall be subject to a 6-6-6 sanction, i.e. warning if first violation in the game or free kick awarded if second or further violation.

B - 6.5 Joint winners will be declared if at full time of the Grand Final match scores are tied.

B - 6.6 Should wet weather interfere in the Championships, then the member body leading the competition shall be declared the winner. If two or more member bodies are leading the competition they shall be declared joint winners.

Section C – Facilities / Equipment

C - 1. Match Equipment

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

C - 1.1 Boys 15 Years & Under

The Match Ball must be a full size leather ball.

C - 1.2 Girls 15 Years & Under

The Match Ball must be a Size 4 leather ball.

C - 2. Team Officials Area

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

C - 3. General

C - 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 member body.

C - 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.

C - 3.3 That spare footballs are kept at each end behind the goals during games.

- C - 3.4** The Host member body is to provide an additional ball to be kept by the interchange steward as a strategy to save time.

Section D – Uniform

- D - 1.** Teams may allocate jumper numbers from one (1) to thirty (30) with numbers of contrasting colours.

D - 2. General

D - 2.1 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

- D - 2.2** Member bodies must notify the National Australian Football Advisor 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.

Section E – Injury Management

- E - 1.** Refer to School Sport Australia Championship Protocols and Policy for the management of injuries. This policy will override any sport specific injury management Protocols.

[School-Sport-Australia-Injury-Management-Policy.pdf \(schoolsportaustralia.edu.au\)](https://schoolsportaustralia.edu.au/School-Sport-Australia-Injury-Management-Policy.pdf)

New Policy Dec 2023

- E - 2.** If medical treatment by a doctor or other external medical professional is required for a player, the National Sport Advisor must be advised. Prior to their next match, a medical clearance must be provided to the NSA to allow that student to play.

New clause Sept 2023

Section F – Officials

F - 1. Championship Convenor

Appointed by host member body with local knowledge and contacts. Able to oversee all aspects of Championship organisation, pre, during and post event.

F - 2. Ground Officials

- F - 2.1** Two official timekeepers shall be appointed by the Host member body to act in concert for all matches.

- F - 2.2** A Ground Manager and a neutral Scorer should be appointed for each game.

Updated Sept 2023

F - 2.3

F - 3. Umpire / Student Officials

- F - 3.1** 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 member body must notify the host member body and the National Australian Football Advisor 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.
- F - 3.2** The host member body 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.
- F - 3.3** The host member body 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.
- F - 3.4** Where possible neutral field umpires be appointed to pool and round robin games.
- F - 3.5** Before all games field umpires should introduce themselves to both coaches, include greet and briefly address the teams. Umpires will check for safety of all boots at the beginning of each game. Jewellery is not permitted and gloves can only be worn in accordance with the laws of Australian Football.
- F - 3.6** Competent boundary and goal umpires shall be appointed. If such umpires are not accredited, they should receive training for their duties.
- F - 3.7** Interpretation or clarification of rules should be requested by the Team Manager through the Umpires Coordinator following the completion of matches.

F - 4. Team Officials

F - 4.1 A Runner

Who may be one of the twenty-five (25) named players or an adult person nominated by the team, and whose name must be included on each day's Team Sheet, may be used by each member body. If the runner is to be an adult, he / she must be identified at the Pre-Championships meeting and wear the 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 Australian Football Advisor. No Coach, Manager or other person connected with the team shall enter the arena for the purpose of giving instructions to players during the playing period.

F - 4.2 Sports Trainer

Each participating team is encouraged to provide a qualified Sports Trainer as part of their Team Management. The uniform is to adhere to the colour and design as stipulated by the National Australian Football Advisor.

F - 4.3 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 Australian Football Advisor.

F - 5. All Australian Team Chairperson and Selectors

Refer to rule I - 4.4 for details on the appointment and duties of the All Australian Team Chairperson and Selectors.

Section G – Protests

- G - 1.** In the event of a protest concerning any match played during the Championships, such protest in writing must be lodged with the National Australian Football Advisor or the Championships Convenor, within two (2) hours following the completion of the match concerned.
- G - 2.** A copy of the protest must also be lodged with one of the managers of the team protested against within the same period.
- G - 3.** The protest shall be adjudicated by a Protests and Disputes Committee consisting of one (1) delegate from each member body competing in the Championships but excluding the delegates of the member bodies concerned in the dispute.
- G - 4.** The President of the host member body member body or his/her nominee shall be chairperson and shall have a casting vote only. The National Australian Football Advisor shall summon a meeting of the Protests and Disputes Committee as soon as possible after the receipt of the protest.
- G - 5.** No appeal shall be made to any outside organisation, and the decision of the Protests and Disputes Committee shall be final....

Section H – Tribunal / Judiciary

H - 1. Reported Players

The National Australian Football Advisor, in consultation with the Executive of the member body 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.

Section I – Trophies / Awards / Medals

I - 1. Major Trophy

I - 1.1 Boys 15 Years & Under

The ASSNFC Trophy, which shall be held by the winning member body for twelve (12) months. The name of the winning team is to be engraved on the Trophy by the host member body with the cost included in the Championship budget. It shall be the responsibility of the host member body to organise for the Trophy to be forwarded to the following year's host member body in time for presentation to the winner of the succeeding Championship.

