

# Football (soccer)

The planning considerations that are common to all curriculum activities can be found in the [CARA generic template](#). These must be considered as well as the activity-specific considerations outlined below.

## Activity scope

This guideline relates to student participation in football (soccer) as a curriculum activity, including skills development, training and competitions.



## Mandatory/special requirements

Mandatory requirements must be met for the activity to be conducted. Special requirements are to be considered in the planning and delivery of this activity.

Where the rules and procedures of a football competition impose additional or more stringent safety requirements than are listed in this guideline, those competition rules and procedures must take precedence.

Moveable soccer goals (MSGs) should be regularly maintained and adhere to [Product Safety Australia](#) guidelines:

- Securely anchor or provide adequate counterweight to MSGs at all times.
- Never use net pegs to anchor the goal structure.
- Never allow anyone to climb on the net or goal framework.
- Always instruct participants, coaches and all other personnel who might come into contact with the MSG on safe handling and potential dangers.
- Before every use, check for structural integrity and proper connecting hardware.
- MSGs should be safely stored to prevent unauthorised use/access and potential injuries.
- Safety warnings should be either in the form of a label or painted on the goal frame (e.g. 'WARNING – ALWAYS ANCHOR GOAL – NEVER CLIMB OR HANG ON CROSSBAR. Unsecured goal can tip over causing serious injury or death').

Competition games should be controlled by qualified coaches and officials. The minimum qualification for a competition referee is a registered teacher with competence (knowledge and skills) in refereeing the game of football (soccer) or a qualified referee with Football Federation Australia (FFA) [Level 4](#) accreditation.

Coaching guidelines are established for this activity. Refer to [MyFootballClub](#).

## Risk Level

- **Medium** risk: Teaching of football (soccer) skills, training and competitions.

## Minimum supervision requirements

- Covered in the Planning Considerations section as outlined in the [CARA generic template](#).

## Minimum qualifications for supervisors

- A registered teacher with competence (knowledge and skills) in the teaching of football.

OR

- A registered teacher or other activity leader with accreditation from FFA appropriate to the specific age group:
  - 5–9: [Grassroots Football Certificate](#). This course may be undertaken through the [Get Active Queensland Accreditation Program](#)

- 9–13: [Skills Training Certificate](#)
- 13–17: [Game Training Certificate](#)
- 17 or older: [Senior Coaching Certificate](#).

### Minimum requirements for equipment/facilities

- A clearly defined playing area (including boundary clearances) that is away from buildings, pedestrians and other activities.
- An injury management procedure (including for head injuries) in place. Refer to Queensland School Sport [Competition Procedures – Concussion Recognition and Management Policy](#).
- Corner flags or markers made of non-injurious materials.
- Correctly sized and fastened shin guards, covered entirely by long socks.
- Footballs sized according to the age of the players: 10–13: size 4, 14 or older: size 5.
- Footwear appropriate to the playing surface, type of activity (i.e. training or match) and age of participants.

### Hazards and controls

| Hazards                      | Control measures   |
|------------------------------|--|
| Body Contact                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforce rules regarding physical contact and dangerous play specific to the sport.</li> <li>• Recommend students wear mouthguards for practice and game play.</li> <li>• Ensure students remove all jewellery (e.g. rings, earrings, leather bands, watches) prior to the activity. Using tape to cover jewellery is not acceptable (FIFA Law 4).</li> </ul>  |
| Environmental considerations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly define the playing and clearance areas prior to play commencing. A clearance of 3m surrounding the playing area is recommended.</li> <li>• If the recommended boundary clearance is not met, provide instructions to the officials/supervisors and players about the limited clearance zone and the steps they could take to ensure safety, including the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- reduce the size of the playing field to achieve an adequate clearance zone</li> <li>- remove spectators/dangerous obstacles within the clearance zone</li> <li>- station supervisors near any obstacles within the clearance zone</li> <li>- pad any obstacles located within the clearance zone.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Follow the FFA/Football Queensland age group recommendations for game times:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10–12: a maximum 25 mins per half, 5 mins (or more) half-time break</li> <li>- 13: a maximum 30 mins per half, 5 mins (or more) half-time break</li> <li>- 14: a maximum 35 mins per half, 5 mins (or more) half-time break</li> <li>- 15: a maximum 40 mins per half, 5 mins (or more) half-time break</li> <li>- 16 or older: a maximum 45 mins per half, 10 mins (or more) half-time break.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ensure drink breaks occur regularly (i.e. drink breaks are recommended every 30 minutes in conditions of extreme temperature) and drinks are available for individual players between drink breaks.</li> </ul> |
| Equipment                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check footwear to ensure:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- screw-in studs are not loose or sharp on the edge</li> <li>- studs are not excessively worn</li> <li>- the tags are not tapered or pointed (i.e. tags on running spikes)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |

| Hazards                | Control measures  |
|------------------------|---|
|                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- any metal screws are not protruding through the stud creating a two-part pointed stud.</li> <li>• Discard footballs that have lifted panels, protruding inflation points, loose or broken stitching, or are out of shape.</li> <li>• Use equipment that matches the age, size and ability of the students.</li> </ul>  |
| Student considerations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure goal-keepers only defend their goal against one ball at a time during skills practice.</li> <li>• If there is reason to believe a student is injured, remove the student from the field of play.</li> <li>• Ensure students do not return to playing after an injury until it is clear that the injury has healed. If there is any doubt, the student should not play until medically cleared.</li> <li>• Follow progressive and sequential skills development. Students should progress through the skills and knowledge areas associated with mini soccer before participating at a level governed by the full laws of the game. Skills training is encouraged for 9–11 year age groups.</li> </ul> |

### Additional links

- Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)  
<http://www.fifa.com/>
- Football Queensland  
<http://www.footballqueensland.com.au/>
- Football Queensland coaching  
<http://www.footballaustralia.com.au/getinvolved/coaching>
- Health and Safety – Safety Alert – Movable Soccer Goalposts (MSG)  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/health/pdfs/healthsafety/portable-soccer-goalposts.pdf>
- Queensland School Sport Unit  
<https://queenslandschoolsport.eq.edu.au/Pages/default.aspx>
- Sports Medicine Australia Injury Fact Sheets  
<http://sma.org.au/resources-advice/injury-fact-sheets/>

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