



## Tips for Coaches/Referees of Under 7's and Under 9's Teams

For the Junior Touch Competition each Under 7 and Under 9 team is required to have a parent/adult who is willing to be on the field and act as the coach and referee.

The adult acting in this role is to stay with their team at all times. In **attack** the coach will assist with:

- There should be 5 players on the field. Players can sub at any time but should be encouraged when their team has the ball. If need to stop the game to allow for substitutions.
- Organising players so they have one player to perform the roll ball, one player to be the acting half and another player to be the runner.
- There are 5 players on a team and 6 touches so all players should get a chance to be the runner
- Players should be encouraged to touch the defence and perform the roll ball in one action rather than running pass the touch and then having to come back and play the ball.
- Players should be encouraged to run forward rather than backwards
- Try and have a player at acting half as quickly as possible and have them pass straight away.
- Encourage players to pass backwards

In **defence** the coach will act also as the referee and assist with:

- Getting the players onside at each touch. The referee needs to make sure the distance between the roll ball and defence is at least 5m. If needed coach/referee can increase the distance to give the other team more of a chance to run the ball.
- In defence the players should spread out in a line and move forward together to touch the attacking player
- Coach/referee to not allow defensive players to move forward until the first receiver catches the ball.
- Players should be encouraged to call out when they make a touch.
- Players should be encouraged to run backwards when getting onside.
- Coach/referee must count the touches. Once 6 touches change over.
- In under 7's if there is a lot of drop ball use your discretion and allow players to pick ball up and play on. In Under 9's should be working more towards a change over when ball is dropped.
- In under 7's can let mild forward passes go but explain to players they need to be behind the ball to receive it. In under 9's should be working more towards a change over when ball is passed forward.
- In under 7's can let go players who play the ball slightly over the mark but explain to players they need to play the ball where they are touched. In under 9's should be working more towards a change over when ball is played over the mark.

Please remember the most important thing is that the kids have fun!