



1. Number of players per side

- 6th Grade & under** - Teams shall be 4 a side, without a Goalkeeper.
7th & 8th - Teams shall be 5 a side, without a Goalkeeper.
9th & 10th - Teams will consist of a goalkeeper and 6 outfield players
11th & 12th - Teams will consist of a goalkeeper and 8 outfield players

2. Duration of matches:

- 6th Grade & under** - Grade 2 x 15 min halves plus half time
7th & 8th - Grade 2 x 20 min halves plus half time
9th & 10th - Grade 2 x 25 min halves plus half time
11th & 12th - Grade 2 x 30 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

There is no maximum number of players per team (squad) but only the designated number of players may be on the field at any one time. One must be the goalkeeper where required by the rules.

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

U6 to 8th Grade Size 3
9th to 12th Grade Size 4

5. Shin guards

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

6. Goal Kicks

A restart after the ball has crossed the goal line for a goal kick is to be taken from a place kick on the ground.

U6 to 8th – Opposition players must move back to the halfway line

9th to 12th - Opposition players must not be in the "penalty" area when the kick is taken.

Where the ball has been received by a goalkeeper in the normal course of play it is preferred that the goalkeeper returns the ball into play by using his hands i.e. throws or rolls the ball to a team mate.

7. Corner Kicks

Corner kicks will not apply for First Kicks or Fun Football. If a defender plays the ball over their own goal line in these grades then the game will be restarted as for a goal kick.

For Mini-Football the following will apply.

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".

Where the game is being played on a "coned" field the corner kick should be taken near to the corner "cone".

8. Throw Ins

U6 to 8th Grade

Ball is kicked into play where it left the field - opposition players must be 4.5 metres from the ball

9th & 10th Grade

Throw Ins are taken with both feet on the ground and behind the sideline. The ball must be delivered from behind the head. If throw incorrectly taken, instruction should be given and the throw re-taken by the same team.

11th - 12th Grade:

Are taken with both feet on the ground and behind the sideline, the ball must be delivered from behind the head. If taken wrongly the Throw-in is awarded to the opposing team.

9. 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.

10. Referees (Team leader)

U6 to 8th Grade

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

9th & 12th Grade

- Currently Central Football are unable to provide any Match Officials for any Junior games. It is hoped with the introduction of the Club Based Referee (CBR) programme that the Junior competitions will be a "breeding" ground for future Referees.

If a suitably qualified person is not available then each team shall provide a person to control one half of the game.

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.

11. Goals and Markings

Best fit practice to be used in each region

U6 to 8th Grade

Pitch: Recommended size 30m x 20m with either pop-up goals or cones/poles spaced 1.8m apart

9th & 10th Grade

Pitch: Recommended size 50m x 30m with either fixed or portable goals 4.0m x 1.8m

11th – 12th Grade

Pitch: Recommended size 70m x 50m with fixed goals 5.0m x 2.0m

Where quarter and half standard pitches are used there is no requirement for additional markings to be provided.

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.

For health and safety reasons as well as to protect goal areas from wear, it is recommended that where 1/2 pitches are used, clubs consider that the sideline should be the goal area (6 yard box) extended to the full-field sidelines by means of cones. However, spectators must remain behind the original full pitch goal line.

12. Uniform Clashes

Where there is a clash of colours, the away team (i.e. second-named team) in the fixture must provide a change of shirts or wear bibs that do not clash with the home team's registered colours.

13. 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 fulfill a fixture.

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, e.g. 6th Grade is for players who will *reach* their 6th birthday at any time during the calendar year, (not those who are 6 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 Central Football before the player can take the field.

In SSG 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.

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. Coaching

U6 to 8th Grade

- both coaches may be on the field.

9th & 12th 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.

16. Competitions

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

17. 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.