



UNDER 12 PLAYING FORMAT AND RULES

PLAYING FORMATS

The table below summarises the playing formats for boys and girls aged Under 12:

The number of players	9-a-side including a goalkeeper. Maximum of 4 (3 recommended) interchange players.
The field of play	Maximum: 70m long x 50m wide. Best Practice: 65m long x 45m wide. Minimum: 60m long x 40m wide.
Goal size	5m wide x 2m high.
Ball size	Size 4.
Duration of the game	25 min halves. Minimum 5 min half time break.
Penalty area	12m deep x 20m wide.
Offside line	1/4 of field size

GOAL TYPE

It is mandatory that solid portable goals (bow-nets or similar are not acceptable) are used for the Under 12 competitions. The use of poles and markers as goals is prohibited.

To comply with Australian Safety Standards, portable goals must be anchored securely to the ground. The use of sandbags or pegs is recommended when using portable goals.

For more information on Australian Safety Standards please visit the Product Safety Australia website: www.productsafety.gov.au

GOALKEEPER

The goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area. To restart play after a save or gathering the ball with their hands, the ball may be thrown, rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet BUT can not be kicked or drop kicked directly from their hands. The goalkeeper has 6 seconds to restart play. The ball is in play once it moves out of the penalty area or when the goalkeeper places the ball on the ground.

Goal kick from anywhere within the penalty area. Opponents remain at least 10 metres outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. Referees should not restart play until they are satisfied all opposition players are at least 10 metres outside the penalty area. The ball is in play once it is kicked directly out of the penalty area.

An indirect free kick is awarded if the goalkeeper touches the ball with their hands after it has been deliberately kicked to them by a team mate.

BALL CROSSING THE TOUCH LINE

Throw in:

Player faces the field of play, has part of each foot on the ground either on or behind the touch line, uses both hand and delivers

the ball from behind and over their head. The ball is in play once it enters the field of play. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw in.

BALL CROSSING THE GOAL LINE AFTER TOUCHING THE DEFENDING TEAM LAST

Corner kick:

A player from the attacking team places the ball inside the corner arc or within 1 metre of the corner, nearest to the point where the ball crossed the line. Opponents must be at least 5 metres away from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.

BALL CROSSING THE GOAL LINE AFTER TOUCHING THE ATTACKING TEAM LAST

Goal kick from anywhere within the penalty area. Opponents remain at least 10 metres outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The Referee should not restart play until they are satisfied all opposition players are at least 10 metres outside the penalty area. The ball is in play once it is kicked directly out of the penalty area.

OFFSIDE

The official offside rule (Law 11, FIFA Laws of the Game) will apply to Under 12 matches. Attacking players can only be offside if any part of the head, body (excluding arms) or feet is in the opponents offside area (the area between the offside line and the goal line - excluding the actual offside line) and any part of the head, body (excluding arms) or feet is nearer to the opponents goal than both the ball and second last opponent.

Goals can not be scored from an offside position.

A player is not in an offside position if level with the second last opponent, last two opponents or behind the ball.

The offence only occurs when the player in an offside position and interferes with play.

FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Indirect free kicks are awarded for all acts of handball or fouls and misconduct. Opponents must be at least 5 metres away from the ball when the indirect free kick is taken. (An indirect free kick is where a goal can be scored only if the ball subsequently touches another player before it enters the goal).

For deliberate or serious acts of handball or fouls and misconduct in the penalty area, a penalty kick is awarded from an 8 metre penalty mark with only a goalkeeper in position.

All other players must be outside the penalty area and be at least 5 metres behind the penalty mark.

Fouls and misconduct are:

- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent;
- Trips or attempts to trip an opponent;
- Jumps at an opponent;
- Charges at an opponent;
- Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent;
- Pushes an opponent;
- Tackles an opponent from behind to gain possession of the ball;
- Makes contact with the opponent before touching the ball;
- Holds an opponent;
- Spits at an opponent;
- Handles the ball deliberately;
- Plays in a dangerous manner; and
- Impedes the progress of a player.

MATCH RESULTS AND POINTS TABLES

The recording of match results will be conducted in all Under 12 competitions.

Points tables will be used and results published.

Finals series will be conducted in Under 12 competitions.

OTHER RULES

All other rules will be applied using the IFAB Laws of the Game.

Rules of competition will also be used by the competition administrator.

The use of sin-bin will not apply to Under 12 competitions.

FIELD LAYOUTS

Diagrams below illustrate the field markings to be used for Under 12 competitions.

