

Appendix 10.3 – SANFL Juniors Competition Modified Tackling Rules

The AFL Junior Match Policy provides guidelines and recommendations for modified tackling rules, which SANFL Juniors adopt for their competition. These rules are set out below and must be complied with.

SANFL MINIS (U7) & UNDER 8 MIXED/GIRLS

There is to be absolutely no contact or spoiling whatsoever except accidental and light “shoulder to shoulder” contact while running to and at the ball. Players cannot:

- Hold an opponent with their hands;
- Steal the ball or knock it out of an opponent’s hands;
- Push, bump or barge another player (incidental contact only is permitted);
- Smother an opponent’s kick;
- Shepherd.

UNDER 9 MIXED, UNDER 10 MIXED/GIRLS & UNDER 12 GIRLS

Players can perform a modified tackle.

A player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms around the area below the top of the shoulders and on/above the knees. The tackle may be from either side or from behind providing the tackle from behind does not thrust forward the player with the ball (that is push the player in the back).

- If the player in possession of the ball is taken to the ground in the act of tackling, they will receive a free kick. If the umpire feels the player drops to the ground deliberately in order to receive a free kick, they will be penalised for holding the ball.
- A player in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent applying the wrap-around tackle, should be given a reasonable chance to dispose of the ball by kick or by handball, or by attempting to kick or handball, otherwise a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball.
- The field umpire shall conduct a ball-up when the player with the ball has the ball held to the body by an opponent, unless the player has had a reasonable time to dispose of the ball before being tackled, in which case a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball.
- The field umpire shall allow play to continue if the ball is knocked accidentally out of a player’s hands by an opponent.
- A player not in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent, shall be awarded a free kick.
- There is strictly no bumping, slinging or deliberately bringing the opposition player in possession of the ball to the ground.

Players cannot:

- Knock the ball out of an opponent’s hands on purpose;
- Push the player in the side;
- Steal the ball from another player;
- Smother an opponent’s kick;
- Shepherd an opponent.

UNDER 11 MIXED, U12 MIXED & ABOVE

For all remaining age groups, full tackling rules apply as per the Laws of Australian Football.