I - 1.2 Girls 15 Years & Under

The Trophy, which shall be held by the winning member body for twelve (12) months. The name of the winning team is to be engraved on the Trophy by the host member body with the cost included in the Championship budget. It shall be the responsibility of the host member body to organise for the Trophy to be forwarded to the following year's host member body in time for presentation to the winner of the succeeding Championship.

I - 2. Player Awards

I - 2.1 The J. L. Williams Medal

Shall be awarded to the player adjudged to be the fairest and best in the Championship. It shall be of standard pattern as approved by School Sport Australia, and shall be taken to the Championship by the National Australian Football Advisor.

Points shall be awarded to the selected players in each match, on the basis of three points for first choice, two for second, and one for third. The votes are to be sealed and handed, on completion to the National Australian Football Advisor, and opened at the conclusion of the Championship.

In the event of a tie, each player will receive a medal.

Note: A player reported during the Championship and subsequently had the charges found proven by the Independent Tribunal will not be eligible to win the J. L. Williams Medal.

I - 2.2 A Schoolgirl's Player of the Championship - The Helen 'Squizzy' Taylor Medal

Shall be awarded to the player adjudged to be the fairest and best in the Girls 15 Years & Under Championship. The Medal shall be taken to the Championship by the National Australian Football Advisor.

Points shall be awarded to the selected players in each match, on the basis of three points for first choice, two for second, and one for third. The votes are to be sealed and handed, on completion to the National Australian Football Advisor, and opened at the conclusion of the Championship.

In the event of a tie, each player will receive a medal.

Note: A player reported during the Championship, and subsequently had the charges found proven by the Independent Tribunal will not be eligible to win the Medal.

I - 3. Umpires Award - The A. S. McLean Medal

The student umpire voted the 'Most Outstanding Umpire' for the Championship by the Umpires Coordinator, be awarded an engraved medal and have their photo taken with the All Australian team.

The medal will be supplied by the School Sport Australia office. The cost of the medal and the photo needs to be included in the budget. Updated Sept 2023

I - 4. All Australian Teams

I - 4.1 Team Definition

Players will be selected and named at the Closing Ceremony as the 'All Australian Boys Australian Football Team (Year)' and the 'All Australian Girls Football Team (Year)'.

I - 4.2 Award

All members of the All Australian Australian Football Teams will receive a School Sport Australia plaque supplied by the School Sport Australia office. Players selected in an All Australian team may purchase an All Australian team jumper from the SSA uniform supplier should they wish to do so at their own expense. An official photo of the All Australian team will be taken and sent to the National Australian Football Advisor and sponsor and made available for the selected players. The cost of the plaque and the photo is to be included in the budget.

I - 4.3 Selection Criteria for All Australian Boys and Girls Football Teams

I - 4.3.1 Twenty five players shall be selected in the All Australian team.

I - 4.3.2 No Captain or Vice Captain shall be named.

I - 4.3.3 The players selected shall be those who have given the best performances in the areas of skill (individual & team), general play, understanding of the game, coachability and ability to act as a role model to peers.

I - 4.3.4 All State/Territories shall be asked to submit their nominations for the All Australian team to the National Australian Football Advisor at the Post Championship Meeting.

- I - 4.3.5 Positions will not be taken into account in the final selection of the team.
- I - 4.3.6 A player need not have participated in every game to be included in selection but must have participated by taking the field in 50% of games in the Championship.
- I - 4.3.7 Players selected must display a high level of sportsmanship and behaviour throughout the Championship.
- I - 4.3.8 That in the year when a team is selected to go on an International Tour an additional ten shadow players will be selected. Any replacements for players selected in the All Australian team who may withdraw from the scheduled tour will be selected from these shadow players according to team requirements

I - 4.4 Australian Selectors

- I - 4.4.1 A Selection Committee will be appointed at the Pre-Championships meeting to select the All Australian Team.

I - 4.4.2 Appointment of All Australian Selectors

- I - 4.4.2.1 The National Australian Football Advisor shall act as the Coordinator of the selection panel for the All Australian team.

I - 4.4.2.2 Composition of the All Australian Selectors to be

- I - 4.4.2.2.1 A Chairperson of Selectors appointed by the host member body.

- I - 4.4.2.2.2 At least two (2) but no more than four (4) other selectors. These will be appointed by the host member body.

- I - 4.4.2.2.3 In the event of the Host/Territory unable to appoint selectors, nominations will be called for from the competing member bodies elected by ballot at the Pre-Championships meeting prior to the Championships. Nominations for the position of selector to be received from the floor, with each nominee to provide a maximum one half page (1/2) page curriculum vitae to be given to the Chairperson prior to speaking to that nomination. The applicant or Chairperson may present that CV to the meeting.

I - 4.4.3 Duties of All Australian Selectors

- I - 4.4.3.1 Each member of the selection panel must watch each member body at least twice.

- I - 4.4.3.2 There must be at least one selector present for the duration of the entire match for all games.

- I - 4.4.3.3** The Chairperson must submit the names of the All Australian team to the National Australian Football Advisor or his/her delegate prior to the Closing Ceremony.