



Optus Small-Sided Football
GAME LEADER RESOURCE



**FOOTBALL
FEDERATION
AUSTRALIA**

**'yes'
OPTUS**



The main role of the game leader is to keep the game moving fluently, limit stoppages and assist players with all match re-starts. Most importantly, they must make every effort to create an environment that ensures that all players have fun. This person can be a club official, parent, older child / player or beginning referee.

The basic laws and playing conditions;

- Start of play – Kick forward to a team-mate from the middle of the halfway line.
- Number of Players – Under 6 – 4 v 4 / Under 7 & 8 - 5 v 5
- Field Size – 30m x 20m
- Goalkeepers – No goalkeepers
- Re-start after a goal – A player from the team that concedes the goal will kick, pass or dribble ball into play from anywhere along back line. Defenders retreat to the half way line and move once ball is in play.
- Ball crossing the touch line – Kick, pass or dribble ball into play from touch line. Defenders should be 4.5 metres away from the ball.
- Ball crossing the goal line after touching the defending team last – Corner kick. Defenders should be 4.5 metres away from the ball.
- Ball crossing the goal line after touching the attacking team last – Kick, pass or dribble ball into play from anywhere along back line. Defenders retreat to half way line and move once ball is in play.
- Offside – No offside
- Fouls and misconduct – Indirect free kicks are awarded for acts of fouls and misconduct with defenders 4.5metres away from the ball.
For deliberate or serious acts of fouls and misconduct in the attacking half of field a penalty kick is awarded from an 8m spot with an empty goal – all other players must stand behind the half way line.

Considerations for the Game Leader;

- Promote player development, participation and fun
- Discourage players from permanently over-guarding the goal – encourage maximum involvement for all players
- Ensure the correct number of players are on the field
- Use a “Ready, Set, Go” prompt to encourage quick decisions when restarting play
- Most fouls and misconduct at this level are not deliberate and serious. Give advantage to the attacking team and let the game flow, limiting stoppages
- Ensure team officials and parents create a safe and positive playing environment for the children
- Ensure team officials and parents uphold a player development and participation focus rather than emphasising winning and losing
- Ensure there are no positions at this age, children should be involved in all aspects of the game
- Praise and encourage both teams
- Be enthusiastic, consistent and approachable
- Remember the children are learning the game – be flexible and patient