



**Southern Districts Soccer
Football Association**

*DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE
2024 TO 2026
Under 10's-11's-12's
HANDBOOK VER 3*

To provide a development based program that is highly structured and organized for youth football players in the Liverpool and Fairfield area at a critical age in their involvement within the sport!!!

Create an experience

Table of Contents

1. OBJECTIVE
2. THE PROGRAM
3. SEASON TIMINGS
4. AIM
5. GAME REQUIRMENTS
6. SEASON FORMAT MIXED TEAMS
7. SEASON FORMAT LADIES
8. FINAL SERIES
9. FIELD DIMENSIONS
10. EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS
11. HOSTING REQUIREMENTS
12. CADET REFEREES TEAMS
13. COACHING REQUIREMENTS
14. CODE OF CONDUCT
15. COMPETITION RULES 2024

THE PROGRAM

The Development League is a three-year project to transform the Under 10 to Under 12 program into a thriving competition focused on implementing the core values of the Association. Sportsmanship, Leadership, Respect, Skill Acquisition and most importantly the love of the game.

The program will be run in a gala day format, based on eight divisions of six mixed teams in the three age groups, Under 10, Under 11 and Under 12 as well as three divisions of six ladies' teams in two age groups, Ladies 10 and Ladies 12.

Teams of each age group will play at one park each week within the association during the season as well as special events organised by the Development League Committee. SDSFA will endeavour to have all teams from the host Club in the Development League to be scheduled to play at their home field.

Divisions will be split into two-time frames for the season, 8:30am-12:15pm and 12:15pm-4:00pm where possible and will be played on a Saturday.

Each Division will play a minimum of 15 rounds in the regular season as well as a Knockout Cup Competition and a six team Final Series. Washout rounds will be rescheduled to a Sunday at the original Host Club if time and scheduling permits.

All games will consist of two 25min halves with a 5min half time break and will be played as 9 v 9.

Each team will be able to carry a maximum of 12 players and three officials.

In the event that a Team is regraded, all games played, goals and points will be carried into their new division.

“One of the things I always thought about as a young coach was finding solutions to things that happened, but the most important thing I always referred to was never giving in” **Alex Ferguson**



Pep Guardiola

Creating something new is the difficult part, to make it and build it and get everyone to follow!



Season Timings

Online Referee Course Opens

Coaches and Managers Mandatory Meeting at Cabravale Diggers

Skills Acquisition Coaching Course Part 2 (February)

Skills Acquisition Coaching Course Part 2 (March)

Season Launch at Ernie Smith Reserve

Development League Gala Weekend (Saturday and Sunday)

Season Start

Knock Out Tournament (Long Weekend)

Final Series (6 Team Final Series)

ONE VENUE GALA DAYS FOR INDIVIDUAL AGE GROUPS

HOST CLUB'S TEAMS TO ALL PLAY AT HOME

STAND ALONE PRE-SEASON GALA WEEKEND

FORMAL FIXTURE TIMINGS WHERE POSSIBLE

COACHING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE OF GAMES

**CLEAR AND UNWAVERING GUIDELINES AROUND
BEHAVIOUR ON AND OFF THE FIELD**

**RECRUITMENT OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF
REFEREES**

**BASED AROUND A 48 TEAM MIXED COMPETITION FOR
EACH AGE GROUP**

**BASED AROUND A 18 TEAM LADIES COMPETITION FOR
EACH AGE GROUP**

**ABILITY TO RE-GRADE COMPETITIONS EASILY WITH NO
INTERUPTIONS**

STANDARD GROUND DIMENSIONS FOR CONSISTANCY

GREATER EXPERIENCE FOR ALL PLAYERS

THE DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE GAME REQUIREMENTS

*Two teams willing to
co-operate*

*Coaches and Managers
willing to place
development of players
before anything else*

*Respect for all Officials
and Referees*

*Understanding and
abiding to, the laws of the
game and the
Development League's
Competition Rules*

*Adhering to all Codes of
Conduct issued by SDSFA*



THE SEASON FORMAT FOR MIXED COMPETITION

8:30	9:45	1	DIV 8	8:30	9:45	2	DIV 7
9:45	11:00	5	DIV 8	9:45	11:00	6	DIV 7
11:00	12:15	9	DIV 8	11:00	12:15	10	DIV 7
12:15	13:30	13	DIV 1	12:15	13:30	14	DIV 2
13:30	14:45	17	DIV 1	13:30	14:45	18	DIV 2
14:45	16:00	21	DIV 1	14:45	16:00	22	DIV 2
MAIN FIELD 1							
8:30	9:45	3	DIV 6	8:30	9:45	4	DIV 5
9:45	11:00	7	DIV 6	9:45	11:00	8	DIV 5
11:00	12:15	11	DIV 6	11:00	12:15	12	DIV 5
12:15	13:30	15	DIV 3	12:15	13:30	16	DIV 4
13:30	14:45	19	DIV 3	13:30	14:45	20	DIV 4
14:45	16:00	23	DIV 3	14:45	16:00	24	DIV 4
MAIN FIELD 2							

