

Junior Leagues – Laws of the Game

| | U6 | U8 | U9/U10 | U11 | U12 |
|---|--|------------|--|--|---|
| Phase | Introductory | | Development | Competition | |
| Players | 6 a side | 9 a side | 12 a side | 15 a side | 18 a side |
| Max Ground Size / Use of Zones | 80m x 60m 3 equal zones | | 100m x 80m 3 equal zones | ¾ Length | Full Size No zones |
| Match Length | Training + 3 x 10 min | 4 x 10 min | 4 x 12 min | 4 x 15 min | |
| Competition details | No scores, ladders or finals permitted No recording of Best Players & Goal Kickers permitted No representative teams | | No scores, ladders or finals permitted No recording of Best Players & Goal Kickers permitted No representative teams | Scoring and Ladders no finals permitted No recording of Best Players & Goal Kickers permitted No representative teams | Scoring and Ladders finals permitted |
| Contact | No tackle / No Bump There is absolutely no contact or spoiling except when accidental in nature | | Modified Tackle / No Bump Players cannot bump/push an opponent, knock/steal the ball out of their hands or smother an opponent’s kick | Tackling is permitted As per the laws of Australian Football (no sling tackle permitted) | |
| The ball | Synthetic size 1 | | Synthetic size 2 | Synthetic size 3 | Leather size 3 |
| Umpiring | 1 field, 2 goal umpires Parents/Coaches | | 1 field, 2 goal umpires Club/Association | 1 field, 2 goal & 2 boundary umpires Club/Association | |
| Coaching position | On Field | | Sideline | Sideline | |
| Bounces | 1 bounce | | 1 bounce | 2 bounces | |
| Marking | A mark is awarded, irrespective of the distance the ball has travelled, to any player who catches it or makes a reasonable attempt to mark it. | | A mark is awarded irrespective of the distance the ball has travelled to any player who catches it or shows control. | A mark is awarded when a player catches the ball directly from another player’s kick that has travelled at least 10 metres. | |
| Out of Bounds | From a kick, a free is awarded against the player who last kicked the ball. From hands, or if there is doubt the umpire shall call a ball up 10m in from the boundary | | From a kick, a free is awarded against the player who last kicked the ball. From hands, or if there is doubt the umpire shall call a ball up 10m in from the boundary | Boundary Throw In (where boundary umpires are available) | |
| Kick off the ground | Not permitted unless accidental | | Not permitted unless accidental | Not permitted unless accidental | |
| Stealing, Smothering, Shepherding, Barging | No stealing, smothering, shepherding or barging | | No stealing, smothering, shepherding or barging | Permitted as per Laws of the Game | |
| Penalties | No distance penalty applies Players can be ordered off at the umpire’s discretion | | 10m penalty can be applied at the umpire’s discretion if they feel a player has been hindered in any way Players can be ordered off at the umpire’s discretion | 25m penalty can be applied at the umpire’s discretion if they feel a player has been hindered in any way Players can be ordered off at the umpire’s discretion | |