

# SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA

## 12 Years & Under Australian Football Championships

### RULES AND GUIDELINES

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

#### 1. COMPETITION RULES

##### 1.1 Rules of the Game

**1.1.1** The Championships shall be conducted according to the Laws of Australian Football, as published by the Australian Football League from time to time, with the exception of 2.4 and the following:

##### 1.1.2 Order-Off Rule

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

1.1.2.1.1 verbal harassment,

1.1.2.1.2 abusive language,

1.1.2.1.3 other unseemly conduct detrimental to the game

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

##### 1.1.3 Interchange Rule

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

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

##### 1.1.4 Stretcher / Carry Off Rule

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

### **1.1.5 25 metre penalty**

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

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

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

## **1.2 Player Participation**

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

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

## **1.3 Team Size**

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

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

## **2. COMPETITION STRUCTURE**

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

### **2.1 Draw**

The draw for Championships of 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 teams is listed as an Appendix 1.

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

### **2.2 Points Allocation**

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

### **2.3 Method of Determining a Winner**

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

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

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

1<sup>st</sup> Group A vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> Group B (match 1)

2<sup>nd</sup> Group A vs. 1<sup>st</sup> Group B (match 2)

3<sup>rd</sup> Group A vs. 4<sup>th</sup> Group B (match 3)

4<sup>th</sup> Group A vs. 3<sup>rd</sup> Group B (match 4)

**2.3.2** Should a tie occur at the end of full time in any Cross Group match, the 'No Drawn matches' procedures in Appendix 2 shall apply to determine the winning Team.

The finals would then take place:

Winner match 1 vs. Winner match 2 (determines 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Loser match 1 vs. Loser match 2 (determines 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

Winner match 3 vs. Winner match 4 (determines 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>)

Loser match 3 vs. Loser match 4 (determines 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>)

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

**2.3.3** Joint winners will be declared if at full time of the Grand Final match scores are tied.

## **2.4 Duration of matches**

**2.4.1** All matches shall consist of four quarters of fifteen (15) minutes duration.

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

Amended September, 2016

**2.4.3** The Host State/Territory is to provide an additional ball to be kept by the interchange steward as a strategy to save time.

## **2.5 Wet Weather**

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

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

## **3. FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT**

### **3.1 Match Equipment**

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

Amended September, 2016

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

Amended September, 2016

### **3.2 General:**

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

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

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

### 3.3 Uniforms

Teams shall be numbered from one (1) to twenty-three (23) with numbers of contrasting colours.

State and Territory Uniform colours:

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

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

## 4. MATCH OFFICIALS

### 4.1 Ground Officials

**4.1.1** Two official timekeepers shall be appointed by the Host State/Territory to act in concert for all matches.

**4.1.2** A Ground Convenor and an Interchange Steward should be appointed for each game.

**4.1.3** A Sports Medicine person be supplied at each field by the Host State, provided within the budget.

### 4.2 Umpire / Student Officials

**4.2.1** Each participating Team should bring a field and a goal and a boundary umpire who are current Secondary students. Preference should be given to Secondary school students holding or gaining Level 1 accreditation. Where this is not possible the State/Territory must notify the host State/Territory and the National Secretary one (1) month prior to the Championships. Student Officials will be supplied with one full Umpiring uniform for the Championships and provided with lunch when officiating.

**4.2.2** The Host State/Territory is responsible for appointing a suitably qualified Umpires Coordinator and evaluator. The Umpires Coordinator must attend the Pre-Championships meeting which will discuss rules and players/coaches codes of conduct. Should the Umpire's Coordinator not be available to attend the Pre-Championships meeting, then a written statement containing rules and expectations shall be produced by the Coaches/Managers/Championship Organisers at the Pre-Championships meeting and this is to be given to all officiating umpires prior to the commencement of the competition.

**4.2.3** The Host State/Territory will appoint a teacher as the Umpire Supervisor to the Championships in addition to the Umpire Coordinator. Funding for this position will come from the Championship budget.

**4.2.4** Where possible neutral field umpires be appointed to pool and round robin games.

**4.2.5** Before all games field umpires should introduce themselves to both coaches, shake hands and briefly address the teams. Umpires will check for safety of all boots at the beginning of each game. Gloves and jewellery are not permitted.

**4.2.6** Competent boundary and goal umpires shall be appointed. If such umpires are not accredited, they should receive training for their duties.

**4.2.7** In addition to goal umpires, a neutral scorer shall be appointed.

**4.2.8** Interpretation or clarification of rules should be requested by the team manager through the Umpires Coordinator following the completion of matches.