THE DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE LAUNCH/KNOCKOUT

8:30	9:15	G1		8:30	9:15	G7	
9:15	10:00	G2		9:15	10:00	G8	
10:00	10:45	G1		10:00	10:45	G7	
10:45	11:30	G2		10:45	11:30	G8	
11:30	12:15	G3		11:30	12:15	G9	
12:15	13:00	G4		12:15	13:00	G10	
13:00	13:45	G3		13:00	13:45	G9	
13:45	14:30	G4		13:45	14:30	G10	
14:30	15:15	G5		14:30	15:15	G11	
15:15	16:00	G6		15:15	16:00	G12	
16:00	16:45	G5		16:00	16:45	G11	
16:45	17:30	G6		16:45	17:30	G12	
2 MAIN FIELDS REQUIRED							

THE SEASON FORMAT FOR LADIES COMPETITION

8:30	9:45	1	L10 DIV 3	8:30	9:45	2	L10 DIV 2
9:45	11:00	4	L10 DIV 3	9:45	11:00	5	L10 DIV 2
11:00	12:15	7	L10 DIV 3	11:00	12:15	8	L10 DIV 2
12:15	13:30	10	L12 DIV 3	12:15	13:30	11	L12 DIV 2
13:30	14:45	13	L12 DIV 3	13:30	14:45	14	L12 DIV 2
14:45	16:00	16	L12 DIV 3	14:45	16:00	17	L12 DIV 2
MAIN FIELD 1							
8:30	9:45	3	L10 DIV 1				
9:45	11:00	6	L10 DIV 1				
11:00	12:15	9	L10 DIV 1				
12:15	13:30	12	L12 DIV 1				
13:30	14:45	15	L12 DIV 1				
14:45	16:00	18	L12 DIV 1				
1/2 MAIN FIELD OR STAND ALONE FIELD							

THE DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE LAUNCH/KNOCKOUT

8:30	9:15	L10 G1	L10 G1	L10 G1
9:15	10:00	L10 G2	L10 G2	L10 G2
10:00	10:45	L10 G1	L10 G1	L10 G1
10:45	11:30	L10 G2	L10 G2	L10 G2
11:30	12:15	L10 G3	L10 G3	L10 G3
12:15	13:00	L12 G3	L12 G3	L12 G3
13:00	13:45	L10 G3	L10 G3	L10 G3
13:45	14:30	L12 G3	L12 G3	L12 G3
14:30	15:15	L12 G1	L12 G1	L12 G1
15:15	16:00	L12 G2	L12 G2	L12 G2
16:00	16:45	L12 G1	L12 G1	L12 G1
16:45	17:30	L12 G2	L12 G2	L12 G2
1.5 MAIN FIELDS				

THE DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE 6 TEAM FINAL SERIES

ELIMINATION FINAL A

3RD PLACE
VS
6TH PLACE

GAME 1

ELIMINATION FINAL B

4TH PLACE
VS
5TH PLACE

GAME 2

QUALIFYING FINAL LEG 1

2ND PLACE
VS
1ST PLACE

GAME 3A

SEMI- FINAL

WINNER GAME 1
VS
WINNER GAME 2

GAME 4

QUALIFYING FINAL LEG 2

1ST PLACE
VS
2ND PLACE

GAME 3B

FINAL

LOSER OF GAME 3
VS
WINNER OF GAME 4

GAME 5

GRAND FINAL

WINNER OF GAME 3
VS
WINNER OF GAME 5

GAME 6

THE DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE FIELD DIMENSIONS



THE DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE EQUIPMENT AND FIELD REQUIREMENTS

Mixed Age Group

- 1. Four sets of 5m x 2m Goals**
- 2. Twenty Four Corner Flag**
- 3. Eight Player Benches**
- 4. Spectator Boundary**
- 5. Field Number Location Signs**
- 6. Referees Room/Secure area**
- 7. Operational Canteen**
- 8. Three Registered Ground Marshals**
- 9. Four Club Referees Available**
- 10. Five sets of twelve numbered bibs**

Ladies Age Group

- 1. Three sets of 5m x 2m Goals**
- 2. Eighteen Corner Flag**
- 3. Six Player Benches**
- 4. Spectator Boundary**
- 5. Field Number Location Signs**
- 6. Referees Room/Secure area**
- 7. Operational Canteen**
- 8. Two Registered Ground Marshals**
- 9. Three Club Referees Available**
- 10. Three sets of twelve numbered bibs**

THE DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE HOSTING REQUIREMENTS

Clubs are required to submit a request to host a Development League Gala Day and must provide a layout plan of their fields to the SDSFA Office by the 31st January each year.

