

## Why has SSV changed its Australian Football offering toward Primary students?

In partnership with AFL Victoria, School Sport Victoria is making Australian Football as accessible as possible through modified rules. This is consistent with SSV's strategic plan to align competition rules with State Sporting Organisations. The changes are designed to provide a better student experience for all participants, including seeing more touches of the ball, more goals, and players constantly involved in the game. It also enables more students and schools, including multiple teams from schools, to experience SSV primary school Australian Football.

The change in format was discussed with the SSV community through coordinator region forums in 2023 and then considered by the SSV Executive Team before the new rules were approved. Trial Region competitions were conducted in 2023 and 2024 by AFL Victoria with a State Finals event held in November of that year. Research was also undertaken by ACHPER Victoria to assess the suitability of the new approach.

## Where can I find the rules for the Primary Australian Football?

The rules can be found on the [\*\*SSV Australian Football – Primary webpage\*\*](#).

## I am a sports coordinator and/or SSV coordinator and am unsure how to get started. Where do I find out all relevant information?

SSV has set up a designated Primary Australian Football Resource Hub [\*\*SSV Australian Football – Primary webpage\*\*](#) to assist you. This includes educational videos, information sheets, scorecards, lesson plans for your students and more. This is your one stop shop to get familiar with the format and what you will need to get started.

## Help! How do you umpire the game?

Check the above resource hub to view critical information for umpires.

## I'm a teacher and I'm not sure how to teach the game to my students. Where do I start?

Check out our designated resource hub for educational videos and lesson plans at the link above!

## Where can I find the dates for my District/Division/Region competition in 2025?

If your District is conducting competition, your District Coordinator can provide you with the dates for your Primary Australian Football competition directly. Division, Region and State dates are available on each respective area's page on the SSV website.

[\*\*VIEW ALL SSV AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL - PRIMARY RESOURCES\*\*](#)

## What are the dates for the SSV Australian Football – State Primary Championships in 2025?

As they are updated these can be found here: [School Sport Victoria – Sport – Australian Football](#).

## How many teams progress from District, to Division, to Region, to State in 2025?

In 2025, one boys/mixed team and one girls team will progress from each District to Division, from each Division to Region and each Region to State.

## How many teams can a school enter into the SSV competition pathway (District onwards?)

Schools should contact their district coordinator to see team entry limits. To find out who your district coordinator is, look up your school on our [school database](#).

## Can AFL Victoria help me with the delivery of District/Division/Region? Is there support available to assist me in running a Primary Australian Football Competition at School, District, Division or Region level of competition?

AFL Victoria will be available to support Coordinators and Teachers in the lead up to competitions to support in the understanding and education of the new format and any changes. This includes but is not limited to:

- Providing PD sessions on rule modifications and umpiring (both online and in person)
- Supporting with optimal field set up based on number of schools participating
- Guidance on any fixturing support to maximise the day
- Any additional support can be discussed with your AFL Victoria region staff member

AFL Victoria staff can be contacted at any time in the lead up and during to help provide guidance and support in ensuring that SSV District/Division/Region coordinators can effectively deliver their competitions. This support extends to any primary schools that may need any further education on any of the above.

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In addition to this, you can reach out to SSV's Region School Sport Officers for further advice.

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**Given you cannot smother, what happens if a player unintentionally smothers the football (i.e. a player kicks the ball into an opposing player in close proximity)?**

This is deemed as play on; as it is not an intentional smother.

**Can a player smother the ball if they are standing on the mark?**

This is the only exception to the rule where players cannot smother. Standing on the mark is not deemed a smother. As such, if a ball is touched on the mark (in general play or kicking for goal), the umpire can adjudicate it that way.

**How does an umpire judge a player losing the ball when an opponent wrap tackles and accidentally takes the ball out of the player's (with possession) hands?**

This would be umpired based on umpire interpretation and whether the player with the ball has had prior opportunity to dispose of the football. E.g. if a wrap tackle has been executed correctly and the player loses the ball with no prior opportunity, it would be considered play on as the ball hasn't been stolen directly out of the player's hands.

**Does the holding the ball rule still exist?**

If a player has prior opportunity to dispose of the football and then is legally wrap tackled, that would be considered holding the ball and a free kick is awarded to the opposition.

**[VIEW ALL SSV AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL - PRIMARY RESOURCES](#)**