

U12 9v9 FORMAT

Competition Guidelines 2021



Introduction:

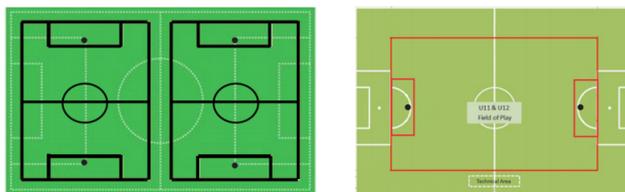
In 2021 Football St George will join other Associations in NSW by implementing the 9v9 format in the Under 12s competition. This decision has been made to provide the best learning environment for young players so each individual can realise their full potential.

9-a side in Under 12's is played under FIFA Laws of the Game. It allows players to be challenged technically as well as physically through multiple repeated actions in smaller areas. It also aims to set realistic expectations that meet the needs of young footballers, rather than senior players. It focuses on the development of a player rather than the result of the match.

The playing format for Under 12 leagues is as follows:

Numbers	9 v 9 Including Goalkeeper. Max of 5 substitutes
Field Size	Best Practise: 65m long x 45m wide
Goal Size	Maximum: 5m wide x 2m high
Penalty Area	10m deep x 20m wide
Exclusion Zone	Minimum 15m from goal-line To be indicated by a marker cone on each side line
Duration	2 x 25mins halves minimum 5min half time break
Referee	SGFRA Appointed
Ball Size	Size 4
Points / Finals	Yes

Field Markings: All field markings as required for a full-size pitch, including the penalty area, are required for Under 12 matches. Field markings can be marked with paint, or flat markers. Painted lines must be a different colour to any existing line markings used for the full-size pitch.



Goal Type: It is preferable that portable goals are used where possible.

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.

For more information on Australian safety standards please visit the Product Safety Australia website www.productsafety.gov.au.

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Competition Rules:

Offside rule:

- The offside rule will be included in the Under 12 competition as it is an integral rule to the game of football.
- 9v9 on the recommended size pitch will help players learn the rule as there is no longer as much space between the halfway line and the opposition goals.

Throw ins:

- 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.
- The ball is in play once it enters the field of play. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw in.

Corner kicks:

- 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 but only against the opposing team.
- You cannot be offside if you receive the ball direct from a corner kick.

Goal kick:

- Goal Kicks will be taken from anywhere within the penalty area.
- Attacking players will be required to retreat past the exclusion zone, indicated by a marker cone on each side line.
- Once the ball is in play it must be touched by a team mate of the kicker before the attacking team can enter the exclusion zone.
- A goal can be scored directly from the goal kick, but only against the opposing team.
- If an attacking player encroaches prior to the defending Player having his/her first touch then the goal kick will be retaken.
- You cannot be offside if you receive the ball direct from a goal kick.
- Referees should not restart play until they are satisfied all opposition players are outside of the exclusion zone

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 dropkick the ball from their hands.
- Goalkeepers are also not permitted to control the ball with their hand/arm if:
 - i) it is kicked deliberately to them by a team-mate
 - ii) it is thrown (throw in) directly to them by a team-mate
 - iii) after releasing the ball, they touch it again with their hands before it has touched another player.
- Any infringement of the above, is punished by an indirect free kick to the opposing team.

Penalties:

- In accordance with FIFA LOTG, a penalty kick will be awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area.
- The Penalty spot is 7m from the goal line.
- All players- bar the kicker and defending Goalkeeper must be 5m away from the goal line.

Fouls & Misconduct:

- Fouls & Misconduct are as per the laws of the game
- Free kicks are awarded for acts of handball or fouls and misconduct. Opponents must be at least 5 metres away from the ball when the free kick is taken.
- Defensive free kicks: the ball is in play it must be touched by a team mate before the attacking team can enter the 15m zone.
- For deliberate or serious acts of handball or fouls and misconduct in the penalty area, a penalty kick is awarded.
- Red or Yellow cards will be issued for any fouls that would ordinarily result in a red card. The match official will instruct the player to leave the field of play for the remainder of the match.