



**FOOTBALL
FEDERATION
VICTORIA**

Optus Small-Sided Football

***2011 Under 9's Guidelines
for***

Metropolitan Melbourne Clubs

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Optus Small-Sided Football



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www.footballfedvic.com.au





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1.0 Introduction

Optus Small-Sided Football (SSF) provides an enjoyable participation experience for young people of all abilities with a major focus on skill development through freedom of expression, minimal coaching, and limited emphasis on the scoreboard.

Optus SSF for Under 9's will operate in an inter club format with formal zonal fixtures introduced with up to 10 teams per league.

Teams entered are self graded, which will be split into two divisions, Kangaroos and Joeys. FFV recommends that Joeys comprise mainly of players aged 8 years, born in 2003 and first year players, while Kangaroos include players aged 9, born 2002 and display a higher level of ability for their age.

There will be no set kick off day or time, however, team entry will allow you to enter into a Saturday or Sunday league (clubs are more than welcome to organise Friday night, mid-week or weekend matches if they like, they just need to liaise with the opposition to organise this). A fixture request form can be found at the end of these guidelines where you can submit your ideal kick off time for home games.

Clubs can request fixture changes from Joeys to Kangaroos, at no cost, during the first 3 weeks of the season. After the first 3 weeks, changes can be made if a league has a vacancy, however, an administration fee is applicable.

The Under 9's will also follow a strict 'no-show' policy, whereby if a complaint is received about a club not turning up to a fixture twice without communicating to the opposition club they will be withdrawn from that league.





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Coaches should keep in mind that players in Optus SSF have the freedom not only to move between leagues (Joeys and Kangaroos) but also between all the Optus SSF age groups from U7's to U11's. Movement between age groups and leagues is at the coach's discretion and should be based on ability, size of the player, and improvement over time. Keeping a player in a team where they are no longer challenged or are finding their experience too challenging is detrimental to the players' development and as a result the child may lose interest in the sport. FFV encourages coaches to initially place players in teams according to their age, however, the players' progress should be monitored week to week and moved to a team that is more suited to the player if required.

1.1 Uneven numbers

As the weeks go by you will find that the number of participants that attend sessions may differ from week-to-week. When forming players into groups and you find that there are too many participants, a simple solution is to incorporate an **interchange system**. Coaches or Instructing Referees should be in charge of interchanges and ensure they occur frequently. All players should be rotated so they get as much playing and rest time as each other. Under no circumstances should games be played outside of the nationally consistent formats. Penalties will apply to clubs that breach this.



The **nationally consistent** playing format for the U9's age group is as follows:

Format	Under 9's
Numbers	7 v 7
Field Size	¼ Full Size Pitch Min. 40m x 30m Max. 50m x 40m
Field Markings	Markers or line markings
Penalty Area	5m depth x 12m width
Goal Size	Min: 2.5m x 1.8m Max: 3.0m x 2.0m
Goal Type	Goals, Poles or Markers
Ball Size	Size 3
Goalkeeper	Yes
Playing Time	2 x 20 minutes
1/2 time Break	5 minutes
Referee	Instructing Referee
Points Table & Finals	No



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Portable Goals

Samba Sports is the preferred national supplier of Optus SSF portable goals. Orders for goals can be made by filling in the purchase order form located on the Optus SSF section of the FFV website at

<http://www.footballfedvic.com.au/content.aspx?file=7250|20498k>

Clubs are also reminded that they are able to apply for funding at the designated time through the FFA's Grassroots Football Facilities Fund at www.myfootballclub.com.au

Publishing Results

No results will be recorded in the Under 9's and we ask that clubs do not place any emphasis on winning, losing or keeping scores. If a club posts results on Results Vault the FFV Results Coordinator will remove the result and a penalty will apply for repeat offences.

Remember that at Under 9 level the focus should still be on the enjoyment of the game and learning, not winning.

Resources

A dedicated Optus Small Sided Football website has been established at

www.smallsidedfootball.com.au

This will be a great place for children and parents to get plenty of information and have lots of fun with Optus Small Sided Football now and throughout next season. In addition, coach and parent educational resources are available from the Game Formats section of the FFV website at www.footballfedvic.com.au





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2.0 How to start Optus Small-Sided Football at your club

2.1 Team Registrations

All clubs intending to run Optus SSF for boys and girls aged 8-9 in 2011 must notify FFV by submitting a team entry by **Tuesday March 15th 2011**.

