



2017 Handbook
for
**Metropolitan
Melbourne Clubs**

ffv.org.au

www.miniroos.com.au



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1.0 Introduction

MiniRoos 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.

The **nationally consistent** playing formats for the Under 7 to Under 11 age groups are as follows:

	6 – 7 Age Range	8 – 9 Age Range	10 – 11 Age Range
Numbers	4 v 4	7 v 7	9 v 9
Field Size	Length: 30m Width: 20m	Length: 40-50m Width: 30-40m	Length: 60-70m Width: 40-50m
Field Markings	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings
Penalty Area	No Penalty Area	5m depth x 12m width	5m depth x 12m width
Goal Size	Width: 1.5m-2m Height: 0.9m-1m	Width: 2.5m-3m Height: 1.8m-2m	Width: 4.5m-5m Height: 1.8m-2m
Goal Type	Goals, Poles or Cones	Goals, Poles or Cones	Goals, Poles or Cones
Goalkeeper	No	Yes	Yes
Ball Size	Size 3	Size 3	Size 4
Playing Time	2 x 15 minutes halves	2 x 20 minutes halves	2 x 25 minutes halves
1/2 Time Break	5 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes
Referee	Game Leader	Game Leader	Game Leader
Points Table & Finals	No	No	No

1.1 National Playing Formats and Rules

The National Playing Formats and Rules can be viewed on the MiniRoos website.

Please click [here](#) to view.

1.2 Player Eligibility

MiniRoos players can move freely between age groups (Under 7 to Under 11), playing above or below their age group as determined by their current stage of development. It is preferable that participants play down one, or no more than two, age groups.

Keeping a player in a team where they are no longer challenged or are finding their experience too challenging is detrimental to the player's 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 player's progress should be monitored week to week and moved to a team that is more suited to the player if required.

MiniRoos players can move freely between league categories (Joeys, Wallabies and Kangaroos), as determined by their current stage of development.

Under the Equal Opportunities Act, participation of children under 12 years may be restricted in competitive sporting activities for:

- people who can effectively compete
- people of a specified age or age group
- people with a general or particular disability.

However, participation cannot be restricted to people of one sex in a competitive sporting activity for children under the age of 12 years even if:

- the strength, stamina or physique of competitors is relevant to the competitive sporting activity
- participation in the activity and the exclusion of a sex is necessary for progression to an elite level competition
- it is intended to facilitate participation in the activity by people of a particular sex and the exclusion is reasonable.

1.3 Composition of Leagues

Ideally leagues will consist of 10 teams, but could be as small as 6 teams or as large as 15 teams.

Three categories of leagues offered in MiniRoos are:

- Kangaroos
- Wallabies
- Joeys

Clubs will self-categorise their MiniRoos teams during the team entry process. All teams will be placed in a league that corresponds to the requests of the club where possible. FFV advises clubs to categorise their MiniRoos teams according to the guidelines listed on the following page.

		Category		
		Kangaroos (Strong Skills)	Wallabies (Develop Skills)	Joeys (Learn Skills)
Age	U8	Born in 2009, have played U7 MiniRoos & have a strong grasp of football skills or are born 2008 and beginning in football.	Born in 2009, played U7 MiniRoos & are beginning to develop their football skills , or born in 2008 and have no previous football experience.	Born in 2009, are first year players with no or little previous experience in MiniRoos.
	U9	Players born in 2008, who have played two years of MiniRoos and have a strong grasp of football skills , or are born in 2007 and are beginning to develop their football skills.	Born in 2008, have played 1-2 years of MiniRoos and are beginning to develop their football skills , or born in 2007 & have no previous experience in MiniRoos.	Born in 2008, are first year players with no or little previous experience in MiniRoos.
	U10	Born in 2007, have played 3 years of MiniRoos and have a strong grasp of football skills , or are born in 2006 and are beginning to develop their football skills.	Born in 2007, have played 1-3 years of MiniRoos and are beginning to develop their football skills , or are born in 2006 and have no previous experience in MiniRoos.	Born in 2007, are first year players with no or little previous experience in MiniRoos.
	U11	Born in 2006, have played 4 years of MiniRoos and have a strong grasp of football skills .	Born in 2006, played 1 – 4 years of MiniRoos and are beginning to develop their football skills .	Born in 2006, are first year players with no or little previous experience in MiniRoos.

Clubs may apply to change leagues after the first three (3) games of the season, and then the tenth (10th) game of the season. Requests cannot be made at any other time.

Requests will not be granted on a weekly basis in the interests of minimising disruption to fixtures during the season.

Requests between the closing of the online team entry system and the start of the season will not be granted.

