



Small Sided Games Formats

In line with the National Football Development Plan, from 2008, Member Federations, in conjunction with FFA will commence the implementation of small sided games within Associations and clubs throughout Australia.

The success of this implementation is based on the adoption and use of consistent small sided games playing formats. These formats must be implemented in a consistent manner across all Member Federation's, Associations and Clubs. This uniform approach to football in this country is vital to the development of players between the ages of 6 and 12 years. The small sided games playing formats can be seen below;

Playing Format	Under 6	Under 7 & 8	Under 9 & 10	Under 11 & 12
Numbers	4 v 4	5 v 5	7 v 7	9 v 9
Field Size	30m x 20m	30m x 20m	40m x 30m	60m x 40m
Goal Size	Min: 1.80m x 0.90m Max: 2.00m x 1.00m	Min: 1.80m x 0.90m Max: 2.00m x 1.00m	Min: 4.80m x 1.60m Max: 5.00m x 2.00m	Min: 4.80m x 1.60m Max: 5.00m x 2.00m
Ball Size	Size 3	Size 3	Size 3	Size 4
Goalkeeper	No	No	Yes	Yes
Playing Time	2 x 15 minutes	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 25 minutes	2 x 30 minutes
Half Time Break	5 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes	7.5 minutes
Referee	Game Leader	Game Leader	Instructing Referee	Instructing Referee
Competition	No	No	No	Optional

Zones, Associations and Clubs that are implementing small sided games in 2008 as part of their Member Federation commitment will adopt the above formats for their relevant age groups.

A Small Sided Games Handbook is currently being produced and distributed to zones, associations and clubs to provide further information and rationale for why the move to small sided games, how an association can implement small sided games, special playing conditions for each age format, role of the referee and codes of conduct of officials, coaches and parents.