

School Sport SA football (soccer)

Statewide Schools

Rules of the competition

Updated October 26

The game is played under the Football Australia Laws of The Game unless stated in the following.

It is the responsibility of the host school to ensure that the referees are made aware of the School Sport SA statewide school football (soccer) rules in regards players receiving a red card. If any report is made, the host schools sports coordinator is to supply the referee with the player report form on the [website](#).

Minor round format options

The following are the standard formats to be used unless an alternative is required due to travel distance. In this instance competing teams shall negotiate alterations to the format guided by the convening school.

2 team draw – 1 pitch needed (Each team plays 1 game)

11/12 boys, 11/12 girls: two halves of 40 minutes.

Year 7/8 and 9/10 boys: two halves of 35 minutes.

Year 7/8 and 9/10 girls: two halves of 30 minutes.

Year 5 and 6: two halves of 25 minutes.

Ten minutes half time. Injury time to be added.

Ties

The match must be played to a result i.e. no draws. If the result at the end of time is a draw, then penalty shots will be taken. i.e. 5 alternate penalties taken, one each from different players.

- If scores are still tied, sudden death penalties commencing from player no 6 through to 11 will be taken.
- Should the game still be tied, recommence the sudden death penalties at no 1 and follow through in the same order to number 11.

3 team draw – 1 pitch needed (Each team plays 2 games)

- Year 7/8, Year 9/10 and 11/12: Two halves of 25 minutes. Year 5/6: Two halves of 20 minutes.

Suggested format for 3-team match-ups:		
Round	Draw	Time
1	1 v 2	9:45am
2	2 v 3	11:30am
3	1 v 3	1:15pm

4 team draw – 2 Pitches needed (Each team plays 3 games)

- Year 7/8, Year 9/10 and 11/12: Two halves of 20 minutes. Year 5/6: Two halves of 15 minutes.

Suggested format for 4-team match-ups:			
Round	Time	Pitch 1	Pitch 2
1	9:45am	1 v 2	4 v 3
2	11:30am	1 v 4	2 v 3
3	1:15pm	2 v 4	3 v 1

5 team draw 2 Pitches needed (Each team plays 4 games)

- Year 7/8, Year 9/10 and 11/12: Two halves of 15 minutes. Year 5/6: Two halves of 10 minutes.

Suggested format for 5-team match-ups:			
Round	Time	Pitch 1	Pitch 2
1	9:30am	1 v 4	2 v 3
2	10:30am	3 v 1	4 v 5
3	11:30pm	5 v 3	1 v 2
4	12:30	2 v 5	3 v 4
5	1:30	4 v 2	5 v 1

Pitch size

- Year 7 – 12 Regular pitch size (125m x 85m approx.) and goal dimensions.
- Year 4 and 6 use modified dimensions. 2 pitches to fit across one regular sized soccer field.

Pitch dimensions

- Length: 60 – 70m
- Width: 40 – 50m

Penalty Area

- Depth: 10m
- Width: 20m
- Penalty spot 7m from goal line

Goal dimensions

- Height 2m
- Width: 5m

Ball size

- Year 5 and 6 use size 4.
- Size 5 for all other competitions.

Additional rules

- Shin guards are compulsory in all games.
- All jewelry must be removed prior to the commencement of a match.
- If nails are longer than the end of the finger (whether real or false) they must be either trimmed or covered with band aids or similar.

Number of players

Year 7 – 12

- 16 can be used per match i.e. 11 on field plus five (5) interchange players, all of whom can be used, subject to the usual rules of interchange i.e. Notifying the referee, etc.

Year 5 and 6

- 14 can be used per match i.e. 9 on field plus five (5) interchange players, all of whom can be used, subject to the usual rules of interchange i.e. Notifying the referee, etc.

Administration papers

The following forms should be taken to games and can be found on the website - please photocopy enough for each match.

- Team sheet – these must be accurately recorded and signed by the sports coordinator before the start of each match. The opposition and umpires may request a copy. After the match these sheets are to be kept at the school in case of a dispute.
- Score sheet
- Results sheet
- Player report forms

Football (soccer) officials

- Each team must provide a coach and/or manager (at least one of these to be a teacher) approved by the Principal
- Each team must provide a competent linesperson
- Coaching is permissible by the appointed manager/coach only. However, coaching must not interfere with the flow of the game or violate any rules that may apply
- If official referees are not available, the team manager of the first named team or his nominee shall referee the first half of the game, and the manager of the second named team, or his nominee, shall referee the second half, unless otherwise agreed between the two managers
- Competing teams should arrange for an appropriately qualified first aid provider to be present at all matches.

First aid

Qualified first aid providers must accompany each school at all school football matches as per the Department for Education camps and excursions policy and procedure. Competing schools should ensure these First Aid Providers are not occupied in other roles (such as coach or umpire), or, schools should engage an additional external sports trainer/s. Extra precautions and medical resources are advised for football (soccer) matches, due to their highly physical nature.

Behaviour

- Players who have been reported by a referee and have been suspended by the school tribunal in any match in the statewide schools series must serve their suspension in the statewide schools series.
- Red and yellow cards will be issued in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Sanctions will be issued in accordance with the Table of Offences (see below) with reference to FA's – [National Disciplinary Regulations](#) and FA's [Grievance Procedure By-Law](#).
- Any player receiving a red card will be automatically suspended for one game. Further action may be taken by the school, as deemed necessary.
- Any player receiving two yellow cards, in the same match, will be automatically suspended for one game. This is to be managed by their school.
- It will be the responsibility of the supervising teacher to notify the School Sport SA office and ensure that the player does not play until his/her suspension has been completed.

Table of offences

Taken from FA – [National Disciplinary Regulations](#)

Yellow Card (Caution) – Minor Infringements

Y1 unsporting behaviour
Y2 dissent by word or action
Y3 persistent infringements of the Laws of the Game
Y4 delaying the restart of play
Y5 failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in
Y6 entering, re-entering or deliberately leaving the field of play without the Referee's permission

Red Card (Expulsion) – Serious Infringements

R1 serious foul play
R2 violent conduct
R3 biting or spitting at an opponent or any other person
R4 denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his or her own penalty area)
R5 otherwise denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent as prescribed by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game
R6 using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
R7 receiving a second caution in the same Match