



2026 AFL Sydney Juniors Tackling Quick Reference Guide

AGE GROUP	U8	U9-U10	U11-U17	U9YG	U11YG	U13YG-U17YG
TACKLING	<i>No tackling</i>	<i>Modified Tackle</i>	<i>As per laws of the game</i>	<i>Modified Tackle</i>	<i>Modified Tackle</i>	<i>As per laws of the game</i>
KEY COACHING POINTS	<p>There is no tackling in the Under 8s competition</p> <p>A two-hand touch will be allowed in place of any form of tackling At this age, coaches should encourage the 'set-up' of how to tackle - Give them their tackle 'L' plates so to speak. (1) 'L'ong steps. Close the Space quickly to get to the ball carrier (2) 'L'ittle steps. Corral the opponent, lining them up to engage. (3) 'L'eft and right. Step in and Contact the ball carrier with both hands in a two hand touch motion. This will set them up for when they progress to tackling in older age groups. Close space, Corral, Contact.</p> <p>There is strictly no bumping, slinging or deliberately bringing the opposition Player in possession of the ball to the ground</p> <p>A player is not permitted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - knock the ball out of an opponent's hands - push the Player in the side - steal the ball from another Player - smother an opponent's kick or shepherd an opponent - deliberately pull or grab the hair of an opponent 	<p>A wrap around tackle may be used</p> <p>A Player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms around the area below the top of the shoulders and on/above the knees</p> <p>The tackle may be from either side or from behind providing the tackle from behind does not thrust forward the Player with the ball (That is, push back the Player in the back)</p> <p>There is strictly no bumping, slinging or deliberately bringing the opposition Player in possession of the ball to the ground.</p> <p>A player is not permitted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - knock the ball out of an opponent's hands - push the Player in the side - steal the ball from another Player - smother an opponent's kick or shepherd an opponent - deliberately pull or grab the hair of an opponent 		<p>A wrap around tackle may be used</p> <p>A Player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms around the area below the top of the shoulders and on/above the knees</p> <p>The tackle may be from either side or from behind providing the tackle from behind does not thrust forward the Player with the ball (That is, push back the Player in the back)</p> <p>There is strictly no bumping, slinging or deliberately bringing the opposition Player in possession of the ball to the ground.</p> <p>A player is not permitted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - knock the ball out of an opponent's hands - push the Player in the side - steal the ball from another Player - smother an opponent's kick or shepherd an opponent - deliberately pull or grab the hair of an opponent 	<p>A wrap around tackle may be used</p> <p>A Player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms around the area below the top of the shoulders and on/above the knees</p> <p>The tackle may be from either side or from behind providing the tackle from behind does not thrust forward the Player with the ball (That is, push back the Player in the back)</p> <p>There is strictly no bumping, slinging or deliberately bringing the opposition Player in possession of the ball to the ground.</p> <p>A player is not permitted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - knock the ball out of an opponent's hands - push the Player in the side - steal the ball from another Player - deliberately pull or grab the hair of an opponent 	
KEY UMPIRING POINTS	<p>A player is to be given a reasonable chance to dispose of the ball by kick or handball, or by attempting to kick or handball. A few seconds will be seen as a reasonable chance, to ensure the flow of the game and prevent constant ball ups</p> <p>If the Player in possession of the ball is taken to the ground in the act of tackling, they will receive a free kick.</p> <p>If the Umpire feels the Player drops to the ground deliberately in order to receive a free kick, they will be penalized for holding the ball</p> <p>A Player not in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent, shall be awarded a free kick</p>	<p>If the Player in possession of the ball is taken to the ground in the act of tackling, they will receive a free kick. If the Umpire feels the Player drops to the ground deliberately in order to receive a free kick, they will be penalized for holding the ball.</p> <p>A Player in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent applying the wrap around tackle, should be given a reasonable chance to dispose of the ball by kick or by handball, or by attempting to kick or handball, otherwise a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball.</p> <p>The Umpire shall conduct a ball-up when the Player with the ball has the ball held to the body by an opponent, unless the Player has had a reasonable time to dispose of the ball prior to being tackled, in which case a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball.</p> <p>The Umpire shall allow play to continue if the ball is knocked out of a Player's hands by an opponent.</p> <p>A Player not in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent, shall be awarded a free kick</p>		<p>If the Player in possession of the ball is taken to the ground in the act of tackling, they will receive a free kick. If the Umpire feels the Player drops to the ground deliberately in order to receive a free kick, they will be penalized for holding the ball.</p> <p>A Player in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent applying the wrap around tackle, should be given a reasonable chance to dispose of the ball by kick or by handball, or by attempting to kick or handball, otherwise a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball.</p> <p>The Umpire shall conduct a ball-up when the Player with the ball has the ball held to the body by an opponent, unless the Player has had a reasonable time to dispose of the ball prior to being tackled, in which case a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball.</p> <p>The Umpire shall allow play to continue if the ball is knocked out of a Player's hands by an opponent.</p> <p>A Player not in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent, shall be awarded a free kick</p>	<p>If the Player in possession of the ball is taken to the ground in the act of tackling, they will receive a free kick. If the Umpire feels the Player drops to the ground deliberately in order to receive a free kick, they will be penalized for holding the ball.</p> <p>A Player in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent applying the wrap around tackle, should be given a reasonable chance to dispose of the ball by kick or by handball, or by attempting to kick or handball, otherwise a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball.</p> <p>The Umpire shall conduct a ball-up when the Player with the ball has the ball held to the body by an opponent, unless the Player has had a reasonable time to dispose of the ball prior to being tackled, in which case a free kick shall be awarded to the tackler for holding the ball.</p> <p>The Umpire shall allow play to continue if the ball is knocked out of a Player's hands by an opponent.</p> <p>A Player not in possession of the ball, when held by an opponent, shall be awarded a free kick</p>	