

Federation Competition Regulations

Juniors 5th to 9th Grades



1. Number of players per side

Teams shall be 7 a side, with one player designated as the Goalkeeper.

2. Duration of matches:

5th and 6th Grade 2 x 15 min halves plus half time

7th to 9th Grade 2 x 20 min halves plus half time

In the event of a late start for any reason, if it is known or can be ascertained prior to kick-off that there is *no* later match scheduled for the pitch which would be disrupted by so doing, the match shall be extended to its normal duration in two equal halves. If there *is* a match scheduled to follow on the same pitch, *or if it is not known whether there is such a match to follow*, the time available shall be divided into equal halves with allowance for half time, so that the match shall end at the scheduled finish time and the next match on the same pitch may commence at the time scheduled on the fixtures. The agreed game duration shall not be changed once the game has commenced, *even if it becomes clear that there is no match following*. No injury time or referee's added time shall be played.

3. Substitutions

Teams should have a maximum of 10 players, only 7 to be on the field at any one time, one must be the goalkeeper.

There is no limit on the number of substitutions. Unlimited interchange of players is allowed *without* requiring the permission of the referee, provided that:

- i) the player leaves the field completely before the substitute goes on
- ii) substitutions are made during a break in play
- iii) players enter and leave the field from the half-way line.

4. Balls

5th to 9th Grade Size 3

5. Shin guards

Shin guards must be worn at all times, and must not be exposed.

6. Goal Kicks

Goal kicks can be from the goalkeeper's hands or from the ground.

7. Corner Kicks

If the game is being played on a marked small pitch, or on a quarter or half a senior pitch, the corner shall be taken from the corner flag.

If the game is being played between the penalty boxes, the corner shall be taken from the edge of the penalty box.

8. Referees

5th and 6th Grade - No referees are required. However, team coaches from both teams may be on the pitch and should ensure that there is no dangerous play, and help to keep the game flowing.

7th to 9th Grade - If there is no appointed official, the home team may provide a Club Based Referee (CBR) with current accreditation (by way of a current CBR ID card with Membership Number) to control the whole fixture. If a CBR is provided he or she shall provide his/her name and membership number to the visiting coach/manager, and is required to wear their CBR shirt. If the home team does not have a CBR, and the visiting team does, then the visiting CBR shall control the fixture. If none of the above is available, the home team shall provide a referee for the first half and the visiting team shall provide one for the second.

Alternatively, teams may agree at the start of the game that one referee shall officiate the whole game, or at the start of the second half that the referee from the first half may continue to referee to the end of the game. Once agreed the referee should not be changed during a half other than for injury or on the mutual agreement of both team coaches. In any event, the referee controlling any part of the fixture has the same rights and obligations as an appointed official.

The prime purpose of anyone refereeing in these grades is to add to the enjoyment of the players through the application of the Laws of the Game, these regulations, common sense and fair play.

9. Goals and Markings

The approved goals, and marked grounds with corner flags must be in place and supplied by the home team before the scheduled kick-off time. Where quarter and half standard pitches are used there is no requirement for additional markings to be provided.

Goal size should be minimum 3.6m x 1.8m inside measurements, recommended size is 4m x 2m inside measurements.

10. Offside

The off-side law will not be applied in these grades. However, coaches must discourage players from consistently standing in an off-side position — this is not in the spirit of the game.

11. Uniform Clashes

Where there is a clash of colours, the away team (ie second-named team) in the fixture must provide a change of shirts that does not clash with the home team's registered colours.

12. Defaults

There will not be any fines applied for defaulted games. Teams are encouraged as a matter of courtesy to make every effort to contact opposing teams if they are unable to fulfil a fixture.

13. Team Mastercards

Team Mastercards with a full list of all players' names and dates of birth must be supplied to the Federation office on the Thursday prior to the first game of the season. A template Team Mastercard is available from the AFF website and in the Club Operations Manual.

Failure to lodge the Team Mastercard before the first game of the season or subsequently will incur a fine to the Club in accordance with the Schedule of Fees published from time to time by the Federation.

Teams must produce their Team Mastercards if requested by the opposition.

14. Dispensations

Players should normally play within their correct age grade from early ages as problems will occur in later competitions/higher age grades. Age grade is determined by the year of birth, not school year, eg 5th Grade is for players who will *reach* their 5th birthday at any time during the calendar year, (not those who are 5 at the *start* of it).

In special circumstances a Club may apply for age dispensations. Applications for age dispensation, accompanied by proof of reason, must be approved by the Federation before the player can take the field.

In 7-a-side competitions a maximum of one player per squad may be dispensated to play down from a higher age grade, and that player must be no more than one age grade older than the grade in which he is dispensated to play.

A full list of all dispensated players is furnished to every club at the start of the season and as it is revised during the season.

At these age grades the accent should be on player development and enjoyment rather than winning and losing. Coaches and parents are asked to consider their motives in seeking to appeal results, but teams who are found to be flagrantly breaching this regulation in order to improve their results are cheating the opposition, their own team and themselves.

Players playing up more than two age grades also require dispensation, and requests need to be accompanied by a letter from the parent or guardian supporting the request.

15. Field Sizes

5 th and 6 th Grade	Recommended 1/4 of a standard pitch
7 th to 9 th Grade	Recommended 1/2 of a standard pitch

For specially marked fields as well as where standard pitches are used, the recommended dimensions are minimum 50m x 30m, max 65m x 45m, ideal 60 x 40m for half pitch, min 30m x 25m, max 45m x 33m, ideal 40m x 30m for quarter pitch.

16. Coaching

5th and 6th Grade - both coaches may be on the field.

7th Grade - there should be a referee but both coaches may also be on the field.

8th and 9th Grade - Coaches may only coach from the sideline, not from behind the goal line. If a coach takes the field as a referee they are not allowed to coach from on the field of play. Spectators and supporters should be along the sidelines not behind the goal line. Spectators guiding or advising a goalkeeper from behind the goal line are deemed to be coaches. Referees and opposing coaches are entitled to request that coaches, spectators and supporters move from behind the goal line to the sideline, and all coaches and Clubs should support and be prepared to adhere to this regulation.

17. Competitions

No points shall be awarded for games. During grading rounds results and points will be recorded only to assist with grading.

18. Other Matters

These specific competition regulations should be read in conjunction with the appropriate NZ Football Rules and Regulations, Federation Rules and Youth playing regulations, Federation and NZ Football codes of conduct and FIFA Fair Play which shall apply to matters not provided for in these regulations.