Once submissions have been received, the Development League Committee will organise an inspection of the facilities with the Club's Executive Committee and to run through game day procedures and suggestions to fulfill the decree of "make an experience".

Host Clubs must have 2 main fields to host a mixed age group or 1 main field and a designated 9 v 9 field to host a Ladies age group.

A duty roster for the registered Ground Marshals must be submitted to the SDSFA Office on the Wednesday prior to hosting a scheduled Gala Day

Changerooms, Canteen, Public Toilets, Referees area and a carpark area/ plan to host the day.

THE DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE LIAISON OFFICER

For all Clubs submitting teams into the Development League, each Club is to register a Development League Liaison Officer to oversee the program at their own Club with the Association.

A Development League Liaison Officer should hold or be in the process of obtaining a Senior Coaching Certificate or a Coaching C license or above.

A Development League Liaison Officer will be responsible for communication with the Development League Committee in regards to the program/game days and fulfilling the objectives of the League .



CADET TEAMS FORMULA FOR REFEREES

The Football Cadet Referee Development Program is designed to provide a structured and organized platform for youth referees to develop their skills and gain valuable experience in a highly supervised environment.

Retention of Cadet Referees weekly and most importantly, in the years to come!!

Program Overview:

Our program aims to recruit and train young referees, known as Cadets, to officiate in the Development League, starting with the 2024 SDSFA season. This season-long commitment offers a great opportunity for cadets to learn valuable life skills, develop leadership skills, learn to communicate, make decisive decisions and contribute to the World Game.

Structured Training and Mentoring:

Cadets will undergo a comprehensive training program that covers the rules and regulations of football refereeing, positioning on the field, decision-making, and effective communication. Our experienced senior referees will serve as mentors, providing guidance and support throughout the entire season.

Team Structure:

Cadets will be organized into teams of 6 to 8 individuals, ensuring a supportive and collaborative environment. Each team will be assigned a mentoring senior referee and a dedicated manager who will oversee their development, organise training sessions and provide ongoing feedback throughout the game as well as the season.

Season-Long Commitment:

Our program requires a season-long commitment, allowing cadets to gain valuable experience and develop their skills over an extended period. This commitment will help them build confidence, improve their decision-making abilities, and enhance their overall understanding of the game.

Long Term Goals:

To provide the association with young enthusiastic, fully qualified, and experienced referees within a three-year period, that can move directly into refereeing on full sized fields.



*“SPORTING BEHAVIOUR
MEANS FAIR BEHAVIOUR
THIS IS THE PLAYERS TASK,
NOT THE REFEREES”*
PHILLIP LAHM

COACHING PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

SDSFA is embarking on a program to enhance your coaches' skills and provide the best possible experience for our young players in the Development League. The SDSFA Skills Acquisition Coaches Course is designed to provide coaches in the Development League with a comprehensive training program to achieve this outcome.

Program Overview:

Our program, sponsored by SDSFA, aims to equip coaches with the necessary skills and knowledge to create a positive and development-focused environment for young players. This 3-year program within the Development League will be specifically tailored for coaches working with players in the Under 10 to Under 12 age group.

Structure:

The Skills Acquisition Coaches Course is divided into three parts, consisting of one mandatory Coaches meeting, the SDSFA three-day Coaches Course and a practical support night by a SDSFA Technical director at the Coaches home Club. This is to ensure a comprehensive learning experience. Each part will build upon the previous one, allowing coaches to progressively develop their coaching abilities. This structured approach ensures that coaches have a solid foundation before moving on to more advanced concepts.

Mandatory Coaches Meeting:

The meeting will cover all aspects of game day procedures, match sheets, effective communication skills, problem resolution, roles and responsibilities of Officials and Code of Conduct. We will also run through the laws of the game and the Competition rules.

SDSFA Coaches Course:

This two-day course is based on the FFA Skills Training Course. Two, three-hour sessions that will be run at separate times before the season starts to allow all Coaches to attend and apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills to develop their teams and give their players the best possible experience throughout the season. The course will cover important coaching principles, player development strategies, effective training techniques and organised training sessions to bring the best out of the players on game days.

Practical Support Night:

As part of the SDSFA's commitment to all the Coaches in the Development League, an SDSFA Technical Director will organise with each Club a time to attend their home field to catch up with all the Coaches and the Club Development League Liaison Officer to discuss, guide and answer any questions and also to run a few practical demonstrations on training skills and effectively engaging with players in a training session. This is to be conducted in the months of May and June and will be subject to consultation with Clubs.

