

# Rules - 4 to 7 year olds



## Basic Rules

### 4-7 age group

- Start of play & re-start after a goal – Pass forward to a team mate from the middle of the halfway line. All players must be in their own half of the field of play. Opponents must be at least 5m away from the ball until it is in play. The ball must touch a team mate before a goal can be scored.
- Ball crossing the touch line – There is no throw in. A player from the opposing team to the player that touched the ball last before crossing the touch line will place the ball on the touch line and pass or dribble the ball into play. Opponents must be at least 5m away from the ball until it is in play. The ball must touch a team mate before a goal can be scored.
- Ball crossing the goal line – There is no corner kick. Regardless of which team touched the ball last, a player from the team whose goal line the ball has crossed will place the ball anywhere along the goal line and pass or dribble the ball into play. Opponents must retreat to the half way line and can move once the ball is in play. The ball must touch a team mate before a goal can be scored.
- Fouls and misconduct – Indirect free kicks are awarded for all acts of handball or fouls and misconduct. Opponents must be at least 5m 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).

### Why no goalkeepers in the 4-7 age group?

The role of the goalkeeper in football is uniquely specialised and typically players develop as goalkeepers at a later age. In the youngest age groups, keepers can be uninvolved in the game for long periods, which can be uninteresting and sometimes means they do not feel part of the team.