Clubs can elect to start Optus SSF until registrations close on Wednesday August 31st, 2011. If a club intends to run Optus SSF beyond this date and wishes to register new participants it can do so by completing an out-of-season registration form. This is not applicable for players registered prior to Wednesday August 31st as they are covered by FFV Risk Protection Program until December 31st 2011.

2.2 Registering Optus Small-Sided Football Participants at a Club

For full player registration procedures, please refer to the 2011 FFV Registration Regulations and the National Registration Regulations (NRR). All regulations are available on the FFV website at www.footballfedvic.com.au

MyFootballClub – On-Line Player Registration System

All Optus SSF participants MUST be registered via MyFootballClub prior to participating in Optus Small-Sided Football in 2011.

All clubs will need to obtain a login for MyFootballClub (MFC) from FFV Registrations Department in order to process and accept Optus SSF registrations. All users of the MFC system will be required to undertake mandatory training which will be held prior to the season. Without this training, a user will not be provided access to the MFC system.





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Clubs **MUST** also ensure their Club Account is financial (with credit) in order for registrations to be processed.

At the time of on-line registration via MyFootballClub the registration fee will be deducted from the club account. If there are no funds on the Club Account, the Optus SSF registration cannot be processed.

Children can start to participate once their Optus SSF Registration has been processed and paid for via MyFootballClub. Children are covered under the FFV Risk Protection Programme until 31st December 2011. If Player Self-Registration is not completed, the completion of the correct version of the NRR 03 form is a requirement for insurance purposes and **MUST** be available upon request from FFV or FFA.

If a participant takes part in Optus SSF with a Club and is not registered in accordance with these Guidelines, the participant **WILL NOT** be covered by the FFV Risk Protection Program.

Clubs electing to charge more than the FFV fee must indicate the price they will be charging and must justify these costs on the Optus SSF Registration Form when registering as a venue. Optus SSF should not be used as a major source of raising revenue but rather an introduction to the sport and your Club. By offering quality services members are more likely to be retained year after year.

2.3 Registration Fees

FFV's player registration fee is \$57.50 (subject to change) per participant and covers:

- Insurance (FFV Risk Protection Programme);
- FFA Levy;
- Optus Small-Sided Football national resources;
- FFV resources, including the administration fee.





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2.4 Volunteers

The number of volunteers required to run Optus SSF is dependant upon the number of registered participants. The roles of volunteers include:

- An Administrator
- A Coordinator
- Instructing Referee

The Administrator

The Administrator will be the direct and first point of contact regarding Optus SSF at their club. The Administrator is responsible for:

- Submitting a team entry to FFV prior to **Tuesday March 15th 2011**;
- Organise for instructing referees, the coordinator and administrator of the Under 9's to attend a Junior Licence if required via www.footballaustralia.com.au/coaching;
- Ensure all participants are correctly registered with FFV as per the registration process;
- Collect registration fees;
- Complete and submit feedback forms at the conclusion of the season;
- Liaise with FFV staff regarding any enquiries;
- Assist the Coordinator in other duties including promotion, volunteer management, and delivery as appropriate.





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The Coordinator

The Coordinator is essentially the Head Coach of Optus SSF. The Coordinator is primarily responsible for:

- Organise Instructing Referees for the duration of the season;
- Organise, with your clubs administrator, and attend a Junior Licence if required. Ensure all Instructing Referees attend this course if required;
- Provide Instructing Referees with session plans for weekly training sessions if applicable;
- Assist Instructing Referees with the set-up of Optus SSF pitches;
- Arrange participants into teams of the appropriate sizes per age category;
- Ensure that participants are being supervised at all times;
- Assist the Administrator in other duties including promotion and registrations as appropriate;
- The Coordinator can also act as the Administrator.

The Instructing Referee

The main role of the instructing referee is to control the game to ensure it is played fluently, to instruct and correct players (with minimal blowing of the whistle) on how to behave and what the rules are (e.g. what a foul is, what a free kick is and how to throw in). Should these indiscretions happen a second time, the referee should stop the game and apply the appropriate action. This person can be a club official, capable parent, older child or player or a referee in training from the federation.





