**SDJSA By-Laws, Rules of the association**

**Issued March 2025**

**1. FIXTURES**

(a) Fixtures shall be prepared from team nominations received by a deadline   
 fixed at the Annual General Meeting.

(b) Fixtures so prepared shall be endorsed by a meeting of the Management Committee upon which   
 the Fixtures shall become binding upon all playing members.

(c) All actions on Fixtures shall be governed by the primary requirements, that all teams properly  
 nominated shall be given the opportunity to compete on an equitable basis, when at all possible.

(d) All matches shall be played on the dates and at the times fixed by the Association’s official Fixture  
 list, unless abandoned or postponed by the referee in accordance with the Laws of Play.

(e) Postponed games shall be played as soon as possible but no than the final fixture date.

(f) Changes to the Fixtures list can be made by the committee to cope with unavoidable or unforeseen   
 circumstances. Notice of such change has to be given to the opponents concerned soon as possible   
 and the registrar shall be informed of such change.

**2. TEAM NOMINATIONS**

(a) Every school registered with the Association shall be entitled to nominate a team or teams of   
 players for competition as provided for and under the auspices of the Association and such   
 nomination shall be submitted by the deadline set by the Association.

(b) Team registration form shall be signed by official representing the school (coordinator or principal).

(c) Every registered school shall be encouraged to nominate their school for the purposes of   
 sharing facilities enabling skill clinics on a regular basis with participants from their own school and   
 other invited schools.

(d) Times for combined coaching and skills sessions for players who are less than 7 years of age shall   
 be published on the website.

**3. PLAYER REGISTRATION**

(a) Every player participating in Under 7, 8, 9, 10 and Senior Primary age groups must be declared on the   
 official Registration form as being eligible for that age group.

(b) A Team or Player Registration Fee shall be payable to the Association at such rate and conditions as   
 shall be determined by the Management Committee.

(c) To be permitted to play in any match as an eligible player that player must be properly registered not   
 less than twenty-four hours before the commencement of such match.

(d) Each Team registration form shall be accompanied by the applicable player registration fee before   
 being considered a valid Lodgement of a player registration form.

(e) 1. Every Player registration Form shall be signed by an official representing the registered   
 school making such lodgement.

2. The correctness of such Player Registration Form be verified by the principal of the school and   
 the coordinator or coach of the team, with particular regard to the ‘date of birth’ of the players.

3. Additional registrations during the season, shall be submitted in writing on the appropriate form,   
 and shall be signed by the school principal and team official. Forms can be downloaded from the   
 website.

(f) The Registrar, before registering any player, shall be entitled to seek information by whatever means   
 deemed necessary and appropriate to confirm, or otherwise, details contained on any Player   
 Registration Form.

(g) A player other than a primary school student shall not be eligible to play in matches restricted to   
 competition by teams from primary schools.

(h) A player shall only register to play for one sdjsa registered school during the season, unless a bona   
 fide transfer is involved.

(i) Players who wish to play for, but do not attend the sdjsa registered school, must have signed   
 permission from their own school principal as well as the sdjsa registered school principal to be eligible   
 to play. Also, a written application must be made by the sdjsa registered school to sdjsa management   
 committee seeking approval for this.

**4. AGE OF PLAYER**

(a) 1. Where competition conducted under the auspices of the Association is restricted to age groups, only   
 players eligible for a given age group shall be allowed to play in that competition.

2. A players can play 1 year up. Example: An Under 7 players must be a minimum of 6 years of age   
 at start of season. An under 8 players must be a minimum of 7 years of age at start of season.

3. A player cannot play down a year.

(b) Primary School Players

For the purposes of determining the age of a player the 31st December will be regarded as the critical   
 date, i.e. if nine years old by the 31st December, the player shall be eligible to play in the Under 10   
 competition the following year, or age groups above that.

(c) The upper age limit for senior primary players shall be no older than 13 years of age at the end of the   
 year.

