



School Sport WA Primary Football

Girls and Open Championship

12 and Under

Playing Formats and Rules



Playing Formats

The table below summarises the Playing Formats and Rules for boys and girls playing in the Under 12 and under Primary Girls and Open Championships:

- **Number of Players on the field:** 9-a-side including a goalkeeper
- **Substitutes:** Maximum of five substitutes (**Max. 14 players in a squad**)
- **Pitch Sizes:**
 - Maximum: 70m long x 50m wide
 - Best Practise: 65m long x 45m wide
 - Minimum: 60m long x 40m wide
- **Goal Size:** Maximum: 5m wide x 2m high
- **Ball Size:** Size 4

Goal type

- It is preferable that portable goals are used where possible however, the use of poles or markers as goals is also suitable.
- 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

- 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 out of the penalty area or when the goalkeeper places the ball on the ground.
- 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 team mate.

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 their 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.
- 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

- Goal kick from anywhere within the penalty area.
- Opponents remain at least 10 metres outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.
- **Referees should not restart play until they are satisfied all opposition players are at least 10 metres outside the penalty area.**
- The ball is in play once it is kicked directly out of the penalty area.

Offside

- The official offside rule (Law 11, FIFA Laws of the Game) does not apply to Under 12.
- Goals can be scored from the offside position.
- **Referees should direct players permanently standing in blatant offside positions to move into onside positions.**
- Children should be made aware of the official offside rule during training and be encouraged to adopt this philosophy during the game at all times. **It is important that the spirit of the game is maintained.**

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 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.

Field Layouts

- Fields for Under 12 Football are maximum of 2 pitches on a full-size football pitch.
- Alternatively, 1 pitch can be set-up penalty box to penalty box.

Field Markings

Cones, markers or painted line markings are suitable.

Start of play and re-start after a goal

- Pass to a team mate from the middle of the half way line.
- All players must be in their own half of the field of play.
- Opponents must be at least 5 metres away from the ball until it is in play.
- The ball must touch a team mate before a goal can be scored.

Ball in and out of play

- The ball is out of play when it has wholly crossed the goal line or the touch line on the ground or in the air, or when play has been stopped by the Referee.

Method of scoring

- A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar.

Shin guards

Shin guards must be worn by all players without exception. **Referees will not allow the player to participate without shin pads.**

Concussion

- Any player suspected of suffering from concussion should be examined by the medical practitioner, who will be on site at each venue, before returning to play. As a general rule; “If in doubt, sit it out”.

Substitutions

- Players may be rotated on and off the field at any time during the game.
- A coach/parent may make substitutions while the ball is in play, ensuring the player is off the field before the substitute goes on.
- Equal playing time should be a priority ensuring all players regardless of age, gender and/or ability get to take the field.
- Regular rotation of players is key. Kids are at the Championships to play football – they just want to play!

Referees

- Each game is to be controlled by one Referee,
- The main role of the Referee is to keep the game moving fluently, limit stoppages and assist players with all match re-starts.
- Most importantly, they must make every effort to create an environment that ensures that all players have fun, are learning the game and have maximum involvement.
- The Referees can be students from the Football Program Schools, a teacher, parent (Regional Championships) or official referee (for the State championships)
- Most importantly, remember the children are learning the game – be flexible and patient.

The Referee should:

- Encourage all children to have fun and different children to take re-starts;
- Ensure the correct number of players are on the field;
- Discourage players from permanently over-guarding the goal;
- Check all players are wearing shin guards;
- Use a “Ready, Set, Go” prompt to encourage quick decisions when restarting play;
- Encourage children to dribble or pass ball to team mates rather than kick the ball long;
- Ensure the opposing team is at least 10 metres outside the penalty area for all goal line restarts;
- Ensure team officials and parents create a safe, enjoyable and positive playing environment for the children;
- Encourage children to be involved in all aspects of the game, attacking and defending;
- Award free kicks as appropriate to help children learn the rules and consequences of committing fouls;
- Explain the rules to players and why a free kick has been awarded;
- Let the game flow and give instruction to all players on the run where you can;
- Praise and encourage both teams; and
- Be enthusiastic and approachable.

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The School Sport WA Primary Schools Champions Cup's focus is on children being able to participate in a friendly, healthy, organised environment, and the developing of fair play and life skills.

**The School Sport WA
Primary Schools
Girls Champions Cup
Regional and State Football Championships
proudly supports the:**



Children's Leukaemia and Cancer Research Foundation

Please Note:

As a way to raise awareness and some funds for the Children's Leukaemia Cancer Research Foundation, it would be a wonderful symbolic gesture for all the participating students to donate a gold coin to this important Foundation. Official tins will be provided at all venues for all students and spectators who wish to contribute. It is not compulsory for anyone to contribute. It is purely voluntary; however, your support would be greatly appreciated.