

Hills Football League Inc.

Rule Interpretations for Under 8s and Under 9s Competitions

The basic sets of rules for these competitions are to be the Year 4/5 rules dictated by the South Australian School Football Association Rules guide.

The following modifications/clarifications have been agreed to at the HFL Junior Football Umpires Night (April 15th 2009).

1. Playing field size is to be a maximum of 80m long.
2. The maximum player age shall be adhered to- Under 8s, 9s will be as at January 1st of that year.
3. Ball size **Under 8s** recommended size 2 (Can use size 3.) **Under 9s** Size 3.
4. Number of players on the field from each team is recommended to be 15. Each team will have equal numbers on the field. The number on the field can be negotiated by the coaches ('common sense' should apply here).
5. Each team will be allowed 1 coach on the field during the game. He/she is not to carry whiteboards/folders etc. No runners are allowed. The coach shall wear a fluorescent vest available through the HFL.
6. Length of quarters will be 10 minutes. Please do not play any longer.
7. Coach and umpire should attempt to keep players in correct positions.
8. There will be no designated ruckman. The umpires will choose ruckman for each ruck contest. The ruckmen must stand opposing each other (no check side rucking). The ruckman may raise their knee during jumping, but shall not contact the opposing ruckman with their knee.
9. The ruckman must palm or punch the ball and cannot take possession until another player has touched the ball.
10. There will be NO tackling.
11. Players can 'steal' the ball from an opponent, but any significant contact with the hands on an opponent in doing so will be deemed as a tackle and a free kick will be awarded to the player in possession.
12. Players may not 'smash' the ball from opponents' hands.
13. Players are permitted to deliver a side on bump. Elbow must be tucked at the side. Front on is not allowed. The player being bumped must have the ball (no bumping as the player is picking up the ball).
14. Player will be deemed 'holding the ball' when bumped for the second time (discretion can be used here if the player is within a pack and receives near simultaneous bumps).
15. Player will be deemed 'holding the ball' if bumped after having bounced the ball OR if he/she bounces the ball after being bumped.
16. Player will be deemed 'holding the ball' if he/she bounces the ball more than once.
17. Player will be deemed 'holding the ball' if he/she moves more than 10 metres without bouncing.
18. A mark will be paid if the player has eyes on the ball and touches it with both hands and arms. A mark may be paid even if the ball has been touched (this does not apply if the ball has been touch heavily or smothered). The ball does not need to have travelled a prescribed distance.
19. There will be no deliberate kicking off the ground.
20. Players will not be allowed to use gloves unless a doctor's letter has been supplied to the HFL.
21. Teams should line up and shake hands with opponents after a game. (NO High 5s)
22. Teams who choose to sing team songs must not do so within the playing area.
23. Recommended time for a player send off (in the case of swearing, umpire abuse etc.) is one quarter. However the umpire may extend this up to the remainder of the game for severe cases.