

# National Playing Formats and Rules

## MiniRoos Club Football

### UNDER 6 & 7

#### Playing Formats

The table below summarises the national playing formats for boys and girls aged Under 6 & 7:

<b>The number of players</b>	4-a-side with no goalkeeper Maximum of three substitutes
<b>The field of play</b>	30m x 20m
<b>Goal size</b>	2m wide x 1m high
<b>Ball size</b>	Size 3
<b>Duration of the game</b>	20 min halves Minimum 5 min half-time break
<b>Penalty area</b>	No penalty area required

#### Goal type

It is preferable that pop-up style portable goals are used where possible however, the use of poles or markers as goals is also suitable.

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 pop-up style portable goals.

For more information on Australian Safety Standards please visit the Product Safety Australia website: [www.productsafety.gov.au](http://www.productsafety.gov.au)

#### Goalkeeper

There are no goalkeepers in MiniRoos Under 6 & 7.

It is the responsibility of the Game Leader to discourage children from permanently standing in front of the goal.

#### Ball crossing the touch line

There is no throw in.

A player from the opposing team to the player that touched the ball last before crossing the touch line will place the ball on the touch line and pass or dribble the ball into play. Opponents must be at least 5m away from the ball until it is in play. The ball must touch a team mate before a goal can be scored.

#### Ball crossing the goal line

There is no corner kick.

Regardless of which team touched the ball last, a player from the team whose goal line the ball has crossed will place the ball anywhere along the goal line and pass or dribble the ball into play. Opponents must retreat to the half way line and can move once the ball is in play. The ball must touch a team mate before a goal can be scored.

#### Offside

There is no offside rule in MiniRoos Under 6 & 7.

Game Leaders should strongly discourage children from permanently standing in blatant offside positions.

#### Fouls and misconduct

Indirect free kicks are awarded for all acts of handball or fouls and misconduct. Opponents must be at least 5m away from the ball when the indirect free kick is taken. (An indirect free kick is where a goal can be scored only if the ball subsequently touches another player before it enters the goal).

Most acts of handball or fouls and misconduct at this level are caused by a lack of coordination, with no intent. In this case try and give the advantage to the attacking team and continue play. If you decide a deliberate or serious act of handball, foul or misconduct has occurred, explain to the child they have done the wrong thing and that they should not do this again. Free kicks should be awarded as appropriate.

#### Match results and points tables

The recording of match results should be conducted for the purpose of assigning teams to appropriate leagues, ensuring the most enjoyable experience for all players.

Under no circumstances will match results be published publicly by Member Federations, Local Associations or local clubs.

Points tables are not applicable in Under 6 & 7 football and do not exist.



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## Method of scoring

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar. When goal posts are not available and cones are used for goals, a goal is scored when the ball passes between the cones without touching them, below shoulder height of the player.

## Shin guards

Shin guards must be worn by all players without exception.

## Concussion

Any player suspected of suffering from concussion should be examined by a medical practitioner before returning to play. As a general rule; "If in doubt, sit it out".

## Substitutions

Players may be rotated on and off the field at any time during the game. A coach/parent may make substitutions while the ball is in play, ensuring the player is off the field before the substitution goes on. Equal playing time should be a priority ensuring all players regardless of age, gender and / or ability get to take the field.

Regular rotation of players is key. Kids don't register to watch football – they just want to play! If there is space on the sidelines, substitutes should be encouraged to set up small-sided games or practice their skills in a designated area, not interfering with play.

## Game Leaders

Each game is to be controlled by one Game Leader.

The main role of the Game Leader is to keep the game moving fluently, limit stoppages and assist players with all match re-starts. Most importantly, they must make every effort to create an environment that ensures that all players have fun, are learning the game and have maximum involvement.

The Game Leader can be a club official, parent, older child / player or beginner referee and should always be enthusiastic and approachable. Most importantly, remember the children are learning the game – be flexible and patient.

### The Game Leader should:

- Encourage all children to have fun and different children to take restarts
- Discourage players from permanently over-guarding the goal;
- Ensure the correct number of players are on the field;
- Check all players are wearing shin guards;
- Use a "Ready, Set, Go" prompt to encourage quick decisions when restarting play;
- Encourage children to dribble or pass ball to team mates rather than kick the ball long;
- Ensure the opposing team is at least 5 metres outside the penalty area for all goal line restarts;
- Ensure team officials and parents create a safe, enjoyable and positive playing environment for the children;
- Encourage children to be involved in all aspects of the game, attacking and defending;
- Award free kicks as appropriate to help children learn the rules and consequences of committing fouls;
- Explain the rules to players and why a free kick has been awarded;
- Let the game flow and give instruction to all players on the run when you can;
- Praise and encourage both teams; and
- Be enthusiastic and approachable.

**Game Leaders are encouraged to undertake a free FFA MiniRoos Certificate prior to start of the season.**