Please note the introduction of the offside line. This has been designed to be a common sense approach to the introduction of the offside law.

By using the offside line, it eliminates the need for assistant referees to adjudicate offside decisions.

Some tolerance should be given to the referee for offside decisions.

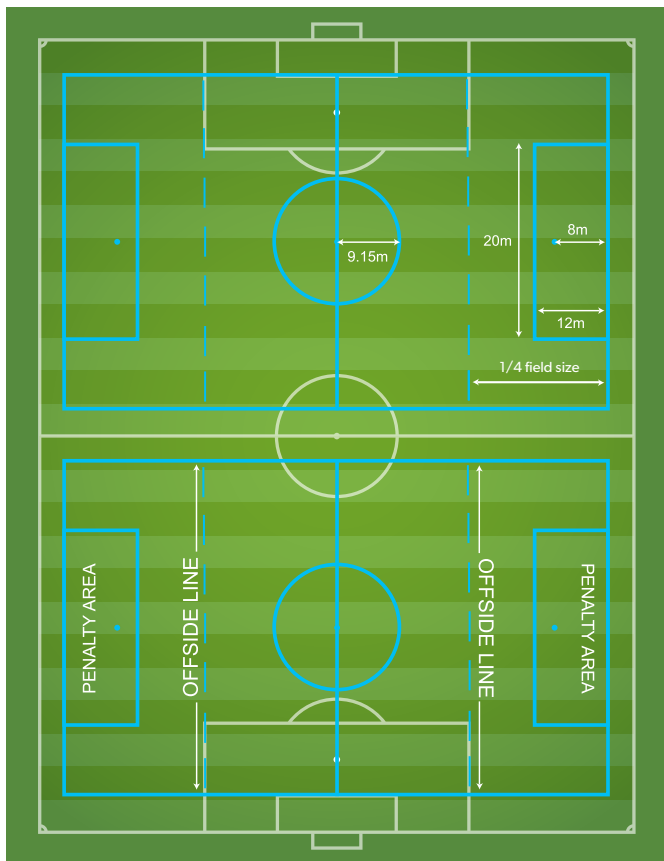


Diagram 1: Two Under 12 playing fields per full size playing field.

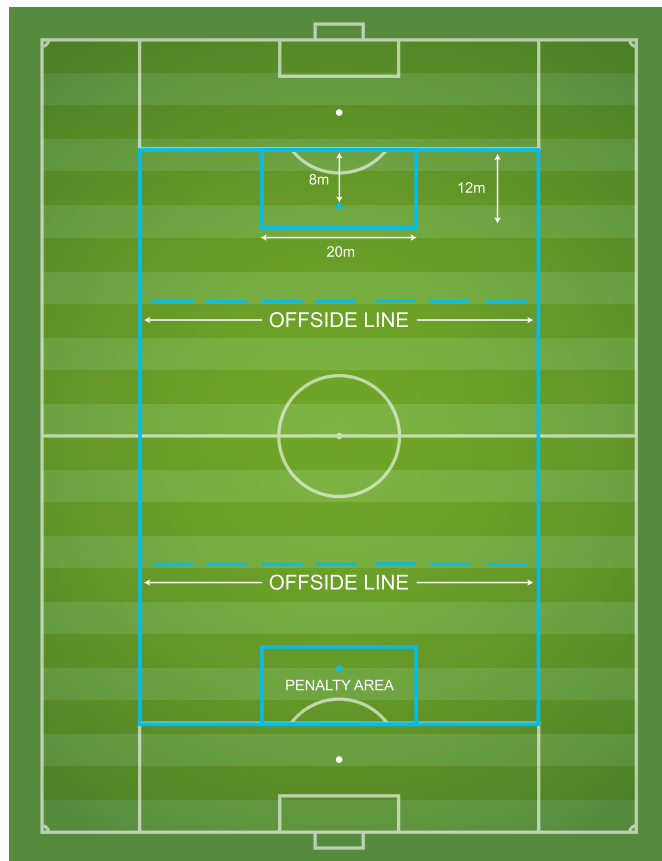


Diagram 2: One Under 12 playing field per full size playing field.

NOTE - Diagram 1 is shown with half way lines and centre circle markings. These are recommended but not mandatory. In the case where these markings are absent, the referees discretion will be used to adjudicate the point of restart and players proximity to the ball.

In the absence of an offside line being marked, agility poles 1.5m from the sideline will be sufficient.