

School Sport SA rules of the knockout competitions

General rules

Updated February 2019

Competitions

Sports offered

Year 6 and 7

- Cricket
- Football (soccer)
- Netball
- Softball
- Tennis

Year 8 to 12

- 5-a-side football (soccer)
- Australian football
- Badminton
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Football (soccer)
- Futsal (indoor soccer)
- Hockey
- Indoor cricket
- Netball
- Softball
- Table tennis
- Tennis
- Touch football
- Volleyball

Knockout competitions are to be played as either:

- Boys
- Girls
- Mixed (year 8-12 competitions only)

Please note that the intent is that girls may not play in boys' teams and visa versa as competitions are offered for both genders. However in examples where there is no reasonable opportunity for a player to participate in an equivalent competition then approval to play in an opposite gender team may be requested from the School Sport Team Leader and considered on its merit.

Schools will be able to download a copy of the playing conditions, rules and actual playing dates from the School Sport SA website – www.education.sa.gov.au/sport

Eligibility

Schools affiliated with School Sport SA may enter teams in the knockout competitions. Only students attending that school can be selected in the school team.



Age qualification

Year 6 and 7

Students must be in year 6 or 7 for all knockout competitions. The School Sport Team Leader must be consulted and give approval for year 5 students to be included in a knockout team. Requests must be by emailed to Education.SchoolSportSA@sa.gov.au prior to teams competing.

Year 8 to 12

Students who are enrolled in year 7 or younger are not eligible to compete in year 8 to 12 knockout competitions.

- Year 8 and 9 of the current school year (means only year 8 and 9 students) students in year 7 can compete in the year 6 and 7 competition.
- Year 10. Year 8 to year 10 inclusive of the current school year
- Open age. Year 8 and above including students under 20 on 1 January of the current school year

Combined schools

Year 6 and 7

Year 6 and 7 combined teams are only permitted in the small schools competitions. The combined schools request form which is on the [website](#) must be completed and submitted prior to nominations closing for that sport and approved by the School Sport Team Leader.

To be eligible for a combine schools' team, the combine school enrolments for years 4 to 7 must be under 180 students. The team is to compete in the small schools division.

Year 8 to 12

Year 8 to 12 combined schools requests are to be emailed to Education.SchoolSportSA@sa.gov.au Each request will be considered on its merit.

Campus schools entry

Year 6 and 7

School Sport SA believes that it is important to maximise the number of children who are able to participate in sporting programs. For schools that comprise of more than one campus the following will apply:

- Each campus that has an individual location number is to affiliate with School Sport SA and enter competitions independently
- Each school with more than one campus at the same site or on sites with the same Sapsasa district and having the same location number is to affiliate with School Sport SA and to enter competitions as one school
- Each school with more than one campus on different sites and in different Sapsasa districts and having the same location number is to affiliate with School Sport SA and to enter competitions independently.

For any variation to the above the school will need to seek approval from the School Sport Team Leader.

Specific sport rules

These can be found on the website of the specific sport page. Please provide these for your coaches to have at the event. If clarification is needed phone School Sport SA and ask for the organiser of that sport as indicated on the draw

Programing fees

Year 8 to 12 only

Late entries will attract a fine of \$22 (inc GST)

Teams forfeiting after the publication of the draw on the website, must pay a penalty fee of \$55 (inc GST) per team.

In the event of a team withdrawing from finals, a replacement team will be selected in their place. This selection will be an 'executive decision'. Forfeiting from finals series will incur a \$110 (inc GST) fine.

Minor round matches

Unless otherwise stated, all matches are to be organised by the first named school, the convening school. For details see the convenor/locations section on the draw of each competition. All games are to be played before the due date.

For all rounds all schools are to ring/email each other to organise arrangements as soon as possible. It is not the sole responsibility of the convening school to do so. Matches where the venue is stated as 'by mutual agreement' should be arranged at a venue approximately half way between the both/all schools otherwise mutually agreed. Where appropriate, each school is responsible for supplying the necessary equipment etc for matches.

Schools should therefore arrange to play matches early in the allotted time to allow for a rematch to still occur due to weather conditions by the due date.

Cost sharing

- The major expense of putting a match/carnival on is generally associated with travel and umpires. As a general rule, it would be appropriate for both/all schools to share the cost(s) as evenly as is practicable. This doesn't mean necessarily that the bus costs gets divided equally between both schools but rather that if one school is paying for a bus to travel, the host school should pay for the umpire(s).
- If there are a number of schools playing at the carnival where multiple umpires would be used, the costs of the umpires should be evenly shared if the cost is more significant than transport costs.
- If competing schools are able to come to some other arrangements to equate costs ie share the cost of the bus, then it is strongly suggested that this is confirmed prior to the event.

Equal playing time

Year 6 and 7 only

All players selected in a team for a knockout game must have equal playing time per round and in the finals of the competition and the rotation of players is encouraged.

Selection guidelines for schools

Year 6 and 7

Schools should have a sports policy that includes selection guidelines. School Sport SA recommends:

- A teacher is responsible for the selection of the team but they must establish a panel of at least one other person (eg coach) and preferably a panel of three persons.
- A minimum of two trials conducted
- Selection for each school team should be based on ability
- Students must be given as close to equal court/field time during the trials to demonstrate their skills and abilities. Allowances during trials must be made for students who are absent for legitimate reason such as illness

Supervision

Each school has the duty of care responsibility of their students participating in School Sport SA events. A teacher or a supervisor approved by the school principal must accompany every team. All coaches, players and spectators must be made aware of the Codes of Behaviour. If student supporters are to be present this should be negotiated with the visiting school prior to the event.