No fees are associated with a league change in MiniRoos.

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 or mid-week matches if it suits both clubs involved. Please refer to section 1.3 'Fixture Changes.'

1.4 Fixture Changes

For Under 7, 8, 9 and 10 MiniRoos games, clubs are welcome to alter a fixture to a mutually agreeable time, date and venue without FFV approval. Changes do not need to be advised to FFV unless clubs wish to have these fixture details changed online.

For Under 11 MiniRoos games the following fixture change process needs to be followed to ensure that all appointed Game Leaders (Instructing Referees) are aware of any alterations:

- FFV will consider fixture changes if the following criteria is met:
 - Written consent is provided to FFV by registered officials of both clubs no later than 14 days prior to the fixture. Exemptions may be granted for Rounds 1-3.
- Scheduled FFV competition Catch-up and Cup Rounds will only be used in the case of postponed or abandoned FFV Competition Fixtures.
- Exemption from Rule 4.7.2.c may only be made if;
 - a request is made in accordance with Rule 4.7.2.a. and;
 - five (5) days prior to the catch up or cup round neither team are involved in any other matches being played in that catch-up or cup round.

- Rules 4.7.1 and 4.7.2 do not apply to finals or playoff FFV Competition Fixtures.

FFV's decision in regards to rescheduling of FFV Competition Fixtures will be final and binding on all parties and shall not be appealable.

1.5 Match Records

No match records are required for any MiniRoos fixtures.

1.6 Non-Participation and Forfeits

MiniRoos will follow a strict 'no-show' policy. Failure to do so may result in a fine and other action under the GDT.

Clubs are encouraged to inform FFV of any teams that do not participate in a fixture without sufficient notice by contacting FFV Competitions via competitions@ffv.org.au

1.7 Abandoned and Postponed Matches

If a match is not played clubs are welcome to reschedule this match as best suits both teams. It is advised that catch-up rounds are used in such instances. FFV will not reschedule missed MiniRoos matches.

1.8 Match Points and Results

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

Remember that in MiniRoos the focus is the enjoyment of the game and learning, not winning.

1.9 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 you may find that there are too many participants, a simple solution is to incorporate an **interchange system**. Coaches or Game Leaders should be in charge of interchanges and ensure that 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.

1.10 Fair Game Time

It is the collective responsibility of all club administrators, coordinators, coaches, and parents to ensure that every player involved in MiniRoos is given equal opportunity to enjoy their football. All children are to be given fair game time. Ideally, this would involve all players receiving equal game time either on a weekly basis, or over the course of the season.

Should players not receive fair game time, parents are encouraged to raise the issue with their appropriate Club Committee Member (MiniRoos Coordinator if applicable). In the unlikely event that the club is unable to rectify the problem parents can contact the [FFV's MiniRoos Team](#) to allow contact to be made with the club.

1.11 Resources

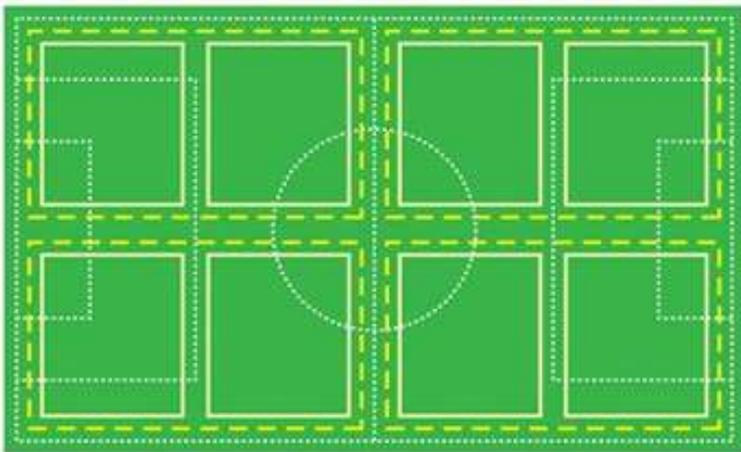
A dedicated MiniRoos website has been established at www.miniroos.com.au. This is a great place for children and parents to get plenty of information.

1.12 Pitch Set-Up

For each age group of MiniRoos there are differing field set-ups. Please see the below explanation for each age group.