**5. RULES OF COMPETITION**

(a) All matches shall, in principle, be played in accordance with the Laws of Play as laid down by IFAB,   
 except for such modifications as may be contained in Association Bye-laws to take into account local   
 conditions and age of players.

(b) Only eligible players shall be allowed to play or be used as interchange in matches conducted under   
 the auspices of the Association.

(c) The duration of all matches conducted under the auspices of the Association unless otherwise   
 prescribed elsewhere, shall be:

* Under 7, Under 8, and Under 9 - 20 minutes each half
* Under 10 and Senior Primary - 25 minutes each half
* The duration of time between halves shall be 5 minutes

(d) It shall be the responsibility of the away team in the fixture list to ascertain the scheduled time for kick   
 off from the home team.

(e) Teams shall be in position for play to commence not later than ten minutes after the time for kick   
 off stated on the official Fixture List.

(f) In the event of a match starting after the scheduled kick off time, but within the ten minutes allowed for   
 a later start, and another match being scheduled to commence immediately following, both halves of   
 the delayed match shall be shortened accordingly to allow for the scheduled kick off of the next   
 following match.

(g) Teams shall have the following number of players as a minimum at the time of ‘kick off’.

* U7 - minimum 7 players maximum size of team 9 a side.
* U8 - minimum 7 players maximum size of team 9 a side.
* U9 - minimum 7 players maximum size of team 9 a side.
* U10 - minimum 7 players maximum size of team 9 a side.
* S/P - minimum 7 players maximum size of team 9 a side.

(h) Interchanging of players shall be possible as follows: -

* Interchange of a player can be made without a stoppage in play in all age groups if the referee has been alerted.
* The player to take the field as interchange shall stand adjacent to the half way line, and shall not enter the field of play until the player being replaced has left the field at that point.

1. The home team shall be responsible for the supply of the ball for the match.
2. The ball shall be: Regulation size 4 for all Under 7, 8, 9, 10 and Senior Primary games.

(j) Each team shall be responsible for the provision and availability of a basically equipped first aid kit.

(k) Not more than two coaches or officials shall be allowed to coach a team in matches with   
 the following provision:

* A team can be coached from behind either goal line - Under 7, 8, 9 and 10.
* Coach for goal-keepers must be a nominated person wearing a colour vest.
* A linesperson or referee shall not coach.

(l) Corner kicks in all leagues up to an including S/P shall be taken from the point where the penalty   
 area line intersects the goal line and no allowance shall be made for a quadrant area at such   
 intersection of lines.

(m) In all age group’s goal kicks shall be taken from a point on the penalty line. All opposing players shall   
 be 9 metres from the ball.

(n) The penalty box will be dispensed with in all age groups from U7 to Senior Primary.

**6. RESULTS**

(a) All matches of the Association shall be documented by the sending in of results to the Registrar.

(b) 1. Under 7, 8, 9, 10 and Senior Primary are non-competitive, however results will be collected  
 for the purpose of assisting with gradings of teams and good results.

2. It shall be the responsibility of the HOME team to send the result via the SDJSA website at   
 (www.sdjsa.com) as soon as possible after the game has been played.

3. Advice of change fixtures shall similarly be documented.

**7. TRANSFERS**

(a) It shall only be possible for a player to transfer from one sdjsa registered school to another if he/she   
 changes school.

(b) An application for transfer shall have been received and approved by the Registrar not less than three   
 days before it is intended that the player shall play for the new team.

**8. CARNIVALS**

(a) All sdjsa registered schools shall be allowed to nominate teams for carnivals conducted by the   
 Association or other Association schools subject to qualifications governing a carnival.

* All carnivals in all age groups are played under lights at Bowker St, North Brighton.
* All carnivals are non-competitive and players will receive Certificate of Participation.
* All carnivals are free of charge. Each team plays 1 allocated night between 6.00pm and 8.30pm.

**9. REFEREES**

(a) Each school shall have the responsibility to appoint suitably qualified Referees to officiate   
 at matches conducted under the auspices of the Association.

