

**Annexe 11**

**Optus Small Sided  
Football League**

## Article 1 - Competition Format

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1. The Optus Small Sided Football League will comprise divisions in the 6-11s age groups.
2. In the 8-11s age groups, a club may not enter more than one team into the same division unless the club enters more teams than there are divisions or at the discretion of Football West.
3. In the 6-7s age groups, each game day will be held at the designated host venue in each club cluster.
4. In the 8-11s age groups, where possible, the team from each club will play the corresponding team from every other club in its division twice, once at its home venue and once at the opposition's home venue.
5. A club may request a change to the division of one or more of its teams in the Optus Small Sided Football League. Any such change may or may not be granted at the discretion of Football West, and if granted any change will be subject to the applicable administration charges. The decision as to whether or not a change request is granted by Football West is final.
6. Small Sided Football must be played according to the Optus Small Sided Football Laws of the Game as published on the Football West website.

## Article 2 - Venue

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1. All Optus Small Sided Football fixtures must be played on grass.
2. A club may request to change its home ground venue but may do so only by written application to Football West. Football West reserves the right to refuse any application if the facilities do not meet the criteria as specified in the Football West Competition Management By-Law.
3. Football West reserves the right to reject any application for a change of venue if the proposed new venue is within 5 kilometres of another Optus Small Sided Football League club.
4. Football West reserves the right to require that its sponsors' signage is prominently displayed at all Football West fixtures.
5. Football West reserves the right to take whatever action is deemed necessary in the event that Optus Small Sided Football League Fixtures are affected by changes to the availability of any venue or venues.

## Article 3 - Fixtures

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1. Fixtures may not commence prior to 8:00am.

2. The duration of the half time interval will be 5 minutes in the 8s-11s age groups.
3. Once fixtures have been published in the 8-11s age group, no changes may be made unless otherwise allowed in these rules. A club may request a fixture change if it can demonstrate exceptional circumstances, in writing, not less than four days prior to the scheduled kick-off date.
4. A request to change a fixture date in accordance with paragraph 3 within seven days of the scheduled date must be accompanied by written consent from the opposition club. This request may or may not be approved by Football West in its discretion.
5. A club which has been granted a fixture change in accordance with paragraph 3 is responsible for all costs associated with the rearranged fixture.
6. On days in which the temperature is expected to be high, the instructing referee or game leader may use his discretion to allow players to take drink breaks.
7. The home club must provide one stretcher which is to be placed in a safe and accessible position. The stretcher must be in position before the commencement of the first fixture of the day until the conclusion of the final fixture of the day unless being utilised.
8. Each club must have a first aid kit available at the venue on the date of the fixture.
9. Each club is responsible and accountable for the behaviour of its spectators and their adherence to the Spectator Code of Behaviour, whether playing at home, away or at a neutral venue. It is the responsibility of the ground marshals to inform spectators of any breach of the Spectator Code of Behaviour and request immediate compliance.
10. Football West may from time to time nominate any fixture as being under the direct control of Football West. In such circumstances, Football West will determine the conditions under which the fixture is to be played.
11. While a fixture in the 8-11s age groups is in progress, no person may stand behind the goal at either end of the field of play.
12. The game day co-ordinator has authority to direct spectators and other non-playing persons to keep clear of certain areas of the venue.

## **Article 4 - Abandoned Fixtures**

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1. Abandoned fixtures in the Optus Small Sided Football League will not be replayed under any circumstances.

## **Article 5 - Ground Marshals**

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1. Each club must appoint a ground marshal whose duties are:
  - a) to ensure the security and safety of players, match referees and club officials;

- b) to liaise with club officials and emergency services if required; and
  - c) to ensure the security of the venue, players, match referees and club officials at the conclusion of the fixture.
2. If the club is using one field of play on a fixture date, the club must appoint at least one ground marshal. A game day co-ordinator may act as a ground marshal.
  3. If the club is using more than one field of play on a fixture date, the club must appoint at least two ground marshals.
  4. Neither the coach, manager, game leader or instructing referee of a team involved in a fixture may act as ground marshal for that fixture.
  5. It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that the ground marshals are fully briefed on their responsibilities.
  6. All ground marshals must have access to all areas of the ground at all times. Ground marshals may not be limited to a specific location (for example, the person working in a canteen may not be a ground marshal).
  7. All ground marshals must wear the ground marshal vests which have been supplied by Football West for the duration of the fixture. Replacement vests are available from Football West.
  8. Ground marshals must be visible at all times.
  9. Ground marshals may not smoke or drink alcohol while on duty.

## **Article 6 - Match Documentation**

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1. Players in the 6-7s age groups are required to have their names and registration numbers recorded on an attendance sheet.
2. Players in the 8-11s age groups are required to be recorded on a team list. The team list for each fixture must clearly indicate the name and registration number of each player and any misconduct offences. Each team list must be correctly signed by the authorised representative of each club and the instructing referee.
3. It is the responsibility of the referee to return the completed team list to the home club.
4. In the 6-7s age groups, it is the responsibility of each club's game day liaison officer to give the completed attendance register to the game day co-ordinator.
5. The game day co-ordinator must forward all attendance registers from each game day to reach Football West within 5 business days of the fixture date.

## Article 7 - Players

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1. A player is eligible to play in the Optus Small Sided Football League in the 6s-7s age group if he was born between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2007.
2. A player is eligible to play in the Optus Small Sided Football League in the 8s age group if he was born between 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2006.
3. A player is eligible to play in the Optus Small Sided Football League in the 9s age group if he was born between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2005.
4. A player is eligible to play in the Optus Small Sided Football League in the 10s age group if he was born between 1 January 2002 and 31 December 2004.
5. A player is eligible to play in the Optus Small Sided Football League in the 11s age group if he was born between 1 January 2001 and 31 December 2003.
6. A female player may participate in the Optus Small Sided Football League in accordance with paragraphs 1 to 5 and also in an age group one year below her chronological age.
7. A request for a player to participate in an age group other than that for which he is eligible must be made in writing to Football West.
8. If a request is made in accordance with paragraph 7 for a player to play in an age group higher than that of his chronological age, the request must be accompanied by a letter signed by the club secretary and at least one of the player's parents or guardians. Such a request may be granted after the player has been assessed by Football West. The player is ineligible to participate in the requested age group until written approval has been received from Football West.
9. If a request is made in accordance with paragraph 7 for a player to play in an age group lower than that of his chronological age, the request must be accompanied by a letter signed by the club secretary, at least one of the player's parents or guardians and a qualified medical practitioner or other professional person who is qualified to provide evidence of physical, emotional or intellectual disadvantage. No such request will be granted until it has been assessed by Football West, and the player is ineligible to participate in the requested age group until written notification has been received from Football West.

## Article 8 - Playing Strips

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1. In any 8-11s age group fixture, if the shirts of the participating teams are alike or similar, then players of the home team will be required to change its shirts. If the home team does not have a set of differently coloured shirt, they may wear differently coloured bibs.

2. In any 6-7s age group fixture, if the shirts of the participating teams are alike or similar, then players of the first mentioned team are to wear different coloured bibs.

## **Article 9 - Match Balls**

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1. The first named club must provide the match ball.