



Wednesday 2 September 2009

Dear Member Federations, Associations, Zones and Clubs

As you would be aware, Football Federation Australia (FFA) has recently released the National Curriculum. The National Curriculum was a key initiative put forward in the FFA National Football Development Plan released in November 2007.

The National Curriculum aims to provide national guidance and an integrated and consistent approach to the development of players and coaches throughout the country.

As a result of a combination of the release of the National Curriculum and feedback from the football community, including Member Federations, Associations, Zones, Clubs, parents and players, the Optus Small-Sided Football Formats have been adjusted to be implemented at the commencement of the 2010 season.

The Optus Small-Sided Football Formats for the season commencing 2010 and beyond are summarised in the following table with key explanations below;

Playing Format	Under 6 & 7	Under 8 & 9	Under 10 & 11
Numbers	4 v 4	7 v 7	9 v 9
Field Size *	30m x 20m	¼ Full Size Pitch Min. - 40m x 30m Max. - 50m x 40m	½ Full Size Pitch Min. - 60m x 40m Max. - 70m x 50m
Field Markings	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings
Penalty Area *	Nil	5m depth x 12m width	5m depth x 12m width
Goal Size *	Min: 1.5m x 0.90m Max: 2.0m x 1.00m	Min: 2.5m x 2.0m Max: 3.0m x 2.0m	Min: 4.5m x 2.0m Max: 5.0m x 2.0m
Goal Type	Goals, Poles or Markers	Goals, Poles or Markers	Goals, Poles or Markers
Ball Size	Size 3	Size 3	Size 4
Goalkeeper	No	Yes	Yes
Playing Time	2 x 15 minutes	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 25 minutes
Half Time Break	5 minutes	5 minutes	7.5 minutes
Referee	Game Leader	Instructing Referee	Instructing Referee
Points Table & Finals *	No	No	No

Explanations of key changes are highlighted below;

Age Groups

The Under 7 age group have changed to play the 4 v 4 format. The Under 8 age group have changed to play the 7 v 7 format. The Under 10 age group have changed to play the 9 v 9 format. The Under 12 age group will now play 11 v 11 on a full size field.

Field Size

In the Under 8, 9, 10 and 11 age groups a slight range has been given in the field size. In the Under 11 age group, the final stage of development in the Optus Small-Sided Football formats before players commence 11 v 11 football, clubs are recommended to set-up the field from penalty box to penalty box and adjust the width of the field with use of markers to meet the maximum specified width.

Goal Size & Penalty area

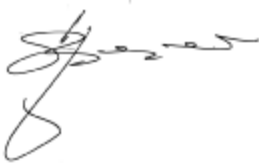
For the Under 8 and 9 age groups, it is recommended that clubs that wish to and have the capacity to do so use 3m x 2m goals. Should a club not be able to do this, the 5m x 2m goal is most acceptable for use on fields for the Under 8 & 9 age groups. The penalty area is a standard size of 5m depth x 12m width regardless of goal size. FFA understands that clubs may have existing goals however when they need to replace existing goals or are in a position to make a change they should use these dimensions. Clubs are also reminded that they are able to apply for Optus Small-Sided Football goals (as well as funding) at the designated time through the FFA's Grassroots Football Facilities Fund at www.myfootballclub.com.au

Points Table & Finals

FFA advises that the keeping of points table and playing of finals must not be done for the Under 6 - 10 age group. FFA recommends that the keeping of points table and playing of finals should also not be done for the Under 11 age group - this should not start until the Under 12 age group where children start playing 11 v 11 on a full size pitch.

FFA will again be providing educational resources to assist in the communication of this message in preparation for the 2010 season which will include DVD's, handbooks, flyers and posters. These resources will detail all changes and will be available in time for distribution for the commencement of registration. A dedicated Optus Small Sided Football website has been established, www.smallsidedfootball.com.au and will be a place for children and parents to get lots of information and have lots of fun with Optus Small Sided Football now and throughout next season.

As a valued member of the football family, we thank you for your contribution to the first stage of the rollout of Optus Small-Sided Football and look forward to your continued support of these initiatives.



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