



# SUNS TAG FOOTY

## 2024 Rules Adjustments & Clarifications

### Gender-based Adjustments

- The rule requiring at least 1 “sheila” and at least 1 “bloke” in each field zone (at least 3 of each on the entire field) will remain. Players who indicate their gender as non-binary will be grouped with the gender of their choice, as indicated on their registration form.
- All goals will be worth 6 points, regardless of the gender of the scorer.
- During marking contests, umpires will no longer designate a “Women’s Only” or “Sheilas’ Ball” marking contests, which prohibited males from interfering in such designated contests. Moving forward, umpires will only call out the team color that is protected in the drop zone.

### General Play

- If the ball is marked (caught) *by a defender* or a free kick is awarded to the defending team between the goal line and the top of the goal square, the mark (and subsequently the opposition player on the mark) will be moved back “to the 9”...in line with the top of the goal square. This also applies if the mark occurs away from the goal square, toward the “pocket” boundaries.
- If a penalty occurs *while* the ball is being properly passed or kicked down field, then the mark will be paid “down field” if the destination of the passed ball is advantageous to the team in possession of the ball.
- If a penalty occurs and a free kick is awarded, the receiving team cannot play on to “advantage” if the ball is not in line with (and behind or “over”) the mark when a player takes possession of it. The player awarded the free kick must take possession of the ball and stand in line with (on or behind) the mark before disposing of the ball or playing on by running off line.
- After the ball has gone out of bounds, after the kicker has possession of the ball and is standing in the appropriate position out of bounds, and after approximately 5 seconds, the umpire should give a 3 second warning. The ball must be kicked into the field of play within 3 seconds, or it will result in a free kick to the nearest opposition player at the same spot/mark.

\*\*However, before the umpire gives the 3-second warning, if the ball carrier steps back in bounds before kicking or attempts to “play on” by running or hand passing back into the field of play, the umpire will either:

\*(1) reset the player out of bounds for another kicking opportunity (only one do-over allowed *per game for the entire team*)

\*(2) stop the play and award a free kick to the opposing team.

- The following exceptions would warrant a “ball-up” situation instead of a free kick:
  - \*\* (a) If the umpire cannot determine who last touched the ball
  - \*\* (b) if a marking attempt was “spoiled” or the kick or handpass was “smothered”
  - \*\* (c) if the ball went out of bounds as the result of a *forced error* (contested situation in which players from both teams touched the ball in rapid succession).
- If the ball went out of bounds as the result of an “unforced error”, a free kick will be awarded to the opposing team
- After a Behind is scored, a player can stand on the mark, which is 10 meters from the top of the goal square.
  - \*\*After about 5 seconds the umpire will give a 3 second warning to the kicker. After 3 seconds, instead of whistling, will call out: “go!” or “Released!”, which allows the defender standing on the mark to try to tag the ball carrier *inside* the goal square.
    - \*\*If the kicker steps outside of the goal square, the umpire will reset the player within the goal square for another kicking opportunity (*only one do-over allowed per game for the entire team*). The 2nd time this occurs, it will result in a free kick to the opposing player nearest the mark at the top of the goal square.
    - \*\*If the kicker is tagged within the goal square, this will result in a free kick to the tagger at the spot of the tag.