### **4.3 Team Officials**

#### **4.3.1 Coaches:**

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

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

Coaches of playing teams will be restricted to occupying the Coach's bench during playing times, except in the case of a serious injury. A designated team official, other than the coach, will be allowed on the field to attend injury and to act as a runner. The designated team runner should be an adult and must wear an official uniform (provided by the host state/territory).

#### **4.3.3 General:**

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

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

##### **4.3.3.2 Water Carriers:**

Each team shall be entitled to use three (3) water carriers. Each water carrier must be clearly identified, must not engage in coaching of individuals in teams whilst on the field of play, must avoid areas of actual play and must not remain on the field for extended periods of time.

#### **4.3.4 Team Officials Area:**

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

### **4.4 Tribunal / Protests**

#### **4.4.1 Reported Players**

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

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

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

#### **4.4.2 Protests**

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

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

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

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

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

## 5. TROPHIES, AWARDS

### 5.1 Major Trophy

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

### 5.2 The R. G. Newman Shield

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

The successful team will be judged on the following criteria:

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

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

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

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

**5.2.5** An ability to have fun.

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

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

### 5.3 6.4 ASSNFC Life Membership and School Sport Australia Service Awards

| LIFE MEMBER    | STATE | YEAR |
|----------------|-------|------|
| AW Alphen      | QLD   | 1958 |
| CE Woodward    | SA    | 1960 |
| G Lewis        | TAS   | 1961 |
| A Howe         | QLD   | 1963 |
| AE Browne      | SA    | 1963 |
| H Lewis        | WA    | 1964 |
| LN Pearson     | SA    | 1966 |
| EPJ Fleming    | TAS   | 1967 |
| TE Leonard     | VIC   | 1968 |
| KW Miller      | WA    | 1969 |
| CA Bryce       | QLD   | 1970 |
| JG Pullen      | TAS   | 1971 |
| CJ Robb        | VIC   | 1972 |
| RT Lawn        | WA    | 1973 |
| RD Boyce       | QLD   | 1974 |
| RA Hall        | SA    | 1975 |
| RK Hood        | TAS   | 1977 |
| JP Lorenz      | VIC   | 1978 |
| V Nelson       | WA    | 1979 |
| Les Rauert     | NT    | 1980 |
| G Munn         | SA    | 1982 |
| Roy Wyatt      | QLD   | 1982 |
| Kerrie Hardie  | NSW   | 1984 |
| Colin Crawford | VIC   | 1985 |

|                   |     |      |
|-------------------|-----|------|
| Dennis Scully     | TAS | 1986 |
| Colin Steinert    | SA  | 1986 |
| Alan S Mclean     | VIC | 1987 |
| Len Davies        | VIC | 1987 |
| Barry Watson      | TAS | 1987 |
| Geoffrey Sinclair | WA  | 1987 |
| David Probert     | TAS | 1988 |
| Dave Power        | NSW | 1988 |
| Brian Deslandes   | NT  | 1989 |
| Richie Mann       | VIC | 1989 |
| Gordon Curtis     | SA  | 1990 |
| Reg Pearce        | VIC | 1991 |
| G Russell         | QLD | 1991 |
| Roger Bean        | ACT | 1992 |
| Richie Almond     | VIC | 1993 |
| Robert Dean       | VIC | 1993 |
| Murray Tippet     | SA  | 1994 |
| Jack Ensor        | WA  | 1995 |
| Ian Penn          | VIC | 1997 |
| Peter Atkinson    | NT  | 1997 |

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

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

|                |     |      |                              |
|----------------|-----|------|------------------------------|
| Andrew Higgins | VIC | 2013 | Football/Australian Football |
|----------------|-----|------|------------------------------|

## **6. OTHER**

### **6.1 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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



## APPENDIX 1

### 1. For an Eight (8) team Competition

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

|          |               |   |
|----------|---------------|---|
| Program: | Saturday (pm) | Teams arrive                              |
|          | Sunday        | Opening Ceremony and Round 1              |
|          | Monday        | Round 2                                   |
|          | Tuesday       | Round 3                                   |
|          | Wednesday     | Excursion and Mix & Match                 |
|          | Thursday      | Cross Group Matches                       |
|          | Friday        | Finals, Closing Ceremony and Teams depart |

### 2. For a Seven (7) team Competition

Full round Robin. Each team playing 6 matches (No Finals).

|          |           |                              |
|----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| Program: | Saturday  | Teams arrive                 |
|          | Sunday    | Opening Ceremony and Round 1 |
|          | Monday    | Round 2                      |
|          | Tuesday   | Round 3 and Excursion        |
|          | Wednesday | Round 4 and Mix & Match      |
|          | Thursday  | Round 5                      |
|          | Friday    | Round 6 and Teams depart     |

