



FOOTBALL  
**VICTORIA**

**NPL U12**  
**Competitions**  
***2019 Handbook***

# Contents

<b>1.0 Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Competition Rules .....	4
1.2 Player Roster & Eligibility .....	4
1.3 Composition of Leagues & Match Format .....	6
1.4 Match Records & ID Cards .....	7
1.5 Match Officials .....	7
1.6 Discipline .....	7
1.7 Match Points and Results.....	8
1.8 Coaching .....	8

## 1.0 Introduction

In 2019 Football Victoria will continue to join other member federations in Australia in implementing the 9v9 format in the Under 12s competition. This decision has been made in order to give young players the best opportunity to develop into elite footballers.

9 a-side in Under 12s allows players to be challenged and assessed from a technical standpoint rather than a physical one. It also aims to set realistic expectations that meet the needs of young footballers, not already developed footballers. It focuses on the development of a player rather than the result of the match.

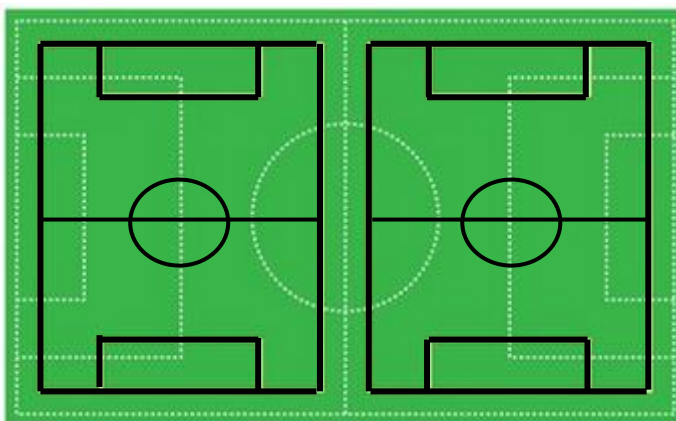
The playing format for Under 12 leagues is as follows:

	U12 Leagues
<b>Numbers</b>	9-a-side including a goalkeeper. Maximum of 4 substitutes
<b>Field Size</b>	Max: 60m long x 45m wide Min: 55m long x 40m wide
<b>Field Markings</b>	Cones, markers or painted lines are allowed
<b>Penalty Area &amp; Penalty Spot</b>	10m deep x 24m wide Penalty spot is 7m from the goal line.
<b>Goal Size</b>	5m wide x 2m high
<b>Goal Type</b>	Permanent or portable goals, made of a safe material.
<b>Goalkeeper</b>	Yes
<b>Ball Size</b>	Size 4
<b>Playing Time</b>	1 match = 2 x 15 minute halves
<b>1/2 Time Break</b>	1 minutes
<b>Referee</b>	FV Appointed Referee with club appointed Assistant Referees (1 from each team)
<b>Points Table &amp; Finals</b>	No

## 1.1 Competition Rules

NPL Under 12 competition is played under FIFA Laws of the Game with modified rules to assist players in their development and also refine the transition to 11v11 football, these include:

- **Field Markings:** all field markings as required for a full-size pitch, including the penalty area, are required for NPL Under 12 competitions. Field markings can be marked with paint, markers or cones. Painted lines must be a different colour to any existing line markings used for the full-size pitch.



- **Offside rule:** The offside rule will be included in the Under 12 competition as it is an integral rule to the game of football. 9v9 on the recommended size pitch will help players learn the rule as there is no longer so much space between the half-way line and the opposition goals.
- **Penalties:** In accordance with FIFA LOTG, a penalty kick will be awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area.
- **Team shape (formation):** Teams must setup using at least 3 lines for example; GK – 3 – 2 – 3, GK – 4 – 3 – 1, GK – 3 – 3 – 2. This rule is to introduce players to an 11v11 like formation and structure thus assisting with the transition to U13s.
- **Playing Style:** FV strongly recommend "A proactive brand of football, based on effective possession with the cutting edge provided by creative individuals. Defensively the key components are quick transition and intelligent collective pressing. The Playing Style is underpinned by a strong 'team mentality', capitalising on Australia's traditional strengths".

The detailed Competition Rules for Under 12 competition can be viewed on the FV website. Please click [here](#) to view.

## 1.2 Player Roster & Eligibility

Each NPL Club will be permitted to register up to 27 players in their Under 12 squad. Increasing Under 12 squad numbers to 27 will assist with players transitioning from Under 11s and will allow for the majority of those players to remain with the club for a further year. It will also give clubs and coaching staff a further year with players in order to assess their technical ability (as opposed to physical ability) and make decisions with respect to their playing future with the Club.

## **Player Numbers**

- In the 2019 season each NPL club will have two sides playing in the Under 12s competition, with a maximum of 27 players across the two teams.
- There will be a maximum of 24 outfield players and 3 goalkeepers (2 of which are mandatory).
- On Match days both teams can have a maximum of 13 in their squad.
- Players are able to play for either squad throughout the season, there are no limitations on how many times players can swap between the club's two Under 12 teams.

## **Player Age**

- Each club may have a maximum of 2 relative age effect players. Players who would meet the criteria for a relative age effect dispensation in Under 12s in 2019 must be born in 2006.
- Each club will be allowed to have a maximum of 6 Under 11 players. In 2019, players who meet this criteria would be born in 2008. Under 10 players will not be permitted to play in the Under 12s competition.
- All other players within the 27 man squad must be born in 2007.
- Up to 4 2007 born players at any one time can be on the team sheet for the club's Under 13s squad on match day. These 4 players can be rotated with any 2007 born players in the Under 12s program from week to week.

