



ALBANY UNITED

community • development • football for all

ALBANY UNITED FOOTBALL

2018 MIDGET RULES/REGULATIONS

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1. **Game Times (to be confirmed)**

All **games must start and finish on time**. No allowances are made for stoppage time as it affects other aspects of the day.

5th grade; 6th grade; 7th grade and 8th grade games will all start at the same time. This is to align all four clubs who are coming together and forming a bond within the midget grades.

All games are 15min long with three (3) games played per playing day.

This games periods x 3 are as per below:

Grade	Game 1 Start	Changeover	Game 2 Start	Changeover	Game 3 Start
5 th and 6 th	8.05am	5min	8.25am	5min	8.45am
7 th and 8 th	8.05am	5min	8.25am	5min	8.45am

2. **Grounds setup and equipment**

The fields will be set up every Saturday morning ready for you to get straight out and play.

3. **Field Roster**

This will be up on the club website under the banner “Seasons” and “winter seasons” in drop down menu, in the Midgets section. There will also be a hard copy available to view outside the control room on the noticeboard.

4. **Cancellations**

Any decisions to cancel games are based on weather, safety and ground restrictions from the council. A message will be on the club answerphone **AFTER** 6:30am on a Saturday morning if games are cancelled. For coaches that have supplied cellphone numbers, cancellation information will be sent to them via text message.

5. **Safety**

All players must wear shin pads at all times when playing and ensure that they are covered entirely by their socks. Players should not wear any jewellery or watches. The goal posts are designed solely for the purpose of goals. There are obvious safety issues involved with the use of moveable goals and children **MUST NOT** swing on them.

Slide tackles are not permitted and will result in a free kick to the opposition

6. **Team Sizes**

Young players must enjoy their participation in the game in order to develop their skills and love of the game. Fewer numbers of players involved in any game leads to more touches of the ball and consequently earlier development of ball skills for players at an early age. Most teams have more than the required number of players however it is important to maintain the correct number of players involved in the game at any time.

5th and 6th Grade- 5-a-side with no goalkeepers

7th and 8th Grade- 5-a-side with no goalkeepers

7. **Substitutions**

Rolling substitutes are used in midget soccer and any number of changes can be made. Changes should be made during a stoppage in play. Coaches should ensure that every child enjoys the maximum available playing time in each game.

8. **Coaching**

For 5th through 8th grade team's one coach per team is allowed, but not required, to be on the field to instruct the children. The coach should stay clear of the area of play and ensure that the game flows as much as possible.

Coaching and encouragement from parents and spectators should be done from the **outside lines of a normal field**. No spectators should be behind the goal during a game.

9. **Refereeing**

This should be undertaken by one of the coaches from each team taking control of one half of the game each. Refereeing decision should be based on allowing the game to flow and the children having fun.

10. **Field sizes**

5th through 8th Grade play on a reduced field approx 30 metres long by 20metres wide.

11. **Ball sizes**

All midget teams play with a size 3 ball

12. **Out**

For a ball to be out, the entire ball must cross the line. A ball on the line is still considered in play. This applies also with the scoring of goals.

13. **Goal kicks**

Are taken approx. 1 - 2 metres out from the goal line and the ball must be kicked from the ground. **It is important in 5th through 8th grade games that the attacking team retreats to ½ way until the ball is played.** Any member of the defending team may take the kick. The player taking the kick must play the ball to another player.

14. **Corner kicks**

In 5th and 6th Grade there is no corners. Restart play from a goal kick and keep the game fun and moving.

In 7th and 8th Grade corners are played. They are to be taken from the corner on the small sized field. The player taking the kick must play the ball to another player.

15. **Free kicks**

A free-kick should be given if a player deliberately commits an offence and the opposing team will not lose an advantage by play continuing. The defending team must be 7 metres from the ball at the taking of a free-kick. The player taking the kick must play the ball to another player.

All free kicks in 5th – 8th grade are indirect. The kicker and any other player must touch an indirect kick before a goal can be scored.

16. **Throw ins**

In 5th, 6th and 7th grade can either perform a throw in or kick in. There should be no restrictions on how the player throws in the ball.

In 8th grade only a throw can be performed. The throw should be taken correctly however it is more important that the game flow rather than a lot of time be taken on throw-ins at younger ages. The player must throw the ball to another player.

17. **Hand balls**

These are inevitable in younger ages however should only be penalised if it is deliberate or the offending team receives an advantage from the handball. The offending team is penalised by a free kick against them. If the offence happens within 7 metres of goal this should not be treated as a penalty kick but as an indirect free kick.

18. **Off-sides**

Are not penalised in these age groups however players should be encouraged not to wait for the ball in a blatant offside position. A blatant off-side would be defined as an attacking player deliberately goal sitting or waiting for the ball in an off-side position. It is not where an attacking player may run into an off-side position during the course of play.

19. **Penalty kicks**

These do not apply in 5th – 8th grade.

20. **Goals**

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball crosses the goal line between the goal posts and under the cross bar.

Goals cannot be scored directly from a throw-in, in-direct free kick, kick off or goal kick.

A goal can only be scored from within the oppositions half of the field. If a goal is scored within your own half of the field this will not be allowed as a goal.

21. **Coaches conduct**

Whilst it shouldn't have to be said, it is expected that all coaches will conduct themselves in a proper manner, demonstrating good sportsmanship and fair play at all times. Any disputes can be discussed off field in private away from the children and

should a ruling be needed, then referred to the delegates of the club. Winning should not be placed ahead of development and learning.

22. Players conduct

All players should behave and conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates professionalism, fairness and sportsmanship regardless of events. Any disputes can be dealt with in fairness and with the operative of fun. Winning should not be placed ahead of development and learning.

23. Parents and Supporters conduct

With no doubt this shouldn't have to be said but all parents and supporters should behave and conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates fairness and sportsmanship regardless of events. Any disputes can be discussed off field in private away from the children and should a ruling be needed, then referred to the delegates of the club. Winning should not be placed ahead of development and learning.

Encouragement is most welcome from parents and supporters but we ask that parents and supporters not coach the children and leave this to the coach/managers to prevent confusion for the kids. Encouragement should only be positive messages. Remember these are children and don't have the comprehension and understanding of adults. They are not playing in the world cup. Please allow them to enjoy themselves and learn.

RESPECT
PLEASE REMEMBER:
THIS IS A GAME
THESE ARE CHILDREN
THE COACHES ARE VOLUNTEERS
REFEREES ARE HUMAN