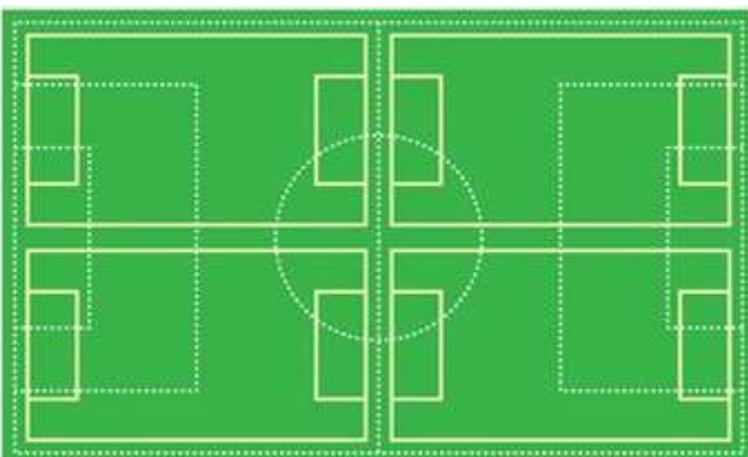
Under 7

Six to eight MiniRoos Football pitches per full-size pitch if required. MiniRoos Football pitches to the correct dimensions are also set up on existing smaller fields or open grass areas



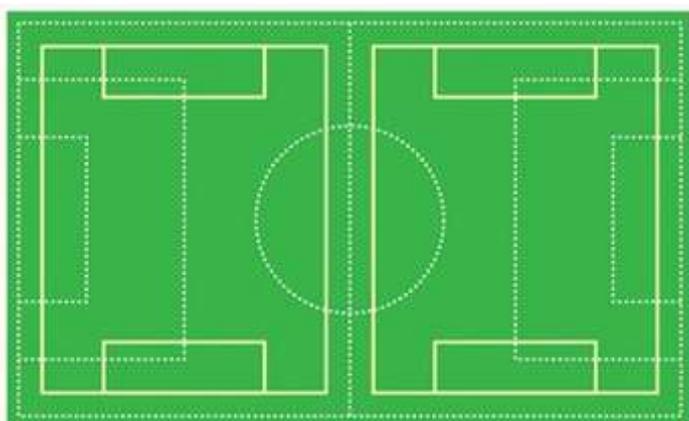
Under 8 - 9

Two to four MiniRoos Football Pitches per full-size pitch if required. MiniRoos Football pitches to the correct dimensions are also set up on existing smaller fields or open grass areas.



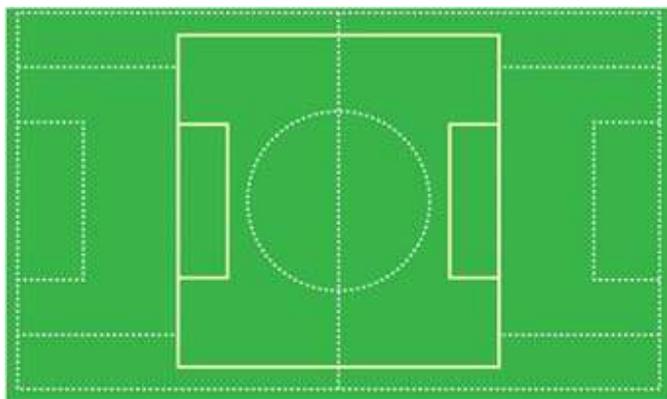
Under 10

One to two MiniRoos Football pitches per full-size pitch if required.



Under 11

In the Under 11 age group, the final stage of development in the MiniRoos Football formats before players commence 11 v 11 football, it is recommended that clubs where facilities and schedules allows, set-up the field from penalty box and adjust width of the field with use of markers to meet the maximum specified width. MiniRoos Football pitches to the correct dimensions can also be set up on existing smaller fields or open grass areas.



2.0 How to Start MiniRoos at Your Club

2.1 Team Registration

Clubs register their MiniRoos U7 to U11 teams during the online team entry period from Wednesday 15 February to Wednesday 8 March 2017. When completing the entry process clubs will need to specify the:

- Age group (Under 7,8, 9, 10 or 11);
- Category (Kangaroos, Wallabies or Joeys)
- Home venue; and
- Preference for a home kick off time.

Fixtures will be created and released on Thursday 13 April 2017 with the MiniRoos season commencing on the weekend of Saturday 22 April 2017.

For all team entries after Wednesday 8 March 2017, clubs will need to email competitions@ffv.org.au and request a late entry form which must be completed. This form will be available after the online team entry period closes. Team entries that can fill a bye will be included before the season starts. All other team entries will be added to an applicable league during the re-grading period. FFV will attempt to satisfy all team entry requests received after the online team entry period as closely as possible, and include all teams into an appropriate league.

2.2 Registering MiniRoos Participants at a Club

For full player registration procedures, please refer to the 2017 FFV Registration Regulations and the National Registration Regulations (NRR). All regulations are available on the FFV website (please click [HERE](#)).

