

Blacktown Districts Soccer Football Association 2026 Competition Regulations





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1. DEFINITIONS

“AFC” means Asian Football Confederation which is the governing body of football in Asia.

“All Age” means a senior Competition restricted by a minimum age only.

“Association” means Blacktown Districts Soccer Football Association Incorporated.

“Association Member” means those admitted from time to time as association members of Football NSW under the Football NSW Constitution.

“Away Club” means the Club not playing the Fixture or Match at its home ground and/or appearing second on the fixture list in the event a match is conducted at a neutral venue.

“BDSFA” means Blacktown Districts Soccer Football Association Incorporated which is the governing body for football in the region as admitted as an association member of Football NSW.

“BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations” means the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations 2025.

“Board” means the directors of BDSFA appointed or elected from time to time in accordance with the BDSFA Constitution.

“Body” means a body established under section 4 (Authority to Establish Committees and Tribunals) of the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

“Championship” means the final series conducted at the completion of the Premiership in accordance with the BDSFA Rules and Regulations.

“Club” means any club registered with FA, FNSW and/or the BDSFA or admitted to participate in a Competition.

“Club Official” means any person involved with the administration, management or organisation of a Club or Centre (whether paid or unpaid), including employees, contractors, directors, representatives, and volunteers.

“Club Referee” means a Referee appointed by a home Club, in accordance with section 16

“Coach” any person with the required qualifications registered with BDSFA to control a Football teams training and match performance.

“Competition” means any or all the football matches or competitions conducted by BDSFA.

“Competition Management System” means Dribl.

“Constitution” means the constitution of BDSFA.

“Cup” means a tournament or event conducted by BDSFA.

“Dribl” means the Competition Management Platform as used by BDSFA, including its website and mobile application.

“Executive” means the General Manager of BDSFA or his or her nominee.

“FA” means Football Australia Limited, the governing body for football (soccer) in Australia.

“Field” means the Field of Play at the location of a Ground.

“Field of Play” or **“Playing Area”** Means the field of play and any perimeter area between the line markings of the pitch and the spectator area.

“FIFA” means Federation Internationale de Football Association, its successor or assignee.

“Finals Series” means the final series of a Competition held at the completion of a Premiership.

“Fixture” means a meeting of clubs as scheduled in all grades applicable.

“Football Activity” means any activity of a football nature that takes place on the field of play, playing area or within the external surrounds of a ground or venue or any other activity relating or incidental to the objects of BDSFA. Also means any further definitions as per 15.5(e) of the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations

“Football NSW or FNSW” means Football NSW Limited ACN 003 215 923 which is the governing body for football (including Futsal) in the State.

“Force Majeure” means an unforeseeable circumstance including but not limited to fire, storm, flood, earthquake, explosion, sabotage, or epidemic.

“Ground” means the complex at which a field is located.

“Ground Official” means the person designated to monitor spectator behaviour as per section 8 of these Regulations.



“Home Club” Means the Club playing the Fixture or Match at its home ground and/or appearing first on the fixture list in the event a match is conducted at a neutral venue.

“Host Club” means the Club at which a neutral Match is being played at

“IFAB” means the International Football Association Board, responsible for the interpretation and distribution of the Laws of the Game.

“Ineligible Player” as per the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations

- i. means a Player who is subject to a Suspension,
- ii. a player who has been expelled from a match but whose expulsion has not yet been reviewed by the Executive,
- iii. a player that has been expelled from a Match earlier on the same day,
- iv. a player who is required to stand down for receiving the required number of cautions,
- v. a player not listed on the Team Sheet,
- vi. any player who is subject to a Suspension issued by, or applicable under the rules and regulations of, FA, FNSW, a Member Federation, a Club, Centre, an Association Member, an affiliated association, or any of their clubs,
- vii. any Player who is defined as “Ineligible” pursuant to the BDSFA Competition Regulations,
- viii. a Player who is in breach of article 6.13 (Prohibition on Dual Registration) of the FA National Registration Regulations, or
- ix. any Player who is otherwise ineligible to participate in a Competition, including unregistered Players and Players playing under a false identity.
- x. any Player who participates in a match in breach of any relevant regulations, including but not limited to the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations, BDSFA Competition Regulations or other regulations for Competitions administered by the BDSFA

Ineligible Team Official or Club Official as per the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations

- i. means any Team Official or Club Official who is subject to a Suspension,
- ii. any Official who is subject to a Suspension issued by, or applicable under the rules and regulations of FA, a Member Federation, a Club, a Centre, an Association Member, an affiliated association, or any of their clubs,
- iii. any Coach or Official who is defined as “Ineligible” pursuant to the BDSFA Competition Regulations or
- iv. any Coach or Official who is otherwise ineligible to participate in a Competition.
- v. any Team Official who participates in a match in breach of any relevant regulations, including but not limited to the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations, BDSFA Competition Regulations or other regulations for Competitions administered by the BDSFA

“Laws of the Game” means the official laws of the game of football as promulgated by FIFA and IFAB.

“League” means a Competition conducted by BDSFA comprised of specific gender and age grades, as declared by the Board.

“Manager” any Person registered with BDSFA to control the administrative aspect of a Team’s training and match performance.

“Mapped” means a Participant marked as part of a Team in Dribl

“Masters” means Over Age Competition including Over 30 Women, Over 35 Men and Over 45 Men

“Match” means a single meeting of two teams to play football in a Competition

“Match Official” means a referee, assistant referee, fourth official, match commissioner, any person in charge of safety or any other person appointed by FA, Football NSW, BDSFA, a Referee’s Body, a Centre, an Association Member, or a Club to assume responsibility in connection with a Match.



“Match Sheet” means the sheet carrying the entire record of the Match, including both competing Teams, participating Players, Officials, sanctions, and scores

“Member Card” means the ID photo system available via EMS for each member of a team

“Member Club” means Club.

“Men’s Premier League” means the BDSFA Men’s Premier League Competitions, made up of First Grade, Reserve Grade and Under 21’s.

“Misconduct” has the meaning given to it under section 16.4 of the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

“Mixed” means male and female players permitted to play.

“Official” means a Team Official, Club Official or Match Official.

“Over” means a players age on the 1 January of the year of play.

“Person” means a natural person.

“Participant” means a Player, Official or Spectator, as individual otherwise registered with FA to participate in football in the State or and individual issued with media accreditation by FNSW or the BDSFA.

“Player” means any Person who participates in a Match (irrespective of whether he or she is registered with FA, junior or senior or an Amateur or Professional). For the avoidance of doubt, a reference to a Player during a Match includes a substitute and a substituted player.

“Pre-Season” Means the period of the year prior to the Season.

“Premiership” means a Competition in which Clubs/Teams compete in a series of round robin Match (both home and away) during a Season.

“Regulations” means these BDSFA Competition Regulations.

“Round” means a series of fixtures scheduled by BDSFA.

“Season” means from the commencement of a BDSFA Competition to the conclusion of a BDSFA Competition unless otherwise directed by BDSFA.

“Spectator” means a Person in attendance at a stadium, venue or ground during any match, Competition or training session sanctioned or administered by the BDSFA.

“State” means the state of New South Wales with the exception of the northern regions of NSW which are identified by FA as “Northern NSW.”

“Suspension” means any suspension applicable under or issued pursuant to the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations

“Team” means any team registered with FA, FNSW and/or the BDSFA, any team admitted by the BDSFA to participate in a Competition.

“Team Official” means any Person involved with the management, preparation, or participation of a Team (whether paid or unpaid), including the coaches, managers, medical staff, other support staff, or any other Person acting for or on behalf of a Team or Club.

“Team Sheet” means the team list of players and Team Officials as listed on the EMS.

“Technical Area” means the area marked and/or designated in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game within which the coach, the substitute Players and the Team Officials must remain during a match.

“Trial Match” means any Match played by two Clubs/Teams which does not form part of a BDSFA Competition, Cup, Premiership, other event, or tournament but has been sanctioned by Football NSW and BDSFA.

“Under” means a players age on the 31 December of the year of play.

“WPL” means the Women’s Premier League

2. ADMISSION AND ORGANISATION

2.1 Scope and Application

- a) These Regulations are made under clause 37 of the Blacktown Districts Soccer Football Association Incorporated (BDSFA) Constitution and apply to the 2026 football Season.
- b) Football NSW (FNSW) has granted BDSFA a mandate to be responsible for the organisation, promotion, and regulation of football in the Region.
- c) Where these Regulations are silent on any particular aspect, then all Clubs, affiliated bodies and organisations shall first have regard to the Constitution, By-Laws, FNSW Rules and regulation Football Australia (FA) rules and regulations and where applicable rules and regulations of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and FIFA.
- d) If any part of these Regulations is void that part shall be severable and will not affect the enforceability of the remaining sections of these Regulations. BDSFA may choose to not enforce a term of these Regulations in some cases, in its absolute discretion, without affecting its right to enforce that term in other cases.
- e) BDSFA will interpret and apply all articles of these Regulations, and any such interpretation or application will be final and binding on all parties and not subject to challenge or appeal.
- f) These Regulations cover the activities of all Persons associated with the game of football (soccer) and conduct of all matches under the control of the BDSFA Inc.

2.2 Consequences for Breach

- a) All Clubs, Players, Team Officials, Match Officials, Spectators, or any Person participating in any manner at a BDSFA Fixture, Match, or event will submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of the BDSFA Competition Regulations, BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations and/or BDSFA Fines and Penalties.
- b) Penalties may be imposed for any breach of the Constitution, Regulations, By-Laws, and policies of the BDSFA and for any matter, which is not expressly mentioned as are categorised by the Board prior to the parties being cited.
- c) The BDSFA may, from time to time, adopt policies. Failure to adhere to policies may carry similar consequences to breaching a Rule, Regulation or By Law. All policies must be distributed to Clubs.