Program Time Frame:

The course is designed to run prior to start of the season and throughout the first three months of the season, allowing coaches to apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills in real-time. This program ensures that all coaches have ample time to attend course sessions, practice and refine their coaching techniques, ultimately benefiting the players under their guidance.

SDSFA Coaches Course:

20th, 24th and 27th November 2023

(Ash Rd Sporting Complex, Prestons)

12th, 16th and 19th February 2024

(Venue TBA)

4th, 8th and 11th March 2024

(Venue TBA)



THE DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT

One of the primary goals of the Development league is to provide players and parents with the best possible experience. This includes not only focusing on their technical and tactical development but also promoting positive behaviour and discipline on and off the field.

Player Behaviour:

Team Management will be required to put in place effective strategies to promote positive player behaviour. This includes teaching players the importance of respect, fair play, and sportsmanship. Players will have clear expectations and boundaries and will need to address any behavioural issues that may arise. By fostering a positive and respectful environment, players will be able to fully enjoy their football experience.

Spectator Behaviour:

In addition to player behaviour, the Development League will also address the issue of spectator behaviour. Team Management will be educated on how to manage and address any instances of abusive or inappropriate behaviour from spectators. They will learn techniques to promote a positive and supportive atmosphere for players, where they can focus on their development without distractions.

Stopping Abuse:

Abuse, whether it be verbal or physical, has no place in youth sports. Team Management will be trained on how to identify and address any instances of abuse within their teams or towards Officials. They will learn the appropriate steps to take to ensure the safety and well-being of the players. By creating a zero-tolerance policy for abuse, we need to all help create a safe and nurturing environment for all involved.

Key Points:

Spectator abuse either verbal or physical will cause the Player, who the spectator is linked to, to be suspended for a 2-to-8-week suspension. Clubs must identify the player and or players linked to the spectator, or the team will be stood down until identified.

Unauthorised entry to the playing field by either a player and or spectators will cause the team to be deducted points from the table (1 to 8 points depending on the outcome of an investigation by the PDJC)

All Teams are subject to all SDSFA BY-LAWS in relation to fines and suspensions.



TWO PARENTS WATCHING THEIR KIDS GAME

"Which one is your kid?"

"Why?"

"I wanted to tell them how awful the are"

*"What is wrong with you?!
You can't say that to
somebody else's kid!"*

*"Huh, you have done
that all game""*

*"What?!" Which one
is your kid?"*

"The Referee"

[Silence]

CREDIT: UNKNOWN



DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE COMPETITION RULES 2024

Field of Play	Length 60-65m Width 40-42m
Goal Size	5 metres width x 2 metres height
Penalty Area	10 metres depth x 20 metres width
Penalty Spot	7 metres from goal line
Ball size	Size 4
Duration of Game	2x 25minute halves
Number of Players	Shall not exceed twelve (12) all of whom must be registered in accordance with the Association rules. Not more than nine (9), including the goalkeeper, may take the field at one time, and a minimum of six (6) one of whom shall be the goalkeeper and must be on the field at all times.
Substitutes	Interchange rule, anytime with the permission of the referee.

1 COACHING REQUIREMENTS

- 1-1. All Coaches will be required to hold or be in the process of obtaining the SDSFA Skills Acquisition Coaching Certificate or above.
- 1-2. All Coaches and/or Managers will be required to attend a SDSFA approved pre-season mandatory Coaches and Managers Meeting
- 1-3. All Coaches are to pass the online referees' course prior to the pre-season mandatory Coaches and Managers Meeting

Rules •

Start of play & re-start after a goal	Pass forward or backwards to a teammate 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. •
Ball Crosses Sideline	Throw in. Opponents must be at least 5m away from the ball until it is in play. •

Ball crossing the goal line after touching the defending team last –

Corner kick. Opponents must be at least 5m away from the ball until it is in play. •

Ball crossing the goal line after touching the attacking team last –

Goal kick from anywhere within the penalty area. Opponents remain behind the 15m line until the ball has crossed the fifteen (15) meter line or a player from the team in procession of the ball make contact with the ball.

Goalkeepers –

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 can be kicked directly from their hands or drop kicked or be thrown or rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet, within 6 seconds.

Opponents must be at least 5m away from the Goalkeeper until the ball is in play. The ball is in play when the Goalkeeper releases the ball.

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

Fouls and Misconduct –

For deliberate or serious acts of handball or fouls and misconduct in the penalty area, a penalty kick is awarded from the penalty spot with only a goalkeeper in position. All other players must be outside the penalty area and be at least 5m behind the penalty mark.

The offside rule is in effect for the Development League.



NOTES

