



Children in Adult Competitions

Southern Districts Touch Association endorses the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) principle associated with junior sport (under 18 years) competition:

"The level of competition must be appropriate to the age and development of the individual"

Definitions:

- Juniors are under 18 years
- Youth are aged 13-18 years, which corresponds to the secondary years of education
- Children are aged from 5 years to 12 years which corresponds to the primary years of education

According to ASC policy references above, and applying such policy to Touch Football activities:

- Children under the age of 10 cannot participate in adult Touch Football competitions.
- Children between the ages of 10 and 12 should, in most circumstances, only participate in modified Touch Football competitions. For example, "AusTouch" or age restricted competitions with a smaller ball.
- Under certain circumstances, SDTA may approve (upon written application) the participation of children aged 10-12 in adult competition, providing all the following criteria are met:
 - There is no reasonable access to modified Touch Football activities for this child or children;
 - That the environment is conducive to the emotional, social and physical well-being of that child or children;
 - Parental/Adult supervision must occur at all times; and
 - Opposition teams are informed of the child or children participating

NOTE: If one of more of these criteria cannot be met then the child or children will not be permitted to participate in adult Touch Football competitions.