MyFootballClub – On-Line Player Registration System

All MiniRoos participants MUST be registered via MyFootballClub prior to participating in MiniRoos in 2017.

All clubs will need to obtain a login for MyFootballClub (MFC) from the FFV MyFootballClub department in order to process and accept MiniRoos 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.

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 MFC the registration fee will be deducted from the club account. If there are no funds on the Club Account, the MiniRoos registration cannot be processed.

Children can start to participate once their MiniRoos Registration has been processed and paid for via MFC. Children are covered under the FFV Risk Protection Programme until 31st December 2017.

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

MiniRoos 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 MiniRoos player registration fee is \$58* per participant and covers:

- Insurance (FFV Risk Protection Programme);
- FFA Levy;
- MiniRoos national resources;
- FFV resources, including the administration fee; and

*FFV registration fees may be subject to change at any stage without notice

2.4 Volunteers

The number of volunteers required to run MiniRoos is dependent upon the number of registered participants. The roles of volunteers include:

- A Coordinator;
- A Game Leader (Under 7-11).

MiniRoos Coordinator

Take responsibility for ensuring that the match day experience for MiniRoos is of high quality, while working with other roles within the club to ensure that each MiniRoos team has the appropriate amount of players and each team has a coach.

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

- Ensure parents of players understand the philosophy behind MiniRoos.
- Ensure MiniRoos match day experience is created to a high standard. Includes
 - Assist Game Leaders with the set-up of MiniRoos pitches.
 - Ensure fields are set-up, safe and fit to play on
 - Ensure that participants are supervised at all times
 - Ensure that all game leaders are identifiable, have a whistle and are aware of the field which they will start from
 - Arrange the packing up of all equipment after the matches are completed

Game Leader

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 and have maximum involvement. As the children are learning at this level, it is important to be flexible and patient.

The game leader should instruct players on how to behave and enforce the rules, with minimal blowing of the whistle. They should also assist players with learning aspects of the game such as what a foul is and what a free kick is.

The Game Leader 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 an emphasis 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 must be registered on MFC in order to be covered by the FFV Risk Protection Program.

2.5 Coaching

For the Under 7 to Under 9 age groups of MiniRoos FFA and FFV strongly encourage that all coaches and instructing referees complete a FREE MiniRoos (or Grassroots Football Certificate) coaching course. The course is 3 hours, practical and encourages coaches to develop practices that are **FUN**.

For the Under 9 to Under 11 age groups the Skill Training Certificate course is recommended. There are ample Skill Training Certificate courses organised at various locations throughout the state and spread evenly throughout the year. Coaches and Instructing Referees are encouraged to register on-line [HERE](#). Alternatively clubs may wish to organise a Skill Training Certificate course to be held at their club.

To register for a coaching course at your club simply contact our coaching team at coaching@ffv.org.au

3.0 Summary of Key Dates

Team Entries Open:	February 15, 2017
Team Entries Close:	March 8, 2017
Draft Fixture Release:	March 29, 2017
Fixture Release:	April 13, 2017
Regular Season Start:	April 22, 2017
Regrading 1:	May 14, 2017
Regrading 2:	July 9, 2017
Regular Season Conclude:	September 10, 2017
Catch-Up Rounds:	May 14, July 9 & August 27

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:

FFV MiniRoos
Football Federation Victoria
PO BOX 7488
St Kilda Road, VIC, 8004
Website: www.ffv.org.au
Phone: (03) 9474 1800
Fax: (03) 9474 1899
E-mail: miniros@ffv.org.au

6.0 FAQ

6.1 Promoting MiniRoos at Your Club

Once you have submitted your team entry your club will be a registered MiniRoos venue and can start promoting in the local area. For your club to benefit most from running MiniRoos, it is imperative that you try and reach as many children aged 8-11 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 their 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 2016 participants 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 MiniRoos can be.
- Further promotion can be discussed with FFV staff upon request.

FFV can and will assist you in promoting MiniRoos as follows:

- FFV will direct parents to their nearest venue when enquiries are made;
- FFV Sports Development Program students will leave flyers promoting local clubs whenever they conduct school or community clinics;

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 FFV, its associations and all clubs playing in FFV competitions.

The Working With Children (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 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.

All coaches, parents or anyone over the age of 18 who are working with children need to have completed a Working With Children Check.

For more information visit www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au

6.3 Spectator Behaviour

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them
- Focus on your child's effort and performance rather than whether they win or lose
- Encourage children to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition
- Children learn best by example. Appreciate good performance and skilful plays by all participants
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators – without them, your child could not participate
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion