



Rules of Participation

(Small Sided Football - Under 6 - 11)

2012

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1 STRUCTURE

1.1 Age Groupings

Football Brisbane will arrange age restricted Optus Small Side Football (OSSF) fixtures for junior players as per the following table. Age groupings may be mixed or gender specific as determined by Football Brisbane.

Age Group	Year of Birth qualification
Under 11	Players born in the year 2001
Under 10	Players born in the year 2002
Under 9	Players born in the year 2003
Under 8	Players born in the year 2004
Under 7	Players born in the year 2005
Under 6	Players born in the year 2006 and 2007

All age groups U6 to U11 years must play under OSSF Rules as listed in the FFA Handbook.

Players should participate in their own age group wherever numbers permit and must be registered in accordance with current FFA and Football Brisbane regulations.

Small Sided Football is a modified version of football for children attaining the age of 5 in the competition year to 11 years old, played on smaller fields with less players, fewer rules and modified equipment.

In SSF there are no premiership points or final series and therefore no results or tables are recorded. The games are designed to allow the frequent interchange of players so that all players get equal time on the field. This helps young players develop the skills needed for all positions and players can, in later years, make a decision about which position they enjoy the most.

The composition of divisions in these age groups will be finalised following the receipt of nominations giving consideration to minimise the travel requirements of participating teams where possible.

1.2 In House Divisions

Football Brisbane promotes the concept of in-house fixtures in the U6 - U11 age groups, dependent on individual club registration numbers. Clubs must have a minimum of 36 players nominated in the U6 and U7 age groups, 54 players in each of the U8 and U9 year age groups, and 66 players in the U10 & U11 age groups.

1.3 Hubs/Grouping Structure

Where clubs are unable to meet the In House conditions, Football Brisbane will arrange the formation of 'hubs' or organise grouping structures to facilitate matches. These will be arranged giving maximum consideration to travel considerations.

2 FIXTURES

2.1 Scheduling

Football Brisbane will co-ordinate the dates, times and locations of all matches. These scheduled matches will be advised to participating teams prior to the commencement of the season.

Clubs running in-house competitions must submit a copy of the matches for each age group to Football Brisbane prior to commencement of the season.

2.2 Duration

The duration of matches for each age group are outlined in the table below. The Game Leader/Instructing Referee has the right to abandon any match if, in his/her opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety.

Age Group	Duration	Interval
Under 11	2 x 25 mins	7.5 mins
Under 10	2 x 25 mins	7.5 mins
Under 9	2 x 20 mins	5 mins
Under 8	2 x 20 mins	5 mins
Under 7	2 x 15 mins	5 mins
Under 6	2 x 15 mins	5 mins

3 NON-PARTICIPATION IN A FIXTURE

If a team is unable to fulfil a fixture commitment they must contact the opposition club prior to the scheduled kick-off time.

4 WITHDRAWAL/REMOVAL FROM FIXTURES

If any team in any division withdraws or is removed after fixtures are set then a bye may be substituted.

5 INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS

In all Small Sided Football games, unlimited interchange will be permitted.

6 GRADING OF PLAYERS

Players and teams in the Under 6, 7 and 8 age group are not to be graded and should play in teams of equal standard wherever possible as decided by the club.

The Under 9, 10 and 11 age groups will consist of three participation groupings, Geckos, Goannas and Komodo Dragons. Under no circumstances are clubs to move players in order to strengthen a team at the expense of a player remaining with his friends. These groups have been established solely to enhance the enjoyment of the game for players by enabling like skilled teams to play others of approximately the same standard.

Gecko teams will involve players who are new to SSF or have basic skills of the game and as such require assistance and time to develop their skills and teamwork. These teams will generally play in-house or in hubs, depending on the club. Further, if a club has more than one team within this group, the teams should be of equal standard where possible.

Goanna teams include players of average skills, who have played the sport previously and as such know the rules and how to play as a team, while engaging in matches with minimal instruction from their coach. These teams will generally play in-house or in hubs, depending on the club. If a club has more than one team within this group, the teams should be of equal standard where possible.

Komodo Dragon teams include players who have above average skills. Matches are usually played with more speed, skill and tactics. These teams will play in either North, West or South zone. Therefore, travel between clubs will be required.

Players should participate in their own age group wherever numbers permit. Football Brisbane will not accept teams where the entire team is playing out of their age group.

7 BORROWING PLAYERS

Registered players may be borrowed any number of times by club teams in their own age group provided that the team is short of players.

They may be borrowed to play in a higher age group if that team is short of players provided that they have complied with the Player Age Rules

8 ELIGIBILITY/NON-ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

8.1 Eligible Players

A player is eligible to play in a team, provided he/she has been registered in line with Football Federation of Australia National Registration and complied with these Regulations, Football Queensland and Football Brisbane Policies, Procedures, Guidelines and Rules of Competition, and is not under suspension by Football Brisbane or any other Football Governing Body.

9 CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

9.1 Facilities/Ground Arrangements

The home club must ensure:

- it provides suitable goals and fields as per the FFA SSF documentation;
- it provides toilet facilities that are hygienic and clean;
- it has adequate refreshment/canteen facilities open to the public;
- it provides a safe environment for players, officials and spectators;
- it provides a Referee's Room where referees can rest and leave their belongings while on the park.

Any club whose facilities do not meet the requirements specified may be fined, suspended or have its home fixtures played away.

9.2 Wet Weather Procedure

For SSF Matches only, Clubs can advise if their fields are unplayable up to the end of business hours on the preceding Friday by contacting the FB Office or via the following process after that time:

- 1) FB will receive an SMS notification of field unavailability from the affected club **by 7am**. If a club has not closed their fields by 7am then it will be a club's call, as to whether games are played or cancelled.
- 2) FB will collate information for release at 7:15am Saturday.
- 3) After that designated time, FB will issue a club wide SMS message indicating the fields that are unavailable. **(DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SMS MESSAGE)**
- 4) FB will also update our website with the information on ground closures through out the day.

It is therefore essential for clubs to do the following:

- 1) Ensure your Contacts for Parent Organisation list is up to date in Results Vault (under the Organisation menu)
- 2) Ensure the contact(s) has a mobile phone number listed within the Results Vault
- 3) Ensure the receive SMS messages box for the contact(s) is ticked.
- 4) Should this contact be unavailable, has the club an alternative contact listed.
- 5) The club is only responsible for notifying their own club members of field closures impacting their own teams.

In the event of the cancellation or abandonment of a fixture through rain rendering grounds unplayable, the fixture will not be rescheduled.

9.3 Match Sheets

Match sheets are no longer required for insurance purposes therefore Football Brisbane do not require these match sheets.

For those clubs that wish to utilise match sheets for their own organisational purposes, Football Brisbane will continue to provide them upon request.

9.4 Match Balls

The host Club shall provide one football of correct size and in good order and condition for each match. Under 6 – Under 9 shall play with a size three (3) match ball, while Under 10 & Under 11 shall play with a size four (4) match ball.

9.5 Team Officials

Clubs are accountable for their appointed team officials (coaches, managers, and medical staff) and they should be made aware that they are governed by a Code of Conduct. Penalties including suspension of team officials, fines, and good behaviour bonds, can be levied upon such persons and clubs, where it is found that team officials have breached the Code of Conduct.

1. Team officials are required to wear a Football Queensland Identification Card at all times. Failure to do so may incur a disciplinary fine.
2. Team officials are responsible for trying to keep players behaving in an appropriate manner at all times before, during and after any game.
3. Team officials are not to argue or address any disagreements or comment direct to a Game Leader. Any complaints should be resolved as per the Football Brisbane Procedures for Complaints process.
4. A team official can only enter the field of play when the Game Leader indicates to do so.

10 MATCH OFFICIALS INFORMATION

10.1 Extreme Weather Conditions

In extreme weather conditions, Football Brisbane or the appointed Game Leader reserves the right to postpone, delay or abandon any fixture.

All clubs, players, and match officials are requested to please note the following;

- If the temperature is 32° or above, water bottles should be made available and placed along the sidelines to enable any player to take a drink during the course of the game; *and*
- If conditions are considered extreme by the Game Leader, he or she has discretion to allow a 2-minute break during the course of each half.

10.2 Blood Rule

In the event a player suffers an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood, the Game Leader will request that the injured player receive attention outside the field of play and only when he /she is satisfied that the injury or wound is safely covered and contained, will the player be permitted to rejoin the game.

In the event the player's uniform or attire is splattered with blood, the Game Leader will instruct that player to change his attire before being permitted to rejoin the game. Should the injured player be required to change his uniform, then the appointed Game Leader will show discretion in allowing the player to wear an alternative numbered shirt if necessary.

11 DISCIPLINARY

Please refer to the current years Football Brisbane Disciplinary policy.

12 PLAYER AGE RULES

Players must be turning 5 by the end of the calendar year in which they wish to register. This replaces the previous requirement for players to have attained the age of 5 years before registering.

Players must where ever possible play in their designated age group as determined by date of birth. See table below

Year of Birth	Age attained in 2012	Participation Age Group	Age Group Format
2007	5	U6	U6 & U7
2006	6	U6	
2005	7	U7	
2004	8	U8	U8 & U9
2003	9	U9	
2002	10	U10	U10 & U11
2001	11	U11	

In Optus Small Sided Football (OSSF), no player will be permitted to play outside of that designated Age Group Format.

Where combined age groups are required for insufficient playing numbers, these combined age levels must not conflict with current OSSF playing formats. Groupings must be U6 & U7, U8 & U9, U10 & U11 only.

Prior to competing out of the correct age group, a PA01 must be completed by a player's parent or guardian.

Players wishing to play out of their appropriate age group must have exceptional circumstances. The Definition of Exceptional Circumstances includes identification of players to participate at State or National levels of FFA recognised competition.

Where clubs have to combine age groups following restrictions apply. The majority of players should come from the older age level ie 50% + 1 of players for an age group. Where this is not the case, application should be made to Football Brisbane for permission to vary this rule. Football Brisbane's decision on any such application will be final.

Football Brisbane reserves the right to withdraw from competition any team found in breach of these rules.

13 APPLICATIONS FOR VARIANCES

Applications for variances to these rules should be lodged from the Club Secretary to the General Manager Football Brisbane with all supporting documentation.

Football Brisbane reserves the right to change or amend these rules at its absolute discretion