2.3 Reference

- a) Where these Regulations refer to a “Club” that reference is to Member Club or Branch that has been accepted to participate in the Competition.

2.4 Control of Competition

- a) The administrative control and conduct of the Competitions is vested in the Executive subject to any resolution by the Board to the contrary.

2.5 Discipline

- a) All aspects of grievance and disciplinary matters are set out in the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations. The BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations is to be read in conjunction with these Regulations.
- b) Should a Team be accepted into the Competitions and subsequently be found to be in breach of these Regulations, that team may be removed from the Competition by the BDSFA in its absolute discretion.



2.6 Admission / Application to BDSFA Competitions

- a) Participation in the Competitions is on an annual basis unless otherwise specified.
- b) For the avoidance of doubt, the Club agrees that it has no right to any renewal or extension to participate in any future Competitions and BDSFA has the right to determine, in its absolute discretion, whether any right to participate in any Competition is renewed or extended.
- c) Applications to participate in all Competitions administered within these Regulations are to be made to BDSFA, on the prescribed BDSFA documents, and submitted by the date on those documents.
- d) BDSFA will distribute the prescribed BDSFA documents in the year preceding each Season.

2.7 Outstanding Debts

- a) Treatment of outstanding debts will be as per the discretion of the Board.
- b) For the avoidance of doubt, failure to comply with outstanding debts may result in ineligibility for Competition points while the debt remains unpaid, and that those points will not be reinstated once the debt is cleared. It may also result in ineligibility to participate in Championship Matches.
- c) This article applies to all Competition and Cup Matches conducted by BDSFA.

2.8 Alteration

- a) The Executive will have the power from time to time to make, alter, or rescind the Regulations.
- b) These By-laws may be amended by the Executive if required due to unforeseen circumstances.

2.9 Special Consideration

- a) The Executive will have the power to consider exceptional circumstances outside the prescribed limits of the Regulations should it be clear those special considerations are in the interest of the game.
- b) The decision by the Executive to review and consider exceptional circumstances under this section is not subject to appeal or review.

2.10 Meetings

- a) BDSFA may schedule meetings Pre-Season and during Season to update Clubs on administrative and coaching matters.
- b) Attendance at meetings is compulsory for each Club participating in the Competition unless otherwise stated. Failure to attend without satisfactory reason may result in a fine as per the BDSFA Fines and Penalties and [Annexure 4](#).

3. TEAM NOMINATION AND GRADING

3.1 Team Nominations

- a) Nominations for registration of teams must be completed in the Competition Management System at a date to be fixed by the Competitions Manager each Season.
- b) Where a Club has more than one team playing in the same League, Players in each team must be mapped to one of the teams prior to the first Competition match and shall not be interchangeable without special permission of the Executive. Such permission to be sought in writing and permission granted prior to playing for the other team.



- c) The maximum number of Players to be nominated per team is:
- | | |
|----------------------|----|
| i. Under 5-6 | 7 |
| ii. Under 7-9 | 10 |
| iii. Under 10-11 | 12 |
| iv. Under 12 | 14 |
| v. Under 13 - AA | 16 |
| vi. O30, O35 and O45 | 18 |
- d) Extra members for teams may be allowed subject to Competitions Manager approval. Where extra members have been permitted in a team, this team will only be permitted to use the maximum number of Players from 3.1 c) in each match. Suspended Players are counted in the players participating in the match (i.e. When a team is usually permitted to list 16 Players as per 3.1 c) for a match and a Player is suspended, this team will be limited to listing 15 Players for that match)
- e) Over 45 may consist of a minimum of 11 Players who are over 45 (i.e. a minimum of 45 years old prior to January 1 of that Season) and up to seven (7) Players who are over the age of 40 (i.e. a minimum of 40 years old prior to January 1 of that Season). Only teams made up entirely of Players Over 45 years and which have played all Competition matches in this manner are permitted to enter the FNSW Champion of Champions Competition.
- f) Teams withdrawn after nomination shall be liable for all fees and shall invoke a fine as per [Annexure 4](#).
- g) Any team whose nomination is accepted and then forfeits the first three Matches of the League shall be deemed to have been withdrawn and shall be liable for all fees incurred as per 3.1 f).
- h) Late entries may be accepted subject to byes being available. Such teams may enter the Competition without playing any preceding Rounds or may be accepted on a “social” basis and not accrue points or standings.

3.2 Joint Team Nominations

- a) Where a Club has insufficient numbers to nominate a team in an age group; they may apply for nomination as a joint team.
- b) Teams may be made up from different Clubs to form one or more teams in a division.
- c) Player’s playing in “joint teams” will remain members of that Club to which they first registered and will be due any membership benefits from that Club.
- d) Home Matches will be allocated based on field availability and/or the Club which provides the greater number of Players to the “joint team.”
- e) The BDSFA will designate team colour based on the Club which provides the greater number of Players to the “joint team” or the Club in which the team is managed in Dribl. Training and Team Officials will be at the discretion of the team.

3.3 Team Gradings

- a) Clubs must grade Under 8 and older Players into a development League and/or division that suits their ability and encourages improvement.
- b) No Club may conduct trials for the following season prior to 1 November of the year prior to competition and must meet all FNSW sanctioning requirements prior to conducting events.
- c) No Player may participate in an interclub activity without first being registered and approved by the Club via the BDSFA specified registration platform



- d) Sanctions may apply for non-compliance with 3.3 b-c as determined by the BDSFA in its absolute discretion
- e) Competition teams will be allocated divisions according to their performance in the previous Season.
- f) The Executive may use the results of the Premiership and or the Finals Series to assist with grading.
- g) Clubs may request to the BDSFA that a team eligible to be demoted is not demoted.
- h) To make up the required number, teams finishing the previous Season in a position lower than 1st or 2nd in a division may be promoted to a higher division but shall be promoted in order of merit, according to where they finished the previous Season.
- i) Clubs that nominate teams whom the BDSFA consider of a higher standard to that age to which they are nominated will be nominated to a higher age group/division.
- j) The BDSFA will grade new Teams by taking into consideration the Players nominated. The BDSFA will endeavour to give fair consideration to the strength of other competitions in comparison to the BDSFA.
- k) If the Team's playing ability is above that division in where there is a bye Round, the Team may be admitted to the next higher age group and/or division.
- l) There shall be no appeal, nor amendment, to any grading or regrading once declared by the Board.
- m) Where insufficient entries are received to form a League in any grade, such Teams may be permitted to enter competitions conducted by neighbouring Associations at the discretion of the Board.
- n) Players may only play in age groups of their own or a maximum of three (3) years above their age as of the 31 December of the playing year.
- o) The age qualification for Under 21 Men and Women is Players who are turning 17 in the year of Competition and must be under the age of 21 on or before the 31st of December of the previous calendar year.
- p) The age qualification for All Age Men and Women is Players who are turning 17 in the year of Competition
- q) Female players may play in Mixed Leagues up to and including Under 16's.
- r) A player may be permanently moved into a lower division Team in their registered age group once per Season prior to the 30th of May. Players may be transferred by applying to the Competitions Manager. No application will be accepted after the 30th of May.
- s) A player may only be Mapped to a single Team throughout the Season, except for the following
 - i. A female player playing in both the Mixed Competition and Phoenix League Competitions
 - ii. A player has become eligible to compete in the final's series in more than one Team



- t) Requests may be made by Clubs to the BDSFA for Players with a disability to play in a more suitable age group. Players who have requested consideration will be assessed by a nominated delegate and will work in conjunction with the Player, the Players parents/guardians and Club to recommend a suitable age group/division to play. The Executive will make the final decision in its sole discretion.

3.4 Team Removed or Withdrawn from Competitions

- a) In the event of any Team withdrawing or being removed from BDSFA Competitions, the following procedure will take effect to allow the altered Competitions to proceed to a conclusion.
- i. Removed or withdrawing before Competition has started: The Team will be withdrawn from the division and if necessary, replaced with a “Bye.”
 - ii. Removed or withdrawing during the first full Round of fixtures: All opposing Teams that have played the removed or withdrawn Teams (for the complete first Round) shall have points and goals deleted from their records and shall be credited with a bye result. Teams that have not played the removed or withdrawn Team will obtain a Bye result.
 - iii. Removed or withdrawing after the first full Round of fixtures: All points and goals acquired will be retained by opposing Teams (for the completed first Round). Points and goals acquired against such disaffiliated Team shall be lost and Bye results shall be credited for the second half of the Competition.
 - iv. Where a postponed or deferred match from an earlier cycle of match remains unplayed at the time of withdrawal, the result shall be deemed to be a forfeit.

4. TEAM COACHES, MANAGERS AND OFFICIALS

- a) A Team Official is deemed to be a Coach, manager, or Team staff, as Mapped in Dribl.
- b) All Team Officials must be properly registered with the specific Club as a Team Official and listed as such on the EMS.
- c) Only two Team Officials are permitted in each Team’s Technical Area with the exception of WPL and Men’s Premier League.
- d) Only one Team Official is permitted to be standing in the Technical Area to give direction.
- e) Persons not listed on the EMS are not permitted to enter the Technical Area.
- f) In such case where the Match Official must remove Officials from the Technical Area for the above reasons BDSFA may penalise the Official/Team/Club.
- g) Junior Female only teams (21 years and under) must contain at least one female Team Official.
- h) As per FNSW Working with Children Check Policy all Officials including Coaches, Managers and Volunteers as a pre-condition of registration must have a Working with Children (WWC) number and that this needs to be entered in the Play Football system at the time of registration. The only exemption is for Persons aged under 18 years.
- i) Where a Teams regular Team Officials are not available, properly registered Team Officials, in accordance with 4 b), may be borrowed onto the Team Sheet. Team Officials are not to be added via the EMS officials tab using the “acting coach” or “acting manager” function.