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The instructing referee should:

- Promote player development, participation and fun;
- Ensure the correct numbers of players are on the field;
- Give advantage to the attacking team and let the game flow, limit stoppages;
- Instruct players in the first instance before blowing the whistle;
- Ensure team officials and parents create a positive playing environment for the children;
- Ensure team officials and parents uphold a player development and participation focus rather than emphasising on winning and losing;
- Ensure a safe playing environment for the children;
- Praise and encourage both teams;
- Be enthusiastic, consistent and approachable.

Children look up to the people around them so it is important that all volunteers act professionally at all times. Volunteers should not swear, smoke, drink alcohol or use drugs in front of the participants. Be sure to encourage the participants, be positive, and most of importantly enjoy yourself!

Please note volunteers are covered by the FFV Risk Protection Program.

2.5 Coaching

For the Under 9's age group of Optus SSF, FFA and FFV strongly encourage that all coaches and instructing referees complete a Junior Licence coaching course. There are ample Junior Licence courses organised at various locations throughout the state and spread evenly throughout the year. Coaches and Instructing Referees are





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encouraged to register on-line at www.footballaustralia.com.au/coaching. Alternatively clubs may wish to organise a Junior Licence coaching course to be held at their club. To do so simply contact Zone Development Officer, Elisabeth Speller at espeller@footballfedvic.com.au. A Junior Licence coaching course requires approximately 14 contact hours and thus can be run over 2 full days or a series of weeknights. The cost of a Junior Licence from 2011 is \$99. FFV will promote all courses on the FFV website to ensure maximum uptake. Courses will commence from early 2011.

2.6 Coach Registration

In 2011 it will be mandatory for clubs to name their coach for each team when submitting a team entry. Included in the team entry fees is a fixed Coach Registration fee of \$100 per team. Discounts will apply to this fee on the following basis:

- A \$50 discount if the team has registered a coach correctly; we need the coach's name and email address;
- A further \$50 discount if the team has an appropriately accredited coach or if the unaccredited coach completes the appropriate coaching course in 2011. In this case the coach must hold or complete the Junior licence by season's end to be eligible for a further \$50 discount.

The aim of this fee is to encourage coaches to become accredited according to the level of team they are coaching.

Appropriately accredited and registered coaches are provided with membership to the Football Federation Victoria Coaches Association (FFVCA), which provides the following resources:

- Members only webpage;
- E-Newsletter;





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- Seminars;
- Discount entry to the annual FFV Coaches Conference.

2.8 Apparel

Clubs are encouraged to wear FFV licence apparel, however, have the option of wearing bibs.

FFV licensees can be found on the FFV website.

Football equipment and FFV license apparel is available to be purchased from the shop located at Darebin International Sports Centre (DISC) at 281 Darebin Rd, Thornbury, VIC 3071.





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3.0 Summary of Key Dates

- **Monday January 10th, 2011:** Registration Period Opens
- **From January - May:** Junior Licence Courses for all clubs
- **Tuesday March 15th:** Expression of Interest Forms due
- **Wednesday August 31st:** Registration period ends

4.0 Feedback Forms

Your feedback is vital to the success and growth of Grassroots Football. FFV will create an online feedback form for clubs which will be available to complete at the end of the season. There will also be a feedback form for parents to complete. When they are available please take the time to provide your feedback so together we can work towards continually improving the world's most popular sport.

5.0 Contact Details

ALL PAPERWORK/CORRESPONDENCE MUST BE SENT TO:

Steve Johnston

State Participation Administrator

Football Federation Victoria

PO BOX 7488

St Kilda Road, VIC, 8004

Website: www.footballfedvic.com.au

Phone: (03) 9474 1846

Fax: (03) 9474 1899

E-mail: sjohnston@footballfedvic.com.au





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6.0 FAQ

6.1 Promoting Optus Small-Sided Football at your club

Once you've submitted the Registration Form your club will be a registered Optus SSF venue and can start promoting in the local area. For your club to benefit most from running Optus Small-Sided Football, it is imperative that you try and reach as many children aged 8 and 9 in your local area as possible. Some different methods of promotion include:

- Make contact with the local primary schools. Leave some flyers or run a promotional clinic for the grade 3 and 4 students;
- Put up some flyers/posters in your local area or community noticeboards. The local YMCA and convenience stores are good examples of great spots to promote;
- Advertise on your club's website and newsletter. Conducting a mail-out to 2010 participants aged 8 and 9 will also encourage previous members to return to the club;
- Place an advertisement in the local paper or local council newsletter. Councils are also more than happy to promote community events on their websites;
- Host a registration day prior to the season kicking off. Give kids and their parents a chance to see what your club offers and how much fun Optus SSF can be.