Umpires shall report to the teacher/responsible adult concerned, any person (player, official and spectator) who, in their opinion, is acting inappropriately. Reports shall then be forwarded to the School Sport Team Leader.

Coaching

Coaching 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. Coaches, officials and teachers should be supplied with and know the [codes of behaviour](#)

Umpires / Referees

It is the responsibility of the convening school to provide/organise the umpires/referees. Through negotiating the convening/host school could organise/pay for umpires/referees if other schools have travelling costs.

Recommendations

- Umpires must be suitably qualified and experienced to conduct the grade of the match
- If possible the umpires should come from a neutral source
- It is not suitable to have students umpire their own year level at their own school, no matter what standard they are.

If the recommended standards are not used the convening school is to confirm this with the other schools involved prior to the day of competition.

Once schools have agreed on umpires, School Sport SA expects all schools to abide by the [codes of behaviour](#) which states that all children, officials and spectators accept the decision of the umpires as being fair and called to the best of their ability. School Sport SA staff will not enter into discussions about the quality of umpiring.

Results

All matches must be played out to a result-no drawn games.

However if a carnival that involves multiple matches being played, the method of determining the result must be determined prior to the start of matches. Refer to the specific sport rules on the website for that sport before contacting the School Sport Officer for advice.

Winning schools must phone or email results of completed matches to School Sport SA within 24hours of them being played. Phone 8416 5900 or email Education.SchoolSportSA@sa.gov.au

Finals

All finals will be organised by School Sport SA. The details of finals will be sent to those involved. Finals days (as indicated on the draw and calendar) will not be changed to accommodate schools or individual needs and programs. For the actual final date of each knockout sport please refer to the sport draw or the School Sport SA calendar. Presentations of gold and silver medals and a plaque for the winning team(s) will take place immediately after the finals have been completed.

Extreme weather

If extreme weather conditions competing schools need to liaise with each other and make decisions regarding playing times, rule modifications or rescheduling.

For finals games only severe weather will result in rescheduling, in extreme weather, modifications to the format and length of games may need to occur.

Mercy rule

Although the knockout program is essentially for a school's better players and teams, it is sometimes used by some schools to provide an opportunity for beginners to play, because there is no other school sport avenue for them to do so.

This situation can lead to the scenario where two very mismatched teams meet. The weaker team is extremely disadvantaged and therefore receive a 'hiding'. No player (particularly beginners) will benefit from this experience. The teachers in charge of the two teams are advised to discuss with each other the best way to proceed once a 'hiding' is inevitable.

The way that the winner of a round robin is calculated removes the use of percentage against a non-competitive team to encourage the use of a mercy rule. See the rules of each sport.

Send of rule

Many sports have rules to deal with inappropriate behaviour by sending players off the playing surface. The length of time will be determined by the official involved based on the severity of the incident. The time will be managed by the coach of that player's team.

School Sport SA intends the penalty to impact on the offending player only (not the team) hence the player can be replaced, unless there are sport specific rules that state differently in the rules for that sport.

School Sport SA aims to conduct competitions of a high standard in every respect and this includes the behaviour of the participants. Swearing by players is therefore deemed to be unacceptable.



School Sport SA has a local rule that can be applied to all knockouts which involved the player who swears being sent off. The convenor will need to inform umpires of this rule so that it can be implemented and have the desired effect.

Fighting and Racial Vilification are not an acceptable part of sport and can't be justified for any reason. Any player(s) who is involved in fighting or racial vilification will take no further part in matches being played on that day. The player's principal must be referred to, to determine if any further sanction is necessary. The school's sports coordinator should inform the School Sport Officer responsible for that sport in the event that a further consequence is imposed.

Codes of behaviour

For players

- Be a good sport
- Work hard for your team as well as yourself
- Treat all teammates and opponents as you enjoy being treated yourself
- Play by the rules
- Cooperate with team and game officials
- Control your behaviour on and off the field
- Learn to value honest effort, skilled performance and improvement

For teachers and coaches

- Set a good example for your players
- Encourage and create opportunity to develop individual skills
- Teach a wide range of team skills
- Ensure that the sport is appropriate for the age group and the skill development level of the players involved
- Teach your players to be friendly towards officials and opponents
- Give all interested students a chance to participate in training and games
- Remove from the field of play any of your players whose behaviour is not acceptable
- Keep your knowledge of coaching and the developments of the game up to date

For parents

- Encourage participation for your children
- Provide a model of good sports behaviour for your child to copy
- Be courteous in your communication with players, team officials, game officials and sports administrators
- Encourage honest effort, skilled performance and team loyalty
- Make any new parents feel welcome on all occasions
- Do not interfere with the conduct of any events

For spectators

- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour
- Remember children play for enjoyment. Don't let your behaviour detract from their enjoyment
- Let game officials conduct events without interference
- Support skilled performances and team play with generous applause
- Demonstrate respect for opposing players and their supporters