(b) The home team shall provide a referee for all the home games.

(c) All referees must be familiar with sdjsa amended rules. SDJSA runs Referee course free of charge.

**10. COLOURS**

(a) Each sdjsa registered school shall register the colours of teams being nominated for competition. (This   
 is no longer required).

(b) When playing colours of opposing teams are sufficiently similar as to be considered likely to confuse   
 the referee or players, it shall be the responsibility of the AWAY team to play in colours distinguishable   
 from its opponents.

(c) Every Player in a team shall wear colours of the same kind and the goalkeeper shall play in colours   
 distinguishable from the rest of the teams opposed.

**11. MODIFIED RULES FOR UNDER 7, 8, 9 & 10.**

(a) A team shall not be coached from behind either Goal-line. Except in Under 7, Under 8, Under 9 and   
 Under 10 for goal-keepers which must be a nominated person.

(b) Coaching is permitted within the playing area in Under 7, Under 8 and 9 games, but not including the   
 penalty areas, whilst the ball is in play, and without physical interference of the run of play. An indirect   
 free kick shall be awarded to against the side having so offended by on field coaching interference.

(c) Corner kicks shall be taken from a point where the penalty area line intersects the goal-line and no   
 allowance shall be made for a Quadrant circle at such intersection of lines.

(d) Goal kicks shall be taken from the 10 meters line. All opposing players shall be 9 meters from the ball.

(e) A free kick awarded to the defending side within their own penalty area shall be taken from the 10   
 meters line. All opposing players shall be 10 yards from the ball.

(f) Goal keepers shall wear a shirt the colour of which differs both from the field players of both teams.

(g) The referee shall give special consideration to the restrictions of players ability at this age level.

(h) Referees shall enforce the off-side law where a player is definitely seeking to gain an advantage. (a   
 player cannot be offside from a goal kick, throw in, corner kick, dropped ball, when the ball was last   
 played by an opponent, or when he is in his own half of the field or when he is not closer to his   
 opponents goal line than the ball.

* Under 7, 8 and 9 there is No offside
* Under 10 and senior will be offside as per IFAB rule.

(i) The operative word for offences is “Deliberate”. Players shall be penalised for deliberate offences   
 under all circumstances.

(j) Goals cannot be scored directly against the “offended” team.

(k) Penalty kicks for the nine penal offences shall be given if in the opinion of the referee the offence is   
 intentional only in Senior Primary as per IFAB rule.

(l) Throw in. The player SHALL be given three opportunities to correctly deliver the ball at EACH throw   
 in. After a third foul throw the opposition shall be allowed to take the throw in.

(m) Goalkeepers, in full possession of the ball shall be protected by the referee. Without stopping the   
 game, forwards who harass or obstruct the goalkeeper shall be called out of the penalty area.

(n) The Goalkeeper is permitted to pick up the ball and given sufficient time to clear the ball. The referee   
 will protect the player.

(o) The Management Committee have the right to change or add By-Laws during the season to the benefit   
 of Players and Schools.

**12. WEATHER POLICY**

(a) Training or playing of games will not take place during summer months. December, January and   
 February. Without committee approval.

(b) A maximum current temperature of 25 deg C, as determined by the weather bureau, will cancel or   
 delay training and games, as will Hailstones, very heavy rain very strong winds and Lightning.

**Lightning Policy**

* Primary Schools abides by the 30/30 Lightning Safety Guideline.
* Stop play if the time between seeing a lightning flash and hearing thunder is less than 30 seconds. Immediately seek safety under or within an appropriate shelter (a building if available).
* Do NOT shelter under trees, particularly an isolated tree. Do NOT stand close to any metallic structures inc. goal posts.
* If on an open field away from any shelters, keep as low and as small as possible. I.e. crouch keeping feet together and do not touch any objects or people near you.
* Do not resume play until at least 30 minutes has passed since the last thunder was heard.