Further promotion can be discussed with FFV staff upon request.





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FFV can and will assist you in promoting Optus SSF as follows:

- FFV will advertise your club as an Optus SSF venue via the Football Federation Victoria website in the Optus SSF section at <http://www.footballfedvic.com.au/content.aspx?file=7250|20499q>
- FFV will direct parents to their nearest venue when enquiries are made;
- FFV have promotional material available, which can be collected from the FFV Office or downloaded from the FFV website;
- FFV Sports Development Program students will leave flyers promoting local clubs whenever they conduct school or community clinics;
- FFV delivers the Cottee's Schools 5-a-side Program to Grade 3 and 4 students where promotional material regarding local clubs is distributed.

6.2 Working With Children Check

The Victorian Government through the Department of Justice has introduced the "Working with Children Act 2005" which has distinct implications on the conduct of Football Federation Victoria (FFV), its' associations and all clubs playing in FFV competitions.

The WWC Check is an initiative to further improve the safety of Victoria's children when they are participating in activities. It was developed through extensive public consultation, and aims to strike a balance between protecting children under 18 years of age, promoting volunteering and safeguarding individuals' rights.

The requirement for WWC Checks commenced in April 2006. It seeks to prevent those who pose a risk to the safety of children from working with them, in either paid or volunteer work. The *Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic)* (Act) requires that some





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people who work or volunteer in child-related work apply for, and pass, a WWC Check.

The WWC Check now covers all areas of administration, officiating, coaching and overnight supervision at camps and clinics. Some people working or volunteering in connection with Football (soccer) will be required to apply for WWC Checks before commencing their role at clubs.

FFV has a WWC Check policy that clubs need to comply with. This policy can be downloaded from FFV's website.

For more information the Department of Justice can be contacted on 1300 652 879 or visit www.justice.vic.gov.au/workinhgwithchildren

6.3 Spectator Behaviour

Spectators need to keep in mind that children participate in sport because they enjoy it. Positive comments are motivational while negativity may drive children out of sport all together. Every effort should be made to congratulate participants on their efforts regardless of however many mistakes you think they may have made. Children look up to the people around them so it is important that all spectators act professionally at all times.

Spectators should not swear, smoke, drink alcohol or use drugs in front of children. Respect the rules of the club and just let the kids have fun playing sport. Please refer to the Codes of Conduct section of the Optus SSF Handbook for more information and please ensure these are distributed to all parents and coaches.





OPTUS SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL FIXTURE REQUEST FORM

The Competitions Department have introduced a fixture request form for season 2011. This will make it easier for clubs to submit fixture requests prior to the Tuesday March 15th team registration deadline. Below is an example of how the form should be filled out and returned either by fax, email or post.

Please ensure that you complete the form in full as this will help eliminate possible fixture clashes during the season.

CLUB: *FFV UNITED* **POSITION HELD:** *Secretary: Michael Pocklington*

PH NUMBER: 94741818 **E-MAIL:** mpocklington@footballfedvic.com.au

ROUND 1 HOME

TEAM	DAY	KICK OFF TIME	VENUE
SSF Under 9 Kangaroo	Sunday	9.00AM	Darebin Oval No.1
SSF Under 9 Kangaroo2	Sunday	9.00AM	Darebin Oval No.2

ROUND 2 HOME

TEAM	DAY	KICK OFF TIME	VENUE
SSF Under 9 Joey	Sunday	9.00AM	Darebin Oval No.1
SSF Under 9 Joey 2	Sunday	10.00AM	Darebin Oval No.1

The above is an example of a Club who has registered 4 Sunday SSF teams (2 x Under 9 Kangaroo and 2 x Under 9 Joey) and have two pitches available.

Regards

Competitions Team



OPTUS SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL FIXTURE REQUEST FORM

CLUB: _____ **POSITION HELD:** _____

PH NUMBER: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

ROUND 1 HOME

TEAM	DAY	KICK OFF TIME	VENUE

ROUND 2 HOME

TEAM	DAY	KICK OFF TIME	VENUE

