



Playing Formats and Rules – U8 & U9s

Playing Formats

The table below summarises the national playing formats for boys and girls aged Under 8s and 9s:

The number of players	7-a-side including a goalkeeper Maximum of four substitutes
The field of play	Minimum: 40m long x 30m wide Best Practice: 45m long x 35m wide Maximum: 50m long x 40m wide
Goal size	3m wide x 2m high
Ball size	Size 3
Duration of play	20 min halves Minimum 5 min half time break
Penalty area	5m deep x 12m wide

Goal Type

It is preferable that portable goals are used where possible however, the use of poles or markers as goals is also suitable.

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 pop-up style portable goals.

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

Offside

There is no offside rule in ALDI MiniRoos Under 8 & 9.

Game Leaders should strongly discourage children from permanently standing in blatant offside positions.

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 must be thrown or rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet, within 6 seconds. The goalkeeper is not allowed to kick or drop kick the ball directly from their hands. Opponents must be at least 10 metres outside the penalty area and cannot move inside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it moves 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 hands and delivers the ball from behind and over his or her head. The thrower must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. Opponents must be at least 5 metres away from the ball until it is in play.

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.

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 defending team last

Corner kick.

A player from the attacking team places the ball inside the corner arc 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 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. Game Leaders 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.

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 should be conducted for the purpose of assigning teams to appropriate leagues, ensuring the most enjoyable experience for all players.

Under no circumstances will match results be published publicly by Member Federations, Local Associations or local clubs. Points tables are not applicable in Under 6 & 7 football and do not exist.

Sources

- Aldi Miniroos
- NDJSA By Laws