5. REGISTRATION AND DEREGISTRATION

5.1 Registration

- a) All Players playing within the BDSFA must be properly registered with an affiliated Club and pay all relevant fees to that Club.
- b) Where a Player has a known medical condition, the Team Coach and Manager must be informed of the medical condition and must be provided with the necessary information, and medical equipment to assist the player should the medical condition present. Further to this:
 - i. The Officials must be made aware of any conditions which may impact upon the Match.
 - ii. If the medical condition is such that it may require expert assistance or equipment, the guardians of an underage child must be present at all Matches and training events.
- c) If a Player is registering to any Club for the first time, that Player must provide the Club with evidence of name and age, by producing an original birth certificate, passport, driver's license, or similar form of identification. It is the Club's responsibility to ensure this process is adhered to, including that the Player is eligible to play in the age grade to which he/she has been registered
- d) All registrations must be submitted via the BDSFA specified Registration System, with allocation to the respective Team, and a passport style photo (head and shoulders only) is to be uploaded into the Player or Match Officials profile within the communicated registration period. Any Person without a suitable ID photo may not be permitted to play.
- e) No Player registrations will be accepted after 5.00pm on the 30th of June of the Competition year.

5.2 Player Deregistration

- a) A Player may deregister by applying to deregister via the BDSFA specified Registration System, or via email to the Club, notifying the Club of the Player's intention to deregister.
- b) The deregistration is effective from the earlier:
 - i. When the other party (i.e. Club or Player as the case may be) has confirmed the notification or cancellation and the Player has been deregistered by the Club in the BDSFA Registration System; or
 - ii. Seven (7) days from the date the Player requested the deregistration via the BDSFA Registration System, or email sent to the Club unless a grievance has been initiated with BDSFA in accordance with BDSFA Grievance & Disciplinary Regulations and the Amateur Player will not be deregistered until the processes promulgated by the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations have been exhausted or terminated
 - iii. If a Club fails to deregister a Player after the seven (7) day period has lapsed and no grievance has been initiated, the Player must contact BDSFA via email to complete their deregistration
- c) Any disputes relating to Player deregistration will be settled in accordance with the FA Grievance Resolution Guidelines and BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations
- d) Entitlement to a refund of the BDSFA fees will be as per the BDSFA Refund Policy.



6. PLAYERS EQUIPMENT & CLUB UNIFORM

6.1 Playing Equipment

- a) All Players must wear protective shin pads.
- b) Football specific boots may be worn. Studs must not have any sharp edges.
- c) Players must be in full Club uniform including jersey, shorts, and socks. Jerseys must have a number on the back.
- d) No two Players on the same Team shall be allowed to have identical numbers displayed on their jerseys.
- e) Caps may only be worn by goalkeepers.
- f) The referee is the sole judge who determines whether spectacles are a risk to those playing a match. Referees should show tolerance when authorising their use, especially for younger Players,
- g) Plaster casts or any splint of any hard material (e.g. metal, plastic) are not allowed. The use of a soft material to hide or protect the hard material splint is not allowed.
- h) Jewellery of any type is not allowed, including metal, leather, plastic, or any other material. Hidden jewellery must be removed before entering the Field of Play. Using tape to cover jewellery is not permitted.
- i) Medi-alert items are exempt from 6.1.h)
- j) Hijabs may be worn. The colour of the Hijab must be of the same prominent colour of the uniform or black. Referees are not permitted to check the affixing material or touch the garment.
- k) No kind of demonstration or political, religious, or racial propaganda is permitted prior to, during, or after any BDSFA conducted match.
- l) Compression garments may be worn. The colour of the garments must be of the same prominent colour of the uniform or black.

6.2 Club Uniform and Colour Clash

- a) All Clubs are required to submit their first choice and alternative kit colours to BDSFA prior to the Competition commencing.
- b) Clubs are required to have an alternative strip which is antithetical to their first-choice kit. E.g., a Club which usually wears a dark colour must have an alternative strip which is of a light colour.
- c) Clubs are required to wear their first-choice kit colours for all Matches unless there is a clash of colours, and the referee has determined one Team must change.
- d) During any Fixture, the Teams of the same Club must wear the same playing kit unless instructed otherwise by the referee to resolve a clash with the Match Officials kit.
- e) Unless already determined and communicated by BDSFA, the referee will be the sole decision maker of a clash of colours.
- f) In the case of a clash of colours of field Players the Home Team will be required to wear their alternative playing kit. In this instance only, the Home Team will be identified as the Club whose ground the Match is being played on; in the case of a neutral venue it will be the first Club listed on the draw.



- g) In the case of goal keeper's colours clashing with either the opponent's field Players, goalkeeper or the Match Official's kit, the referee will determine which keeper will change, always keeping in mind the principle that the Home Team should change.
- h) In the case of a combination of first choice and alternative kit colours of both Teams clashing with the Match Officials, the referee will determine the final colours to be worn by all Players and Match Officials
- i) Failure to comply with this article, may result in a fine as per the BDSFA Fines and Penalties and [Annexure 4](#).

7. GROUNDS

- a) Clubs shall be responsible for obtaining their own home grounds.
- b) Clubs shall not enter competition for another Club's ground.
- c) Clubs wishing to share a ground may only do so with the approval of the BDSFA.
- d) The Host Club shall be responsible for correct and adequate marking of the field as per IFAB Rules; including Technical Areas, and shall provide properly secured goal posts, goal nets, corner flags.
- e) The Club on whose ground the match is being played shall provide access to all amenities at no charge to participating teams except for items purchased from the club.
- f) The Club on whose ground the match is being played shall be responsible for supply or erection of nets, corner posts, etc. and for marking the ground.
- g) The Home Team, being the first Team listed on the Match Sheet, shall provide two match balls for the fixture. In the case of a Match at a neutral venue, it is not the responsibility of the Host Club to provide match balls.
- h) A referee may refuse to officiate on an insufficiently marked ground or one that the referee considers dangerous to the Players. In such event this will be reported to the Association and the points connected with the match may be awarded to the visiting Team at the discretion of the Competitions Manager
- i) A visiting Team desirous of protesting against the conditions of the ground, goal posts, nets, corner flags or balls, shall make their protest to the referee prior to the match where the cause of protest is apparent at that time. The referee shall note the protest on the Match Sheet.
- j) The referee shall be empowered to order the Match to be played despite the protests made per 7.h), but where the protests relate to the ground, goal posts, nets, corner flags, or balls not conforming to the Laws of the Game.
- k) Home/Host Clubs shall place ropes, where practicable, along both sides of the field. Such ropes to be placed approximately three (3) metres from the sidelines.
- l) Star posts are not to be used
- m) Should any Ground or Field be deemed unacceptable for use for any reason, including a breach of Section 7 of these Regulations, during a Season, the BDSFA reserves the right to set the most appropriate course of action to conclude the Season, including but not limited to rescheduling matches to alternative venues.



8. GROUND OFFICIALS

- a) All Teams must supply one (1) Ground Official for all Premiership Matches, who must be 18 years of age or older and must have their names recorded on the EMS. Failure to nominate Ground Officials may result in a fine for non-compliance as per [Annexure 4](#).
- b) All Clubs must supply two (2) Ground Officials for all Championship Matches, who must be 18 years of age or older and must have their names recorded on the EMS. Failure to nominate Ground Officials may result in a fine for non-compliance as per [Annexure 4](#).
- c) All Ground Officials are to wear clothing that easily identifies them as Club Officials. (i.e. brightly coloured bibs).
- d) Clubs must ensure that individuals acting as Ground Officials have read and understood the document BDSFA Ground Official Guidelines prior to taking up this role.
- e) Failure by a Club to supply and identify Ground Official(s) for each Match may result in a fine as per the BDSFA Fines and Penalties and [Annexure 4](#).
- f) Clubs and Ground Officials who fail to comply with this section and/or the document BDSFA Ground Official Guidelines may be dealt with in accordance with the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- g) Ground Officials are designated for the control of Spectators and assisting Match Officials when requested. The Ground Official must not be in the Technical Area or Field of Play unless specifically requested by the Match Official.

9. MATCH SHEETS AND TEAM SHEETS

- a) The BDSFA will use electronic Match Sheets (EMS) for all Matches. It is the responsibility of each Team to ensure they have a Team Official who can access the EMS when requested at any time during the Match.
- b) In the case of the EMS not being available for any reason, paper Match Sheets are to be supplied by the Home Club. The sheets must be printed neatly, and a DNP marked next to any Player who did not take part in that Match. The Match Day Supervisor is responsible for the paper Match Sheets to be filled in correctly. All paper sheets are to be scanned and emailed to the Competitions Manager by 12pm on the Monday immediately following the Matches. Scores must be entered by the Home Club via the EMS when it becomes available.
- c) Team managers must enter the Player's shirt number in the space provided. Where a referee notes a jersey number is missing from or is incorrect on the Match Sheet a Team may be fined for incorrect Team Sheet completion and may be investigated for the use of ineligible Players.
- d) Both Home & Away Team managers, as well as the referee must enter the Match score at the conclusion of the Match. Failure by a Team to enter a score within 24 hours of the completion of the Match will result in the loss of the right to protest a result. In the case of a MiniRoos Match, the score will be declared that from the Team that has entered a score or 0-0 if neither Team has entered a score. The BDSFA will make enquiries with the match referee to confirm the score of any match for 12+ age groups and the referees score will stand as final.
- e) Players upgrading from other teams must be added to the Team Sheet. Players not available to borrow via Dribl are not eligible to participate in the Matches. A Player being available to borrow via Dribl does not confirm they are permitted to be borrowed. Clubs must confirm compliance with section 12.



- f) Should any Player(s) nominated on the Match Sheet not take the field, those Players must be unticked. Teams are not permitted to list Players who have not taken the Field of Play. This does not apply to Men's and Women's Premier League.
- g) All Players nominated on the Match Sheet shall be deemed to have played unless a dispute has been lodged and it can be shown that Players did not participate in the Match.
- h) Any Player who participates in the Match but is not listed on the Match Sheet may be deemed ineligible for that Match, resulting in a forfeit by the offending Team unless written permission has been received from the BDSFA Competitions Manager.
- i) It is the responsibility of the Club and Team Officials to ensure any suspended Player does not take the field, and abides with the Notice of Suspension, even if they do not show in Dribl as suspended.
- j) Each Team Manager must submit the Team Sheet via the EMS **10 minutes prior to kick off**. The opposition managers has the right to sight any or all Players for verification against the Member Card in the EMS. The opposition manager, if in agreeance with the submitted Team Sheet, must confirm the opposition Team on the EMS.
- k) If the opposition manager contests the identity of a Player on the EMS, the manager should note a dispute via the disputes section of the EMS, noting the name and ID of the Player. Any contests of identity will be managed by the BDSFA with the offending Club responsible for proving the identity of the contested Player in the Match.
- l) If Member Cards are not available in Dribl for inspection prior to the start of the Match due to a Team refusing to show or failure to provide, the Match shall still be played. The referee and non-offending Teams' Manager must raise a dispute via the EMS prior to the commencement of the Match. This dispute will be investigated by the BDSFA and if legitimate grounds cannot be proven for not presenting the ID, then the offending Team will forfeit the Match.
- m) Should an individual Players Member Card not be available, the said Player will be ineligible to participate unless written permission has been received from the BDSFA.
- n) Each Team must confirm the opposition Team Sheet **no later than the scheduled kick off time in the Match**. Fines may be applied for non-compliance.
- o) No protest will be accepted regarding Player eligibility and identity if Member Cards in Dribl are not checked and/or a dispute raised via the EMS **prior to the start of the Match**. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure checks are completed.
- p) Exception to 9. n-o will only be permitted in cases where the Dribl log shows a match sheet was submitted less than five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the Match.
- q) Once the Match has commenced, Players may only be entered on to the Team Sheet by consent of both the Home & Away Team Managers, but not to replace a Player who has already taken part in the Match. To add a player the opposition must unconfirm the Team Sheet prior to the team un-submitting their Team Sheet, the player can then be added and the Team Sheet resubmitted and reconfirmed.
- r) Member Cards in Dribl for Players that arrive after the opposition Manager has confirmed the Team must be produced prior the Player taking the Field of Play. Failure to provide ID for these Players may result in the Player being deemed ineligible.



- s) **All reasonable effort should be made for Managers to settle disputes at the ground prior to the conclusion of the match in consultation with the opposition manager and Match Day Supervisor if required.**
- t) Match sheet disputes may only be used for the purposes as set out in section 9 of these Regulations. Match sheet disputes are not for the purpose of incident reporting or disputing the decision of a match official.
- u) Once completed, all information contained on Match Sheets pertaining to the Players that participated, the substitutions and the result of the Match will be deemed as correct, unless an official letter from a Club, showing proof to the contrary, is received within 48 hours of the completion of the Match. The BDSFA will make a determination on the Match based on the details provided and further information sought from other parties. A decision of the BDSFA may be appealed. All appeals will be heard by the BDSFA through a three (3) Person panel.
- v) If a Match Official has entered the incorrect information with respect to a yellow card offence it will be amended if confirmed by the Match Official in writing or if the team can provide video evidence that the information is correct.
- w) If a Match Official has entered the incorrect information with respect to a red card offence it will be dealt with in line with the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- x) In the event that the Match Official does not record a yellow or red card, it will be amended if confirmed by the Match Official in writing.

10. NON-COMPETITIVE FOOTBALL FORMAT (UNDER 5 TO UNDER 11)

10.1 Playing Conditions

- a) The Playing Conditions of all MiniRoo Leagues shall be of a non-competitive nature and all scores, results and tables will not be available for public viewing.
- b) Scores shall be recorded by both Team Managers as per these Regulations via the EMS.
- c) A retreat of five (5) metres is used for all starts and restarts of Matches unless specifically outlined in the Regulations.
- d) All other conditions outlined in these Regulations shall be enforced except for items listed in Section 10: MiniRoos
- e) The playing numbers are as follows

League	Maximum number of Players on the field	Minimum number of Players on the field
U5, U6	4	3
U7, U8, U9	7	5
U10, U11	9	6

10.2 MiniRoos Field of Play

- a) MiniRoo fields will be marked using painted lines only. Field markings shall include sidelines, goal lines, penalty areas and penalty spot (if applicable), halfway line, and centre circle for all U7, U8, U9, U10 and U11 age groups. Sidelines, goal lines, and halfway lines must be marked for U5 and U6 age groups.



- b) MiniRoos fields shall be of the following dimensions:

League	Width	Length
U5, U6	20m	30m
U7, U8, U9	30-40m	40-50m
U10, U11	40-50m	60-70m

- c) MiniRoo Goals shall be portable and rectangular in shape.
- d) Goals must have nets securely attached to the goal.
- e) To comply with Australian Safety Standards, portable goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Refer to the FNSW Goalpost Safety Policy
- f) MiniRoo goal sizes shall be of the following dimensions:

League	Width	Length
U5, U6	2m	1m
U7, U8, U9	3m	2m
U10, U11	5m	2m

- g) Penalty areas shall be of the following dimensions:

League	Width	Length
U5, U6	NA	NA
U7, U8, U9	12m	5m
U10, U11	20m	10m

10.3 Goalkeepers

- a) There is no goalkeeper in the U5 or U6 Age Groups. Players may stand in defensive positions but those taking up the position of a goalkeeper in the opinion of the Game Leader will be instructed to move forward on the field.
- b) Goalkeepers may not kick or drop-kick the ball from their hands directly from a save. Goalkeepers distribute the ball directly from a save only via:
- i. Rolling the ball from their hands
 - ii. Throwing the ball from their hands
 - iii. Placing the ball on the ground and kicking the ball, only after the opposition team has been retreated.
- c) The opposition must retreat 10m from the end of the penalty area at every goalkeeper save and cannot move inside that area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it is released from the goalkeeper.
- d) Deliberate back-passes in the U7, U8 and U9 age groups will not be penalised.



10.4 Ball Crossing the Sideline

- a) The following procedures will take place in the case of a ball crossing a sideline:

League	Action
U5, U6	A player from the opposing team to the player that touched the ball last before crossing the touchline will place the ball on the touch line and pass or dribble the ball into play. Opponents must be at least five (5) metres away from the ball until it is in play. The ball must touch another player before a goal can be scored.
U7, U8, U9	Throw in. Player faces the field of play, has part of each foot on the ground either on or behind the touch line, uses both hands and delivers the ball from behind and over his or her head. The thrower must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. Opponents must be at least five (5) metres away from the ball until it is in play. Foul throws are not penalised in U7. The ball is in play once it enters the field of play. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw in.
U10, U11	Throw in. Player faces the field of play, has part of each foot on the ground either on or behind the touch line, uses both hands and delivers the ball from behind and over his or her head. The thrower must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. Opponents must be at least five (5) metres away from the ball until it is in play. Foul throws will be penalised by order of the opposition gaining the throw in. The ball is in play once it enters the field of play. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw in.

10.5 Ball Crossing the Goal Line

- a) If the ball legally crosses the goal line and into the goal, a goal is awarded, and play is restarted with a kick off at the centre point of the field by the opposition.
- b) If a ball crosses the goal line without entering the goal from an attacking player, a goal kick is awarded.
- The opposition team must retreat to the half-way line.
 - The goal kick may be taken by either dribbling the ball or passing to a teammate from anywhere on the goal line for U5 and U6.
 - The goal kick may be taken and passed to a teammate from anywhere within the penalty area for U7, U8, U9, U10 and U11.
- c) If a ball crosses the goal line without entering the goal from a defending player:
- A goal kick is awarded in the U5 and U6 age groups.
 - A corner kick is awarded in the U7, U8, U9, U10, U11 age groups.
 - Corners in the U10 and U11 age groups shall be taken on the goal line from halfway between the corner of the field and the penalty area.
 - Goals can be scored directly from a corner kick.
 - The opposition players must retreat five (5) metres from a corner kick.

10.6 Fouls and Misconduct

- a) Indirect free kicks are awarded for all acts of fouls and misconduct.
- b) In the U7, U8, U9, U10 and U11 age groups, for fouls and misconduct performed by a defending team in the penalty area of that team, a penalty kick will be awarded to the attacking team from an eight (8) metre mark from the centre of the goal line. Except for the goalkeeper and penalty taker, all other players must be five (5) metres behind the penalty mark.
- c) There are no penalties in the U5, and U6 age groups.



10.7 Offsides

- a) There is no offside enforced in the U5, U6, U7, U8, U9 age groups.
- b) The offside rule will be enforced in the U10 and U11 age groups for clear and obvious offsides in the opinion of the Game Leader.

10.8 MiniRoo Rules

The rules specific to each MiniRoo age group can be found at

- i. Under 5-6 – [Annexure 5](#)
- ii. Under 7-9 – [Annexure 6](#)
- iii. Under 10-11 – [Annexure 7](#)



11. COMPETITIVE FOOTBALL FORMAT

11.1 Laws of the Game

- a) All Fixtures will be played in compliance with the BDSFA Regulations in force at the time and in accordance with FFA and FNSW By-Laws, regulations, codes, and directives, and under the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- b) There shall be no Sin Bin rule enforced in the BDSFA.

11.2 Technical Specifications

- a) Durations of Matches, excluding 5-minute interval and ball size will be.

Age Grade	Duration of Match	Ball Size
Under 12	50 Minutes	Size 4
Under 13	60 Minutes	Size 4
Under 14	60 Minutes	Size 5
Under 15	70 Minutes	Size 5
Under 16	70 Minutes	Size 5
Under 18	90 Minutes	Size 5
Under 21	90 Minutes	Size 5
All Age	90 Minutes	Size 5
Over 35	90 Minutes	Size 5
Over 45	90 Minutes	Size 5
Over 30W	90 Minutes	Size 5

11.3 Under 12 Rules

- a) The Under 12 age group will play competitive football on a smaller field in a 9v9 format
- b) Unless specifically listed below, all rules will be as per the BDSFA Regulations and Laws of the Game for an 11v11 full field Match
- c) The field size will be between 60-70 metres long and 40-50 metres wide
- d) Goals will be five (5) metres wide and two (2) metres high
- e) The penalty spot will be eight (8) metres from the goal line
- f) Teams will consist of a maximum of nine (9) Players on the field from each Team, including a goalkeeper
- g) Teams must always maintain a minimum of six (6) Players on the field including a goalkeeper
- h) Each Team may use a maximum of five (5) reserves
- i) Under 12 Matches will be officiated by referees where possible with yellow/red cards being permitted
- j) Defending teams must remain 5 metres from the ball during a kick off until the attacking team has touched the ball
- k) An exclusion zone of 20 metres from the goal line must be marked with either a painted line on the field or by placing marking on the sideline. On goal kicks, the opposition team must retreat beyond this line until
 - i. The ball has been passed too and touched by a second player within the exclusion zone
 - ii. The ball has left the exclusion zone
 - iii. The ball has left the Field of Play



- l) The offside rule will be the same as an 11v11 full field Match

11.4 Competition Points

- a) Competition points will be awarded as follows:

Win (by result or forfeit)	Three (3) points
Draw	One (1) point
Loss	Zero (0) points
Bye	Zero (0) points

11.5 Competition Structure

- a) The Men's Premier League and WPL are administered under separate regulations. These separate regulations shall be referred to in the first instance. Where the separate Competition regulations for these Competitions fall silent on any aspect, regard will be given to these Regulations.
- b) The Competition shall start on a date to be fixed by the Competitions Manager.
- c) The Season will consist of 18 Rounds played in a format determined by the Competitions Manager
 - i. Six (6) Team Divisions will play each other three times plus three (3) extra Rounds.
 - ii. Eight (8) Team Divisions will play each other twice plus four (4) extra Rounds.
 - iii. 10 teams Divisions will play each other twice.
 - iv. Divisions with more than 10 Teams will play each other once plus extra Rounds to equal 18.
 - v. Other Divisions will follow a competition structure determined by the Competitions Manager to equal 18 Rounds.
- d) The duration of the Competition will be decided each year by the Board subject to 11.5b)
- e) Matches shall be played on grounds set down by the Competitions Manager and shall commence at stipulated times, with no amendment, except where extenuating circumstances have delayed the previous Matches, and it is not possible for a Match to commence at the stipulated time. In such cases the Match will commence immediately following the preceding Match.
- f) Matches to be played, where possible, Friday nights for Masters, Saturdays for Under 5 to Under 18 age groups inclusive and on Sundays for all other adult Leagues. Junior & All Age Female Leagues will be played on Sunday.
- g) Unless otherwise specifically designated in a relevant By-Law the first named Team in the draw shall be deemed the Home Team.
- h) In the event of inclement weather causing postponement of Matches, as many Matches as possible shall be played on the day.
- i) When a complete Round is washed out it will be replayed on days as allocated by the Competitions Manager.
- j) The Board may void a Round, if necessary, to complete the Season.
- k) When other than a complete Round is washed out, the Competitions Manager will set down the Matches at their discretion.
- l) Where a Team is participating in a competition conducted by FNSW, the BDSFA Match will be postponed, and played as per 15 a)



- m) Subject to the discretion of the Board, the four highest placed Teams will enter a final series at the end of the Season.
- n) The Competition will be decided on points, and then goal difference and goals scored.
- o) In the event that there are an uneven number of byes or uneven number of Matches played in a Competition then the Premiership ranking will be determined by the Competition points divided by the number of Matches played.
- p) In the event that partial Rounds are unable to be played, and therefore uneven Matches in a League, the Premiership ranking will be determined by the Competition's points divided by the number of Matches played.
- q) Where the League cannot be decided based on 11.5 n-p a play-off Match will be arranged at the discretion of the Competitions manager as per 11.6.
- r) Any protest or dispute must be communicated to the Competitions Manager within 48 hours of the conclusion of the Match. The Competitions Manager will make a determination about the protest or dispute. A decision of the BDSFA may be appealed. All appeals will be heard by a three (3) Person panel appointed by the BDSFA. field of play decisions by the Match Official are not appealable unless it can be proven the decision was made in bad faith or the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations permit the appeal.

11.6 Play Offs

- a) In the event that a play-off must be arranged to determine a League Champion, or which Team is to proceed to the Finals Series, that is where Teams in the same division are equal on points, goal difference and goals scored the play-off shall be arranged by the Competitions Manager.
- b) The play-off shall be played over the normal time for the age group playing as per 11.2 a).
- c) If the two teams are tied at the end of normal time, extra time shall be played as follows:
 - i. Under 12 to Under 16 inclusive 5 minutes each way
 - ii. Under 17 to All Age inclusive 10 minutes each way
- d) Stoppage time will be used in all Play Off Matches.
- e) Golden Goal rule applies in extra time. The Match will end when a goal is scored.
- f) If all is equal after the second period of extra time penalty shoot outs, as per the IFAB Laws of the Game, will determine the winner.
- g) In all play-offs or replays each Team shall supply one match ball.
- h) In all play-offs, all Teams must supply two suitably identified Ground Officials who act in accordance with section 8 of the Regulations.
- i) The Club on whose Ground the Match is being played shall open all facilities and be responsible for supply or erection of nets, corner posts, etc. and for marking the Ground.



11.7 Finals

- a) In each Division the top four (4) placed Teams based on 11.5 n-q will contest a Finals Series thus:
- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| i. Match 1 | First plays Second |
| ii. Match 2 | Third plays Fourth (loser exits) |
| iii. Match 3 | Loser Match 1 v Winner Match 2 |
| iv. Final | Winner Game 1 v Winner Game 3 |
- b) If the Finals Series requires adjustment due to Force Majeure the following may occur:
- Match 1 First plays fourth (loser exits)
 - Match 2 Second plays third (loser exits)
 - Final Winner Match 1 v Winner Match 2
- Or in the event of a one-week final series
- Final First plays v second
- or in the event of Force Majeure the Finals Series may be cancelled and the highest Team on the Competition Ladder will be declared the League Winner.
- c) All Players Mapped to the Team, in line with section 3.3, will be automatically Mapped to the Team for the final series. All additional Players must be nominated prior to the commencement of Finals Series commencing on the form provided. No additional Players may be added once the Finals Series has commenced.
- d) An All Age of Masters Player who has been borrowed into a WPL or Men's Premier League Squad on more than eight (8) occasions will not be eligible for the final series in AAM, AAW or Master's Leagues
- e) Players may be nominated to participate in the final series for a Team besides the one they are Mapped to if they have played at least eight (8) Matches for the upgraded Team and comply with 11.7c-d).
- f) Any protest or dispute regarding a semi-final Match must be reported to the Competitions Manager on the day of the Match via SMS from the Club executive. All decisions by the BDSFA will be final and not subject to appeal.
- g) Any protest or dispute regarding a Grand Final Match must be reported to the Competitions Manager within 15 minutes of the end of the Match via SMS from the Club executive. All decisions by the BDSFA will be final and not subject to appeal.
- h) The Winner of the Grand Final will be the League Winner.
- i) Stoppage time will be used in all final series Matches.
- j) During the Finals Series, if scores are equal at full time, all Matches will be resolved thus:
- Under 12 to Under 16s - Extra Time 5 Minutes each way with a 2-minute break.
 - Under 17 to All Age - Extra Time 10 Minutes each way with a 2-minute break.
- k) Golden Goal applies in extra time. The Match will end when a goal is scored.
- l) If all is equal after the second period of extra time penalty shoot outs, as per the IFAB Laws of the Game, will determine the winner.
- m) Teams in the Under 12-14 age group are permitted to have one Coach standing with the team in the middle of the Field during a penalty shootout.



- n) In the event that a Finals Series Match cannot be completed due to external factors (e.g. weather, lighting, serious injury, Ground conditions) then the Match is to be rescheduled and only the remaining time shall be played as per section 14 g)
- o) For the Finals Series and Grand Finals, all Teams must supply two suitably identified Ground Officials who act in accordance with section 8 of the Regulations.
- p) The Club on whose ground the Match is being played shall open all amenities and be responsible for supply or erection of nets, corner posts, etc. and for marking the Ground.

11.8 Substitution and Interchange

- a) Interchange will be used in all age groups and divisions except for Men's Premier League first grade.
- b) Substitutes and Interchange Players may be added on the Team Sheet during the Match in accordance with section 9.
- c) Interchange Players may enter and/or leave the Field of Play as many times as necessary, but only with the express permission of the referee.
- d) Both Teams' Officials are responsible for ensuring the correct numbers of Players are always on the Field of Play.
- e) Substitutes may not return to play after being substituted in that Match.
- f) The number of substitutes/interchange Players per Match is as follows:
 - i. U12 to All Age a maximum of five (5) players
 - ii. Master's a maximum of seven (7) players

12. PLAYING OUT OF GRADE/BORROWING

- a) The use of upgraded Players cannot make the total Players appearing on the Team Sheet, plus any suspended players, exceed the total permitted Players in that age group as per 3.1 c)
- b) An upgraded Player cannot replace a suspended Player.
- c) A maximum of 4 Players may upgrade per competition Match (Under 12-Masters) excluding Leagues bound by the BDSFA Premier League Regulations or Women's Premier League Regulations.
- d) Players registered in the Under 5 – Under 11 age groups may upgrade into any Team of their own age or higher age group regardless of division in accordance with 12.j).
- e) A Player registered into a 12+ age Team may never play in a Team graded in a lower age group and/or division than that to which they are Mapped.
- f) A Player may upgrade for a Team in their own age group but a higher division (i.e. 12/2 to 12/1)
- g) A Player may upgrade for a Team in a higher age group in the same or higher division (i.e. 12/1 to 13/1, 13/4 to 14/3 etc) in accordance with 12.j)
- h) A Player from the Phoenix League (Female Competition) may upgrade for a Team in the BDSFA Competition in their own age group in the same or higher division (i.e. 12G/1 to 12/1, 14G/2 to 14/1 etc).



- i) A Player from the Phoenix League (Female Competition) may upgrade for a Team in the BDSFA Competition in a higher age group in the same or higher division (i.e. 12G/1 to 13/1, 14G/2 to 14/1 etc) in accordance with 12.j)
- j) Players may only upgrade into age groups a maximum of 3 years above their age as of 31st December of the calendar year in which the Competition is played.
- k) A Player must be older than or turning 17 in the year of Competition to play in the Under 21 or All Age Competitions in accordance with section 12.
- l) Masters may upgrade into the All-Age Competitions as per [Annexure 2](#).
- m) Age relevant All Age Players may upgrade into the Masters Competition as per [Annexure 2](#).
- n) As per 3.1 b), Where a Club has more than one Team playing in the same League, Players in each Team must be Mapped to one of the teams prior to the first Competition Match and shall not be interchangeable without special permission of the Executive. Such permission to be sought in writing and permission granted prior to playing for the other Team.
- o) Any breach of borrowing Regulations would result in the offending Player being deemed ineligible and the Match being forfeited by the offending Team.
- p) It is the responsibility of the Club and Team to ensure any borrowed Players are eligible to participate regardless of the Players status on Dribl.

13. FORFEITS

- a) Any Team not in attendance at the designated Ground and ready to take the Field at the due time shall be deemed to have forfeited the Match. The referee shall endorse the Match Sheet to the effect that: “the name of the team” was not ready to take the field.
- b) In full field Matches, if the minimum number of Players is available, the Match must commence on time, or when the referee takes the Field of Play to commence the Match.
- c) If less than the minimum number of Players are available, 10 minutes will be allowed to equal the minimum number whereby the referee will call the Match forfeited and endorse the Match Sheet. In such cases the referee will be the sole judge of time.
- d) A Team must always field a minimum of seven (7) Players for ages 13+, 6 Players for the Under 12 age group, or as designated in 10.1 f) for MiniRoo Matches.
- e) Failure to maintain the minimum number of Players as per 13.d), shall result in the referee terminating the Match whereupon a forfeit win will be awarded to the non-offending Team. No forfeit financial penalty will be applied to the Club in this instance, but the club may still face sanctions under the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- f) The referee shall report such matters in the usual way, which will be dealt with as per the Regulations.
- g) A Team will be deemed to forfeit a Match when an Ineligible Player participates in the Match.
- h) Teams forfeiting on three occasions during the Season may be removed from the Competition.
- i) Any Team forfeiting during the final series will be removed from the Competition.



- j) Where there is a forfeit, the non-offending Team shall be awarded the points and a score of 3-0 (or their score will stand if more than 3 at the time of an on-field forfeit).
- k) When a Match is forfeited without notice to the Association, the non-offending Team shall submit an electronic Match Sheet in the usual manner, completed by the referee, who shall note on the Match Sheet that the other Team forfeited as per 13 a).
- l) The Executive may deal with any Team that is deemed to have forfeited a Match to gain advantage, or to disadvantage another Team, as it may see fit.
- m) Any Team who forfeits during the last four (4) calendar dated Rounds of the Season will be deemed ineligible for the Finals Series.
- n) If, in the case of a Team finishing in the top four (4) positions who becomes ineligible to compete in a final's series, then the next eligible Team in order of the table will move in the final's series.
- o) Fines will apply for all team forfeits.
 - i. Clubs that notify the Association prior to 7:00pm Thursday for all weekend Matches and within 48 hours of mid-week Matches, including Masters, will pay \$50 forfeit fee.
 - ii. Clubs that do not notify the Association as per 13.o.i. will pay a forfeit fee equal to the Referee and two ARs fees plus \$100.00.
- p) The BDSFA in its absolute discretion may deem any match forfeited for a breach of any relevant regulations

14. MATCH TERMINATIONS

- a) When a Match is abandoned by a referee, for any cause whatsoever, the matter shall be referred to the Executive who will investigate the circumstances appertaining to the abandonment and shall be authorised to make determinations.
- b) When a Match is terminated because of violence, the Executive will investigate the matter and shall be authorised to recommend the case be heard by a GPT. Refer to the BDSFA Grievance & Disciplinary Regulations.
- c) Teams causing a Match to be terminated before its natural conclusion through a mass "Walk Off," or refusal to allow play to continue shall be deemed to have committed serious Misconduct against the BDSFA Inc. Refer to the BDSFA Grievance & Disciplinary Regulations.
- d) Should a Team/Club, Team/Club Official, its Players, or Spectators be found to have caused the justified abandonment of the Match, the Match will be forfeited by that Team/Club to the opposition, and the offending Team/Club may be subject to sanction under the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- e) Should both Teams/Clubs be found to have caused the abandonment of the Match, the Match will not be replayed, and no Match result will be recorded. Teams/Clubs may be subject to further sanctions under the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- f) In instances where no Team/Club is found to be at fault, the BDSFA will determine in its absolute discretion whether a Match will be replayed and the coordination of a replayed Match (venue, date time, amount of time remaining, etc). In determining whether a match will be replayed the BDSFA may consider any factors it deems relevant. The following will be used a guideline only
 - i. 60% or more of the normal Match duration has been played, and the scores are not level, the score at the time of the abandonment will be declared the final result



- ii. Either the scores are level or less than 60% of the normal Match duration has been played (or both), the Match will be rescheduled by the BDSFA within two weeks of the original date.
- g) In instances where a Match is deemed to recommence under 14 f), the following principles will apply:
- i. The Referee is the sole arbiter of elapsed time, and no protest may be lodged in respect of the elapsed time as recorded by the Referee.
 - ii. The score at the time when the Match was Abandoned will remain the score at the time when the Match recommences.
 - iii. Only those Players who participated in the original fixture may participate in the rescheduled fixture unless a Player or Players has/have received a disciplinary Suspension in the interim. In the case of Leagues with limited substitution, Clubs must ensure the same Players are on the Field as when the Match was abandoned.
 - iv. If a Player has received a Suspension in a Match that took place between the abandonment and the rescheduling of the Abandoned Match:
 - a. The Player will not be eligible to participate in the rescheduled Match.
 - b. The Player will not be able to count the rescheduled Match as a Fixture served for the disciplinary Suspension.
 - c. The Player's Team will not be permitted to replace the Player on the digital Match Sheet.
 - d. If the Player was on the Field of Play at the time of the abandonment, the Player may be replaced by a substitute listed on the digital Match Sheet, as long as their Club has available substitutions as per the Regulations; and
 - e. If the Player was a substitute at the time of the abandonment, the number of available substitutes will decrease, as the Player cannot be replaced.
 - v. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of Players on the digital Match Sheet.
 - vi. The Clubs can make no more than the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the Match was Abandoned.
 - vii. Players sent off before the Match was Terminated cannot be replaced.
 - viii. The BDSFA will endeavour to appoint the same Match Officials to the rescheduled Match, however it may appoint replacements should any or all of the Match Officials be unavailable.
 - ix. If a Club fails to participate in a rescheduled Match, it will forfeit the Match.

15. DEFERRAL OF SCHEDULED MATCHES

- a) If a Team participating in the FNSW State Cup, or other FNSW competitions requires a Match to be deferred due to a clash, they must make themselves available to play the rescheduled Match on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening within 21 days of the originally scheduled Match. The Competitions Manager will determine the date of this Match. Matches will only be deferred if both Matches are drawn on the same day or both participating Clubs have agreed to defer the Match.
- b) Requests to reschedule all other regular Season Matches must be submitted to the Competitions Manager at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled Match date. The request must be submitted by a member of the Club committee and include agreement from the opposition Club about date, time, and venue for the Match.
- c) The agreed upon details for the deferred Match must not impact upon the ability of any other Match to be played at its scheduled time.
- d) It is the responsibility of Clubs to find suitable times for the deferral of a Match. Where agreement cannot be reached between the two Clubs, the Match will be played as originally scheduled except for FNSW competitions as per 15.a)



- e) No requests for deferral will be accepted for Matches in the last two calendar dated Rounds of the Season or Final Series Matches.

16. REFEREES AND REFEREE FEES

- a) Referee's fees shall be determined each year by the BDSFA.
- b) The Board shall determine the way in which Referees are paid for services.
- c) Referees shall be appointed to all Matches by the Blacktown City Soccer Referees Branch (BCSRB) or at the direction of the BDSFA
- d) If a referee is not in attendance, in all Competition Matches, a substitute must be appointed with the following preference:
 - i. An official referee from any Branch
 - ii. Home Team Club Referee, this being the team listed first on the draw
 - iii. Away Team Club Referee
 - iv. Any other Club Referee
 - v. Any other capable Person.Failure to comply with 16.d) i-v may result in the Match being forfeit by the Home Team and awarded to the Away Team.
- e) It is not the responsibility of the Host Club when not participating in a match to provide Match Officials.
- f) Once a substitute is appointed, they shall assume all responsibilities of an officially appointed referee and shall make themselves aware of their obligations regarding submitting reports to the BDSFA. They shall be added to the Match Sheet by the Home Team under the official's section on the EMS as a non-accredited referee.
- g) Administration fees may be issued where a Club does not provide cash payment to a referee when instructed by the BDSFA. Events which may involve cash payment include
 - i. Gala Days
 - ii. Trial Matches
 - iii. Special Events organised by a Club or the BDSFA

17. CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

- a) In divisions eligible to enter the Champion of Champions the Minor Premiers will enter subject to Board approval.
- b) Teams nominated to Champion of Champions must inform the Competitions Manager prior to the Semi Finals Series of their intentions to withdraw from the Competition if they are unable to participate.
- c) Where a Team that qualifies for the Champion of Champion tournament does not wish to participate, the next placed Team in the League, based on 11.5 m-q) may be nominated at the discretion of the Board.
- d) At the discretion of the Board and subject to the Regulations, the First Division Minor Premier in all Leagues Under 13 to Under 18, 21 Women, Premier 21, Over 30 Women, Over 35 Men, Over 45 Men, and BDSFA Women's and Men's highest All Age League (Women's Premier League and Men's Premier League 1 First Grade) may be entered into the Champion of Champions.
- e) Where P21's is split into two or more conferences, the winner of the grand final may be entered into the Champion of Champions.
- f) Teams entering the Champion of Champions must read and understand all rules and playing conditions. Fines, as set by FNSW, apply for non-compliance.



- g) Female Teams will be decided by the highest placed BDSFA registered Team in their corresponding age group division one League.
- h) Where the BDSFA does not provide League in an age group played in FNSW Champion of Champions, the BDSFA, in its absolute discretion, may offer opportunity to participate to age eligible Teams, as per the FNSW Champion of Champions Regulations. Only teams competing in division 1 Leagues will be offered this opportunity. Where multiple teams within a League are eligible, the team ranking highest on the Competition ladder will be offered the first opportunity followed by teams in descending order.

18. TROPHIES

- a) The Grand Final winner and runner-up in each age group or division of a Season's Competitions shall be awarded a trophy.
- b) The Junior (12-18) Club Championships will be awarded to the Club with the highest number of points based on the below formula

Points with division multiplier applied*
Total No. of Matches played*
- c) The Club Championship (age 12-Masters) will be awarded to the Club with the highest number of points based on the below formula

Points with division multiplier applied*
Total No. of Matches played*

*The division multiplier awards more points to the higher divisions and scales down as divisions get lower. This is designed to encourage Clubs who enter higher division Teams.
- d) The Fair Play Award will be awarded to the Club with the lowest average number of offence points in a season for teams 12+, excluding Men's and Women's Premier League. Offence points are awarded for all yellow cards, weeks suspended, and other offences as set out in the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- e) Clubs shall return to the Association, by 30th June in each year, any perpetual trophies presented to their Teams for the previous Season.
- f) Only BDSFA Clubs are eligible to receive Club Championship



19. PRIVATE ACADEMY RELATIONSHIP

- a) BDSFA recognises that a Club may choose to engage a private academy or external provider to deliver a variety of services to its Players including, but not limited to, match day and training services.
- b) Subject to satisfying all registration requirements, a nominated Team will not be excluded from the Competitions only because of its relationship with a private academy or external provider.
- c) Teams agree and acknowledge that:
 - i. Their playing name must not include the name of, or reference to, a private academy or external provider.
 - ii. While participating in Matches, Players must wear the Team's usual playing strip
 - iii. While at a venue, any branding of a private academy or external provider on signage, or other equipment shall not be shown; and
- d) Should a Team be accepted into the Competitions and subsequently be found to be in breach 19 a)-d), that Team may be removed from the Competition by the BDSFA in its absolute discretion.



20. REFERENCES

FFA National Code of Conduct and Ethics - [Football Australia](#)

FFA National Member Protection Framework - [Member Protection Framework | Football Australia](#)

FFA National Registration Regulations - [National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations](#)

FFA National Spectator Code of Behaviour - [Spectator Code of Behaviour](#)

FNSW Goalpost Safety Policy - [Goalpost-safety-Policy](#)

FNSW Extreme Heat Policy - [FNSW-Extreme-Heat-Policy](#)

FNSW Lightning Policy - [FNSW Lightning Policy](#)

FNSW Working With Children Check Policy - [FNSW-Working-with-Children-Check-Policy](#)

IFAB Laws of the Game - [2025/26 Laws of the Game](#)

Play by the Rules - [Play by the Rules - Making Sport inclusive, safe, and fair](#)

MiniRoos Resources - [Resources | Play Football](#)



ANNEXURE 1. AGE ELIGIBILITY FOR 2026

Age Group	Date of Birth
Over 30	Players that have turned 30 before 1st January 2026. For example, Players must be born in 1995 or earlier.
Over 35	Players that have turned 35 before 1st January 2026. For example, Players must be born in 1990 or earlier.
Over 45	Players that have turned 45 before 1st January 2026. For example, Players must be born in 1980 or earlier. Reference should also be given to 3.1 f)
All Age	Players born before 01-01-2009
U21	Players born on or after 01-01-2005 and before 01-01-2009
U18	Players born on or after 01-01-2008
U16	Players born on or after 01-01-2010
U15	Players born on or after 01-01-2011
U14	Players born on or after 01-01-2012
U13	Players born on or after 01-01-2013
U12	Players born on or after 01-01-2014
U11	Players born on or after 01-01-2015
U10	Players born on or after 01-01-2016
U9	Players born on or after 01-01-2017
U8	Players born on or after 01-01-2018
U7	Players born on or after 01-01-2019
U6	Players born on or after 01-01-2020
U5	Players born on or after 01-01-2021



ANNEXURE 2. MASTERS BORROWING MATRIX

		TEAMS YOU CAN BORROW FROM																			
		18/1	18/2	18/3	18G/1	AAM3	AAM4	AAM5	AAM6	AAW2	AAW3	AAW4	35/1	35/2	35/3	35/4	35/5	30/1	30/2	45/1	
Y O U R T E A M	AAM3	C	C	C			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
	AAM4		C	C			✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
	AAM5			C					✓						✓	✓	✓			✓	
	AAM6															✓	✓			✓	
	AAW2				C						✓	✓						✓	✓		
	AAW3				C							✓							✓		
	AAW4																		✓		
	35/1					C	C	C	C						✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
	35/2					C	C	C	C							✓	✓	✓			✓
	35/3						C	C	C								✓	✓			✓
	35/4							C	C									✓			✓
	35/5								C												✓
	30/1									C	C	C								✓	
	30/2											C									
	45/1					C	C	C	C				C	C	C	C	C				

✓	Eligible Play/Can Borrow
C	Eligible Player Dependent on Age and/or Gender Restrictions
	Ineligible Player/Cannot Borrow
No player from WPL, WPL21, Men's Premier 1st, Reserves or Premier 21s may be borrowed to any other age group	



ANNEXURE 3. 2026 REFEREE FEES

LEAGUE/AGE GROUP	CENTRE REFEREE	ASSISTANT REFEREE (EACH)
Premier League 1 st Grade	\$90	\$45
Premier League Reserves and Premier 21	\$80	\$40
All Age Men and All Age Women	\$80	\$40
Over 30 Women, Over 35 and Over 45 Men	\$80	\$40
Under 21	\$80	\$40
Under 18	\$70	\$35
Under 16	\$60	\$30
Under 15	\$55	\$28
Under 13 and Under 14	\$45	\$23
Under 12	\$40	\$20
Under 10 and Under 11	\$26	NA
Under 7, Under 8 and Under 9	\$18	NA
Under 5 and Under 6	\$14	NA



ANNEXURE 4. TABLE OF FINES

Team forfeits before cut-off time (section 13)	\$50
Team forfeits after cut-off time (section 13)	\$100 + Referee and AR fees for that age
Failure to submit Team Sheet on EMS by required time (section 9)	\$25
Incomplete or incorrect EMS (section 9)	\$50
Failure to nominate suitable Ground Officials on Dribl (section 8)	\$50
Failure to provide suitable Ground Officials (section 8)	\$100
Grounds not marked to specification (section 7)	\$100
Failure to dress Fields correctly (section 7)	\$100
Failure to provide seating in Technical Areas	\$100 per offence
Failure to open amenities (section 7)	\$250
Withdrawing a Team after nominations close but prior to the first round of the Season (does not include Teams in Premier League competitions)	\$250
Withdrawing a Team after the first round of the Season	\$500
Non-attendance of compulsory meeting (section 2.9)	\$200
Failure to provide suitable alternate uniform (section 6.2)	\$50



ANNEXURE 5. UNDER 5-6 PLAYING RULES

Number of players	4-a-side with no goalkeeper. 3 maximum reserves
Field of play	30m x 20m, painted lines with a half-way line
Goal Size	2m wide 1m high
Ball Size	Size 3
Duration	15-minute halves
Penalty area	No penalty area

Goal type

Portable, rectangular goals are to be used.