### 3. For a Six (6) team Competition

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

|          |           |  |
|----------|-----------|--|
| Program: | Saturday  | Teams arrive                               |
|          | Sunday    | Opening Ceremony and Round 1               |
|          | Monday    | Round 2                                    |
|          | Tuesday   | Excursion and Mix & Match                  |
|          | Wednesday | Round 3                                    |
|          | Thursday  | Round 4                                    |
|          | Friday    | Round 5, Closing Ceremony and Teams depart |

### 4. For a Five (5) team Competition

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

|          |           |  |
|----------|-----------|--|
| Program: | Saturday  | Teams arrive   |
|          | Sunday    | Opening Ceremony and Round 1                         |
|          | Monday    | Round 2  |
|          | Tuesday   | Excursion and Mix & Match                            |
|          | Wednesday | Round 3  |
|          | Thursday  | Round 4  |
|          | Friday    | 'Play Off' series, Closing Ceremony and Teams depart |

### 5. For a Four (4) team Competition

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

|          |           |   |
|----------|-----------|---|
| Program: | Saturday  | Teams arrive                            |
|          | Sunday    | Opening and Round 1                     |
|          | Monday    | Round 2                                 |
|          | Tuesday   | Round 3                                 |
|          | Wednesday | Excursion and Mix & Match               |
|          | Thursday  | Cross Over (1v4 & 2v3)                  |
|          | Friday    | Finals, Closing Ceremony & Teams depart |

## APPENDIX 2

### NO DRAWN MATCHES

#### ***Playing of Additional Time:***

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

- (a) the goal Umpires shall immediately consult with each other to confirm that the score of each Team is identical and if that is the case, the field Umpires shall signal to the Timekeepers that the Match is to proceed into Additional Time;
- (b) after a six (6) minute rest period (which shall commence from the time the field Umpires signal that the Match is to proceed into Additional Time), Additional Time shall be played;
- (c) each Team shall maintain the same end as at the completion of ordinary time for the first five (5) minute period of Additional Time and shall change ends after the first five minute period;
- (d) upon receiving the signal by the field Umpire, the Timekeepers shall sound the siren in accordance with the normal start of each quarter, being -
  - (i) two minutes prior to the official start time - three times;
  - (ii) one minute prior to the official start time - twice;
  - (iii) official start time - once.
- (e) Except for the Coach and those persons permitted to enter the Playing Surface under Regulation 13, no person shall enter the Playing Surface during any period before or during the playing of Additional Time;
- (f) before the commencement of Additional Time, the Coach may enter the Playing Surface and address the Players. The Coach must leave the Playing Surface on or before the sound of the three sirens signifying that two minutes remain before the commencement of Additional Time;
- (g) the Timekeepers shall sound the siren once to signify the end of each period of Additional Time until a field Umpire acknowledges that the siren has been heard and brings play to an end;
- (h) at the conclusion of Additional Time, the Team which has scored the highest points is the winner of the Match;
- (i) if the scores are still tied, the procedures contained in this Regulation shall apply to any further period of Additional Time until a winner has been determined.

#### ***Ready to Play and Sanctions:***

Each Team shall move into position and be ready to commence play at the start of Additional Time. A Team whose Team is not ready to commence play shall be subject to a sanction.

## APPENDIX 3

### RACIAL VILIFICATION PROCESS

#### 1. AN ALLEGED INCIDENT

Conduct that threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin. This conduct must take place between players and or officials of the School Sport Australia Championships and does not exclude incidents off the playing arena.



#### 2. RESOLUTION

The States/Territories and individuals concerned will take immediate action to resolve the matter. This process **MUST** be in camera and no public statement is allowed by the States/Territories, players or any representative of the states/territories involved.



#### 3. A COMPLAINT

This can be made by School Sport Australia, States/Territories, umpire or a player. It must be lodged with the National Secretary or Championship Convenor within 2 hours of the completion of the game involving the incident.



#### 4. CONCILIATION

Refers the matter to conciliation, to be resolved as soon as possible. The players or officials meet with States/Territories representatives. The complaint is heard in camera.



#### 5. DECISION

If the State/Territory decides: Is the Conciliation successful?



**YES**



**NO**



#### 6 TRIBUNAL

The Tribunal to make a determination on the matter in accordance with the guidelines set out.



#### 7. COMPLAINT RESOLVED

Peter Della-Vedova  
National Secretary, Australian Football  
**February 2017**