

2025 Tamaki League Competition Regulations

Under 9's Grade

Teams, players, officials and spectators shall at all times behave in a manner that shall not damage the image of the game. Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their spectators, players and coaching staff, and are required to ensure their representatives abide by the FIFA Code of Conduct and uphold the spirit of Fair Play while participating in the Tamaki League Competition.

1. Number of players per side

Teams shall be 7 a side, with one player designated as the Goalkeeper.

2. Duration of matches:

2 x 25 min halves plus 5 min half time

No injury time or referee's added time shall be played.

3. Substitutions

Teams should ideally have 10 players, but a maximum of 12 players is allowed, only 7 to be on the field at any one time, one must be the goalkeeper.

Unlimited interchange of players is allowed *without* requiring the permission of the referee, provided that:

- i) the player leaves the field completely before the substitute goes on
- ii) substitutions are made during a stoppage in play

4. Match Balls

A size 4 FIFA-approved match ball shall be provided by the home team.

5. Shin guards

Shin guards must be worn at all times and must not be exposed. (i.e. must be covered by socks)

6. Goal Kicks

A restart after the ball has crossed the goal line for a goal kick should be taken from a place kick on the ground. Where the ball has been received by a goalkeeper in the normal course of play the Goalkeeper can throw, roll, or place on the ground to pass to a teammate. They cannot drop kick from their hands.

7. Corner Kicks

There are corners in these leagues.

8. Throw Ins

When a ball exits the sidelines, play shall be restarted with a throw in. Proper form shall not be enforced, best endeavours are acceptable, but a second attempt should be given for noticeably bad technique with correction advice from the referee. Once the ball has been thrown in, the thrower may not touch the ball until it has touched another player and if this occurs an indirect free kick is awarded. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw in.

9. Referees

There are no officials appointed to these games. The home team should referee the first half and the away team the second half.

The prime purpose of refereeing in these grades is to add to the enjoyment of the players through the application of the Laws of the Game, these regulations, common sense and the philosophy of fair play.

10. Goals and Markings

The approved goals, and marked grounds with corner flags, cones or other markers to mark the corner of the pitch must be supplied by the home team and must be in place before the scheduled kick-off time. Nets are recommended for all Tamaki League competition matches. Where portions of standard senior pitches are used there is no requirement for additional markings to be provided.

Goal size should be minimum 3.6m x 1.8m inside measurements; recommended size is 4m x 2m inside measurements.

11. Retreating line

Playing out from the back

When a team's goalkeeper has the ball in their hands, is taking a goal kick or any player taking a Free Kick, the opposition team must drop back behind the retreating line.

Only after the goalkeeper plays the ball out and a team-mate touches the ball, can the opposition players advance over the retreating line.

If the Goalkeeper plays the ball over the Retreating Line, the game continues as normal.

The team-mate receiving the ball from the Goalkeeper should be encouraged to take their first touch as quickly as possible.

Infringement

If a defending player advances beyond the Retreating Line before the opponent has touched the ball (from Goalkeeper pass), or fails to drop behind the line, the referee will award an indirect free kick on the Retreating Line.

The defending team should be encouraged by their coach to drop back behind the Retreating Line when the opposition Goalkeeper has the ball or at a free kick, and to wait for the opponent's first touch before starting to press.

Offside

In 7v7 formats, the Retreating Line is used for offside, rather than the halfway line. This allows junior footballers to have the required space to play in when in possession, whilst also providing a basic introduction to the offside rule.

The attacking player is ONSIDE when receiving a pass from a team-mate in a position before the defending team's Retreating Line, even if he is beyond the last defenders. This is at the time the ball is played by one of his teammates.

Coaches are asked to assist forwards with picking up realistic starting positions related to the defender's position rather than just standing near to the Retreating Line, behind defenders. This will help their overall development.

Dimensions

Pitches are always marked with the retreating lines as 30% - 40% - 30% of all size pitches.

The Retreating Line can be marked ideally using spot markers across the pitch but can be implemented with a pole or high cones on the sides of the pitch. For example, for a 55-metre long pitch, the Retreating Line would be placed 16.5 metres from goal line.

12. Uniform Clashes

Where there is a clash of colours, the away team (i.e. second-named team) in the fixture must provide a change of shirts (or provide bibs) that does not clash with the home team's colours. Any failure to provide such a change should be reported to the Tamaki League Convenor for follow up.

13. Defaults

Defaults must be notified in writing to the TLC no later than 12.00 noon on the Friday preceding the fixture so that the opposition team can be notified, a replacement opponent found, or the ground may be used for an alternate fixture. Any un-notified defaults should be reported to the TLC for follow up. It is recommended that defaulting teams also advise their opposition as a matter of courtesy.

14. Player Eligibility

All players playing in the Tamaki League competition are required to be registered on the NZF national player database.

15. Field Sizes

In most cases for operational ease, play will be on 1/4 of a standard pitch. For specially marked fields as well as where standard pitches are used, the recommended dimensions are minimum 45m x 30m, max 55m x 35m.

16. Coaches and Supporters

Coaches may only coach from the sideline, not from behind the goal line. If a coach takes the field as a referee they are not allowed to coach from on the field of play.

Spectators and supporters should be along the sidelines not behind the goal line. Spectators guiding or advising a goalkeeper from behind the goal line are deemed to be coaches. Referees and opposing coaches are entitled to request that coaches, spectators and supporters move from behind the goal line to the sideline, and all coaches and Clubs should support and be prepared to adhere to this regulation.

Where the alignment of portions of a senior pitch means that spectators (so as not to be walking and standing within the bounds of a senior field) are sited at one end of the pitch in use, they shall be at least 3 metres behind the goal line so as not to interfere with play. Clubs may consider the use of a rope barrier to preserve this safety zone and to protect the wear along the edges of the fields in use.

At Michaels Ave Reserve when games are scheduled on the Artificial Turf, **only players and a maximum of two officials (but preferably only one) per team (excluding the referee) are allowed on the turf at any one time.** This is so that there are not too many people standing on the turf and blocking the view of the other spectators. All spectators must stay behind the fence. It is preferred that the correct footwear is worn on the artificial turf (see 'Taking care of our Turf' guidelines).

17. Competitions

The competition will start on 3rd May 2025 and conclude on 13th September 2025. There will be no games on Saturday 31st May 2025 (Kings Birthday weekend) or Saturday 21st June (Matariki weekend) 28th June, 5th July and 12th July (July School Holidays). There are ten teams in the Tamaki league this year so there won't be any grading round. We will play one full round robin set of games and extra games will be added on at the end to play through until the 13th September.

There are also going to be optional games on 28th June (Matariki) and 5th July (First weekend of school holidays) for anyone who is still in Auckland and wants to still be playing football. Full details of the optional games will be advised closer to the time.

18. Results

Results will not be recorded for Under 9 grade teams and no tables will be maintained for the Under 9's.

19. Other Matters

These specific competition regulations should be read in conjunction with the appropriate NZ Football Rules and Regulations, Federation Rules and regulations, Federation and NZ Football codes of conduct and FIFA Fair Play which shall apply to matters not provided for in these regulations.

We must remember at all times that this League is organised for the participation and enjoyment of all participants and all games should be conducted with this over-riding rule in mind - ***Participation and Enjoyment . . .***

