

Frequently Asked Questions

What girls' only age groups do you have?

In 2018 the SMJFL will be running girls' competitions for U10s, U12s, U14s, U16s & U18s.

How old do I need to be to play?

A player will need to have turned at least 7 years old by the 30th of April 2018 to be eligible to register with a club. The dates to determine what age group a player is eligible to play are as follows:

U10 – Born on or after 1st January 2008

U12 – Born on or after 1st January 2006

U14 – Born on or after 1st January 2004

U16 – Born on or after 1st January 2002

U18 – Born on or after 1st January 2000

Do I have to have played Auskick before?

There is no requirement to have played Auskick before participating in SMJFL competitions.

How much does it cost & how do I register?

The cost varies from club to club but most club have a lower fee for girls. Please get in contact with your local club for cost and registration details.

Where do games get played?

Teams will play around half of their games at their home ground and the other half at opponent's grounds.

What time will games be played?

Generally speaking, the younger the age group the earlier the games but this really depends on what your club requests at the start of the season.

How long do games go for?

This varies depending on age groups:

U10 = 4 x 10 minute quarters

U12 = 4 x 12 minute quarters

U14 & U16 = 4 x 15 minute quarters

U18 = 4 x 17 minute quarters



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When do games get played?

The majority of games are played on Sundays throughout the season. Occasionally a club may request a night game on a weeknight but this needs to be agreed to by both clubs.

When does the season start?

Season dates are as follows:

Date	Day	U10	U11-U13	U14-U18
15/04/2018	Sunday	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1
22/04/2018	Sunday	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2
29/04/2018	Sunday	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3
6/05/2018	Sunday	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4
13/05/2018	Sunday	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5
20/05/2018	Sunday	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6
27/05/2018	Sunday	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7
3/06/2018	Sunday	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8
10/06/2018	Sunday			
17/06/2018	Sunday	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9
24/06/2018	Sunday	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10
1/07/2018	Sunday			
8/07/2018	Sunday			
15/07/2018	Sunday	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11
22/07/2018	Sunday	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12
29/07/2018	Sunday	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13
5/08/2018	Sunday	Round 14	Round 14	Round 14
12/08/2018	Sunday	Lightning Carnivals	Round 15	Round 15
19/08/2018	Sunday		Semi Finals	Semi Finals
26/08/2018	Sunday		Grand Finals	Preliminary Finals
2/09/2018	Sunday			Grand Finals

Need more information?

Contact the SMJFL via email: footballops@smjfl.com.au or phone: 9553 5985

Will there be scoring and finals?

U10 girls' games will not have scoring or finals as the focus is on learning the game and getting as many touches of the football as possible. Rather than playing a final series the U10 girls will play in a round robin event at the end of the season known as a Lightning Carnival. Under 12s, U14s, U16s & U18s will all record scores and play in finals at the end of the season.

Where and when will training be held?

Please contact your local club for information on training venue, days and times.

What if my local club doesn't have a girls' team in my age group?

It only takes a couple of friends to get a couple more friends etc. for a team to be formed so don't give up! However, if your local club is not able to provide a team for you to play in then please contact your next closest club or the SMJFL via email: footballops@smjfl.com.au or phone: 9553 5985.



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How many players do we need for a team?

U10 & U12 teams need a minimum of 9 players on the field, all other age groups need a minimum of 12 players. If you don't quite have enough, we can arrange for two clubs to join up and enter a team together. Please contact us (footballops@smjfl.com.au or 9553 5985) for further details.

Footy can be a physical game, are there many injuries in the girls' competition?

There is no doubt that football can be a physical game which is why different age groups play with different modified rules to suit the different stages of development. As with any physical activity, there are no guarantees that injuries won't occur.

What exactly are the modified rules?

The following table shows several rule modifications and how they apply to each age group:

	10 Girls	12 Girls	Under 14	Under 16	18 Girls
Regulations					
Ground size	Modified (approved)	Modified (approved)	Standard	Standard	Standard
Ball type	Syn only	Syn only	Syn only	Syn only	Syn / Leather
Ball size	2	3	4	4	4
Tackling	Modified	Modified	✓	✓	✓
Bumping	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Stealing the ball	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Barging	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Smothering	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Fending off	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Shepherding	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Bouncing the ball	1 max	1 max	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Kicking off the ground	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Ball ups	Nominated players of equal size		✓	✓	✓
Throw-ins	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Distance over which marks are paid	0m (reasonable attempt)	0m (shows control)	0m (shows control)	0m (shows control)	10m
Zones	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗

Zones – ground split into 3 equal zones. Players wear different coloured wrist bands to show which third they are can go in to. Positions are rotated throughout the game

Modified Tackle – players can be tackled but must not be brought to ground.

*Current matrix is under review and may change prior to the season.

Can I play with the boys in a mixed team if I want to?

Girls can play in mixed teams with the boys up to and including U14s. After this time, girls must play in girls only competitions.

What is the pathway for girls if they want to keep playing as they get older?

Girls'/women's football is the fastest growing area of AFL football in the country. There are many senior football teams throughout Victoria that a player may choose to play with once they've finished in the Youth Girls competition.

In addition to the above, there are various elite pathways and training programs available from U15s right through to open age including the new AFL Women's competition.