## **Player Selection**

- It is recommended that players aren't swapped between Team A and Team B during the interval between Match 1 and Match 2. This is to allow players to experience a possible different form of tactics between matches together with players of different technical ability within opposition teams.
- If the coach doesn't believe a player is working well within one of the Team's for a particular reason it is recommended that the coach wait until next week's training or match-day before altering the teams.
- In the case that a number of players have become injured, sick or otherwise unavailable to play the second match a player may be swapped between Team A and Team B during the interval between Match 1 and Match 2 to ensure the teams have sufficient numbers.

## 1.3 Composition of Leagues & Match Format

NPL Under 12 competitions will comprise the following structure:

- NPL Under 12 competitions will be split geographically into 2 Leagues (East and West);
- Each NPL Under 12 Team will play under the competition format determined by FV;
- Every NPL Club may only (and must) enter two Under 12s Teams.

NPL Under 12 competitions will be played under the following match schedule and format:

- Each team will play a total of two (2) matches in any given competition round.
- Each match will comprise two equal periods of 15 minutes for a total of 30 minutes in duration including a half-time break of no more than one (1) minute.
- There will be a 5 minute interval between matches to allow for opposition teams to swap pitch and any applicable changes to team player selections (note recommendations re team changes at section 1.2 above).
- We encourage coaches not to make substitutions during the game and only at half time intervals to allow maximum 'ball in play' time and therefore, fewer stoppages. In the event of injury however, a substitution can be made to replace the injured player.

### Match Format

Match 1 (2 x 15 minutes)	Match 2 (2 x 15 minutes )
Team A1 vs. Team B1 Team A2 vs. Team B2	Team A1 vs. Team B2 Team A2 vs. Team B1

### Example

Time	Pitch	Match
9am	1a	Green Gully 1 vs. Hume City 1
9am	1b	Green Gully 2 vs. Hume City 2
5 minute interval to allow for opposition teams to swap pitch and changes to team player selections.		
9:35am	1a	Green Gully 1 vs. Hume City 2
9:35am	1b	Green Gully 2 vs. Hume City 1

## 1.4 Match Records & ID Cards

To keep with the principles of the new revised competition and given there are no results and ladders kept, there will be no requirement to provide a match record prior to each game. Accordingly, Player ID cards will also not be required.

All Clubs will be required to submit an U12 playing roster in accordance with the selection criteria mentioned in section 1.2 of these guidelines prior to round 1 and must adhere to these requirements for all regular season matches.

## 1.5 Match Officials

FV will continue to appoint, where possible, match officials to all NPL Under 12 matches as has been the case in previous seasons. This will include a total of two FV appointed match officials on any given match day, with each match official officiating two matches each. Both clubs will be expected to provide one assistant referee for each match.

The home club remains responsible for payment of referees, with each referee entitled to a total of \$40 (2 x \$20 for each match).

### Example

Time	Pitch	Match	Match Official	Assistant Referees
9am	1a	Green Gully 1 vs. Hume City 1	Match Official 1	1 AR from each club
9am	1b	Green Gully 2 vs. Hume City 2	Match Official 2	1 AR from each club
5 minute interval to allow for opposition teams to swap pitch and changes to team player selections.				
9:35am	1a	Green Gully 1 vs. Hume City 2	Match Official 1	1 AR from each club
9:35am	1b	Green Gully 2 vs. Hume City 1	Match Official 2	1 AR from each club

## 1.6 Discipline

There will be Red and Yellow cards issued to players in NPL Under 12 competitions.

For any fouls that would ordinarily result in a red card, the match official will instruct the player to leave the field of play for the remainder of the match, Any player sent from the field of play may be replaced by another player at the time of the offence. In this instance, neither team will be required to play with fewer than 9 players. Any player sent from the field during Match 1, may only be permitted to play in Match 2 in accordance with the following table:

Offence	Eligible for Match 2
R1 – Serious Foul Play	Yes
R2 – Violent Conduct	No – must sit out
R3 - Spitting	No – must sit out
R4 – Denying goal scoring opportunity 1	Yes
R5 – Denying goal scoring opportunity 2	Yes
R6 - uses offensive or insulting or abusive language / gestures	No – must sit out
R7 – second caution (yellow card)	Yes

For any offense that would ordinarily result in a red card for violent or offensive behaviour (i.e. R2 - Violent conduct, R3 – Spitting, R6 – uses offensive or insulting or abusive language / gestures) the match official will be required to submit a misconduct report to FV which may result in further disciplinary action for that player.

## 1.7 Match Points and Results

In NPL Under 12 competitions, there will be no ladder or results recorded. This is not only so the players will focus on playing the game without worrying about the results but also for the coaches and parents to ensure that an appropriate learning environment is created for children.

## 1.8 Coaching

Each club's Under 12 team must have a minimum of one Head Coach and one Assistant Coach (Head Coach to oversee the program whilst assistant coach to look after other team on match days and trainings). If you wish to have two Head Coaches (one for each team there is no issue with this).

- Accreditation Requirements - The Head Coach must have a minimum of a C Licence accreditation (preferably youth). The Assistant Coach must have a minimum of a Skill Training Certificate.

With clubs already having two to three coaches working within the U11s program, this provides an extra pathway for coaches to develop themselves and the players they are working with.