

# The new approach to junior football: Fun and development come first



When you ask kids what's so fun about playing football, they answer: scoring goals, making moves, having possession of the ball lots of times, and playing together. When kids enjoy the game, they will play football more often and keep on improving their game. In an optimal learning environment, learning how to play football will lead to improve player development. Working in collaboration with experts in the Netherlands and abroad, as well as clubs, coaches, referees, parents and of course the children, the KNVB introduces new match formats for junior players.

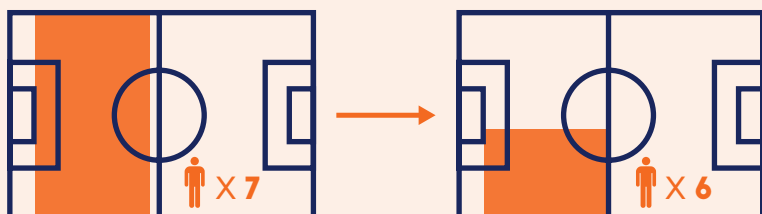
In the 2017/2018 season, the KNVB will start organising a U8 and U9 competition for the new 6 vs 6 match format. In the 2018/2019 season, they will also be introduced for U10 in the 6 vs 6 match format and U11 and U12 in the 8 vs 8 match format.

The following overview displays the biggest changes for the new match formats for junior players.

Introduction of new match formats	2017/2018 season	2018/2019 season
	U8 & U9 – 6 vs 6	U10 – 6 vs 6 U10 & U12 – 8 vs 8

## Number of players and pitch size

Matches are played with fewer players and on smaller pitches.



**Current** Junior players U8 **2017/2018 season**  
7 vs 7 6 vs 6  
Dimensions: 64m x 50m Dimensions: 42,5m x 30m



## Time – out

U8 to U12

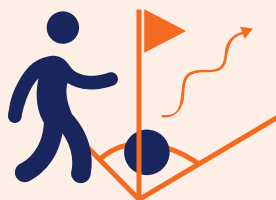
A 2 minute time-out will take place in each half of the match. The coach will then have an opportunity to take a positive look at the plays and anticipate the next steps, and the junior players can take the time to grab a drink



## Ball out of bounds across the endline

U8 to U12

In case of a ball out of bounds across the endline, the ball is brought back into play by passing or shooting from the ground.



## Corner kicks

U8 to U12

In case of a corner kick, the ball will be passed or dribbled from the corner.

## Ball out of bounds across the sideline

U8 to U12



Currently: throw-in

VS



New: dribble and pass

← **5M** →

## Distance U8 to U12

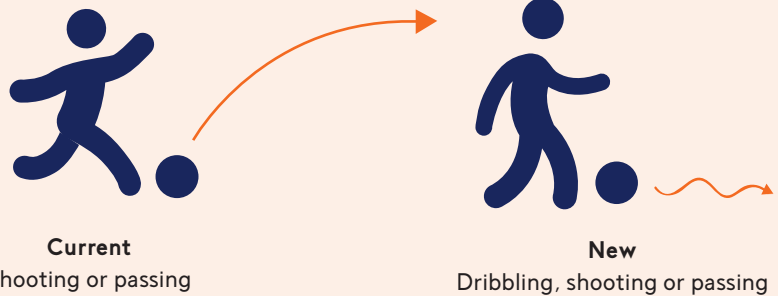
The opponent must maintain at least 5 meters for each set play.

## Match supervisor

U8 to U10

The role of referee will change into a role of match supervisor. The match supervisor will not be on the pitch but alongside it and will make a decision if the rules of play are applied incorrectly, and will explain the rules of the game. If necessary, the match supervisor may move on to the pitch.

## Free kick U8 to U12



## Shake hands and high five

U6 to U12

In order to encourage positive behaviour, the KNVB would like to see the most frequently submitted suggestion to become commonplace. Prior to the game, all players must shake hands and introduce themselves. After the game, they must give a high five as a way of saying thank you for a good game.



## Rankings and classification

U8 to U10

The KNVB will not show any rankings or classifications. They will keep records of the results of the games to determine the strength of the teams so teams can be reassigned on that basis.

## Competition

U8 to U12

The KNVB aims to organise exciting matches between well-matched teams throughout the season.

Starting in the 2017/2018 season, we provide a competition for all birth years (U8 to U12). Clubs will always be free to register teams that are composed of players from different years of birth.

## Recommended ball size

KNVB recommends playing with a different ball size. The current ball size 5 is still allowed.

U6 to U12

- U6 to U7 → Ball size 3, 290 grams
- U8, U9 & U10 → Ball size 4, 290 grams
- U11 → Ball size 5, 320 grams
- U12 → Ball size 5, 370 grams