To comply with Australian Safety Standards, portable goals must be anchored securely to the ground. The use of sandbags or pegs is recommended when using portable goals.

Goalkeeper

There are no goalkeepers in MiniRoos Under 5-6.

Ball crossing the touch line

There is no throw in.

A player from the opposing team to the player that touched the ball last before crossing the touch line will place the ball on the touch line and pass or dribble the ball into play.

Opponents must be at least **5m away** from the ball until it is in play. The ball must touch a teammate before a goal can be scored.

Ball crossing the goal line

There is no corner kick.

Regardless of which team touched the ball last, a player from the team whose goal line the ball has crossed will place the ball anywhere along the goal line and pass or dribble the ball into play. Opponents must **retreat to the halfway line** and can move once the ball is in play. The ball must touch a teammate before a goal can be scored.

Offside

There is **no offside** rule in MiniRoos Under 5-6.

Fouls and misconduct

Indirect free kicks are awarded for all acts of handball or fouls and misconduct. Opponents must be at least **5m away** from the ball when the indirect free kick is taken. (An indirect free kick is where a goal can be scored only if the ball subsequently touches another player before it enters the goal).

Most acts of handball or fouls and misconduct at this level are caused by a lack of coordination, with no intent. In this case try and give the advantage to the attacking team and continue to play. If there is a deliberate or serious act of handball, foul or misconduct has occurred, the Game Leaders will explain to the child they have done the wrong thing and that they should not do this again. Free kicks should be awarded as appropriate.

Match results and points tables

The recording of match results will be conducted by the Game Leader and team managers on the electronic team sheets for the purpose of assigning teams to appropriate leagues, ensuring the most enjoyable experience for all players.

Game Leaders

The BDSFA will provide training and education for Game Leaders. Allocations will be performed by the hosting club. In the case of no official Game Leader being present, any capable person can officiate.

All official and non-official Game Leaders are entitled to payment.

Grading

Players are generally not graded at this age. Players will be placed in suitable teams by their club. Re-draws may occur at the discretion of the Competition Manager to assist with creating an enjoyable experience for all players.



ANNEXURE 6. UNDER 7-9 PLAYING RULES

Number of players	7-a-side including goalkeeper. 3 maximum reserves
Field of play	40-50m long x 30-40m wide, painted lines with a half-way line, corner arcs and penalty area
Goal Size	3m wide 2m high
Ball Size	Size 3
Duration	20-minute halves
Penalty area	5m deep, 12m wide rectangle

Goal type

Portable, rectangular goals are to be used.

To comply with Australian Safety Standards, portable goals must be anchored securely to the ground. The use of sandbags or pegs is recommended when using portable goals.

Offside

There is **no offside** rule in MiniRoos Under 7-9. Coaches should strongly discourage children from permanently standing in an offside position.

Goalkeeper

The goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area. 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 drop kick the ball directly from their hands. **Opponents must retreat 10 metres** and cannot move inside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it is moved by the goalkeeper.

An indirect free kick is awarded if the goalkeeper touches the ball with their hands after it has been deliberately kicked to them by a teammate.

Ball crossing the touch line

Throw in.

Player faces the field of play, has part of each foot on the ground either on or behind the touch line, uses both hands and delivers the ball from behind and over his or her head. The thrower must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. Opponents must be at least **5 metres away** from the ball until it is in play.

Foul throws are not penalised in under 7-9.

The ball is in play once it enters the field of play. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw in.

Ball crossing the goal line after touching the defending team last

Corner kick.

A player from the attacking team places the ball **inside the corner arc** nearest to the point where the ball crossed the line. 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.

A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.

Ball crossing the goal line after touching the attacking team last

Goal kick from anywhere within the penalty area.

Opponents must retreat to the halfway line and cannot enter the opposition half until the ball is in play.

Game Leaders should not restart play until they are satisfied all opposition players have retreated to their own half. The ball is in play once it is kicked.

Match results and points tables

The recording of match results will be conducted by the referee and team managers into the electronic team sheets for the purpose of assigning teams to appropriate leagues, ensuring the most enjoyable experience for all players.



Number of players	7-a-side including goalkeeper. 3 maximum reserves
Field of play	40-50m long x 30-40m wide, painted lines with a half-way line, corner arcs and penalty area
Goal Size	3m wide 2m high
Ball Size	Size 3
Duration	20-minute halves
Penalty area	5m deep, 12m wide rectangle

Game Leaders

The BDSFA will provide training and education for Game Leaders. Allocations will be performed by the hosting club. In the case of no official Game Leader being present, any capable person can officiate.

All official and non-official Game Leaders are entitled to payment.

Development Leagues

All players are to be graded into teams which complement their ability. Teams will be graded into the appropriate Development Leagues. Re-draws may occur at the discretion of the Competition Manager.

Fouls and misconduct

Indirect free kicks are awarded for all acts of handball or fouls and misconduct. Opponents must be at least **10 metres** away from the ball when the indirect free kick is taken. An indirect free kick is where a goal can be scored only if the ball subsequently touches another player before it enters the goal.

For deliberate or serious acts of handball or fouls and misconduct in the penalty area, a penalty kick is awarded from an **8-metre penalty mark** from the goal line with only a goalkeeper in position. All other players must be outside the penalty area and be at least 5 metres behind the penalty mark.

Fouls and misconduct are:

- kicks or attempts to kick an opponent.
- trips or attempts to trip an opponent.
- jumps at an opponent.
- charges at an opponent.
- strikes or attempts to strike an opponent.
- pushes an opponent.
- tackles an opponent from behind to gain possession of the ball.
- makes contact with the opponent before touching the ball.
- holds an opponent.
- spits at an opponent.
- handles the ball deliberately.
- plays in a dangerous manner; and
- impedes the progress of a player.

ANNEXURE 7. UNDER 10-11 PLAYING RULES

Number of players	9-a-side including goalkeeper. 3 maximum reserves
Field of play	60-70m long x 40-50m wide, or 18-yard box to 18-yard box. Painted lines with a half-way line, corner arcs and penalty area
Goal Size	5m wide 2m high
Ball Size	Size 4
Duration	25-minute halves
Penalty area	10m deep, 20m wide rectangle

Goal type

Portable, rectangular goals are to be used.

To comply with Australian Safety Standards, portable goals must be anchored securely to the ground. The use of sandbags or pegs is recommended when using portable goals.

Offside

The offside rule will be enforced in under 10s and 11s **for clear and obvious offsides.**

Goalkeeper

The goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area. 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 drop kick the ball directly from their hands. Opponents must be at **least 10 metres outside the penalty area** and cannot move inside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it moves from the goalkeeper.

An indirect free kick is awarded if the goalkeeper touches the ball with their hands after it has been deliberately kicked to them by a teammate.

Ball crossing the touch line

Throw in.

Player faces the field of play, has part of each foot on the ground either on or behind the touch line, uses both hands and delivers the ball from behind and over his or her head. The thrower must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. Opponents must be at least **5 metres away** from the ball until it is in play.

Foul throws will be penalised by the opposition gaining the throw in.

The ball is in play once it enters the field of play. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw in.

Ball crossing the goal line after touching the defending team last

Corner kick.

A player from the attacking team places the **ball halfway between the sideline and the edge of the penalty box** nearest to the point where the ball crossed the line. 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.

A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.

Ball crossing the goal line after touching the attacking team last

Goal kick from anywhere within the penalty area.

Opponents must retreat to the halfway line until the ball is in play. Game Leaders should not restart play until they are satisfied all opposition players are the halfway line. The ball is in play once it is kicked.

Match results and points tables

The recording of match results will be conducted by the Game Leader and team managers for the purpose of assigning teams to appropriate leagues and ensuring the most enjoyable experience for all players.



Number of players	9-a-side including goalkeeper. 3 maximum reserves
Field of play	60-70m long x 40-50m wide, or 18-yard box to 18-yard box. Painted lines with a half-way line, corner arcs and penalty area
Goal Size	5m wide 2m high
Ball Size	Size 4
Duration	25-minute halves
Penalty area	10m deep, 20m wide rectangle

Game Leaders

The BDSFA will provide training and education for Game Leaders. Allocations will be performed by the hosting club. In the case of no official Game Leader being present, any capable person can officiate.

All official and non-official Game Leaders are entitled to payment.

Development Leagues

All players are to be graded into teams which complement their ability. Teams will be graded into the appropriate leagues. Re-draws may occur at the discretion of the Competition Manager.

Fouls and misconduct

Indirect free kicks are awarded for all acts of handball or fouls and misconduct. Opponents must be at least 5 metres away from the ball when the indirect free kick is taken. An indirect free kick is where a goal can be scored only if the ball subsequently touches another player before it enters the goal.

For deliberate or serious acts of handball or fouls and misconduct in the penalty area, a penalty kick is awarded from an **8-metre penalty** mark from the goal line with only a goalkeeper in position. All other players must be outside the penalty area and be at least **5 metres** behind the penalty mark.

Fouls and misconduct are:

- kicks or attempts to kick an opponent.
- trips or attempts to trip an opponent.
- jumps at an opponent.
- charges at an opponent.
- strikes or attempts to strike an opponent.
- pushes an opponent.
- tackles an opponent from behind to gain possession of the ball.
- makes contact with the opponent before touching the ball.
- holds an opponent.
- spits at an opponent.
- handles the ball deliberately.
- plays in a dangerous manner; and
- impedes the progress of a player

