

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 13YG v North Shore Swans

ROUND 14 - 03/08/2025

ELS Hall Oval, North Ryde

Well we all saw the weather - alas, that saw us moved off the picturesque Tunks Oval to the (more convenient for some) synthetic oval at ELS Hall in North Ryde. Heavy showers kept life interesting for both players and spectators, with congregations under umbrellas common at quarter time breaks, photos shelved late in the game due to a leaky umbrella, and a coach enjoying a baptism from his raincoat's hood upon conclusion of the game.

Playing on half a field with a Div 1/2 game on the other half saw a very unusual game - 13 Eagles against 15 Swans (who had another four on the bench - leading them to speculate our girls will tire by the end of the game... little did they know!) but despite two fewer players, we often ended up with 20 or so players within 20 metres of the Swans goal. Despite the resulting scoreline, it was a tough game to get clear scoring opportunities given how our girls thrive in space - 6 goals to 16 behinds!

The girls were having to have shots from everywhere but were so defensively focused that they also kept the Swans scoreless except for one rushed behind with seconds to go on a field that could've travelled end to end in a few kicks.

Players

- Emily showed both her defensive and attacking sides this week - she would repeatedly rush in to pressure mistakes from the Swans but also showed her skills with a neat little deliberate kick off the side of her boot to Vally to get her into space.
- Vally thrived in the congested spaces - so many photos were of her taking down Swans players just looking to escape their own attacking arc or collecting a ball and slamming it on to her boot in between half a dozen players. She even managed to bounce a goal through five different players somehow!
- Nya showed some clean skills in what was a very tough day for them, with a great mark in the weather and a couple of goals including a long straight kick off a free kick.
- Pippa demonstrated to her team how dangerous handballing can be with some powerful handballs in tough kicking weather grabbing metres for the team. After earning free kicks in

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the forward pocket, she even sent two really smart ones a good ten metres back in front of goal for better positioned players to take a shot.

- Juliet stood tall with an impressive contested mark followed by a great kick to nail Vally, along with several other long kicks in the fight for territory.
- Isabelle worked on her shepherding and handballs to advantage to let her teammates rebound forwards, with one highlight including turning a full 450 degrees, handballing backwards to Vally, who launched a kick to Kira in space resulting in a possible goal of the year candidate.
- Maddie's reflexes were key in her rotations between centre half back and midfield - she snatched marks out of the air (including a goal from one intercept) and worked for handball receives leading to shots on goal given the shorter field.
- Kira spent most of the game doing great work in close with her snap kicks grabbing a heap of metrage for the teams, but her absolute highlight was running half the field after getting on to a kick from Vally, nailing a bounce, and kicking straight for a goal from quite the distance out. A well-deserved Player of the Week.
- Given the short field a Sandy goal from near half way was almost inevitable and she delivered. Her skills were on show again - several efforts featuring a one handed collect of the ball, holding it out, pivoting and kicking around the corner were particular highlights.
- Willow had a great ability to manufacture space when everyone else was struggling to get away from opponents - her clever little back pedals to clear congestion let her unleash her kicking to keep the Swans pinned in their defence.
- Olivia F and Hazel dueled it out in a dance contest, or possibly synchronous dancing. I didn't think to check. Oh and not to sell them short - when pressed into service as full backs they consistently killed the contest when the Swans got over the half back line.
- Sofia filled a full time mid role this week and rushed around reading the bounce of the ball on the synthetic ground when others were took a little longer to adapt. She was often a key part in handball chains the girls used to work their way around Swans players in the tight spaces.

Score

Hornsby-Berowra Eagles 6.16.52 dft North Shore Swans 0.1.1

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Goals

Kira Breden: 2; Nya Nicolson: 2; Maddie Dunlop: 1; Vally Taborsky: 1.

Report by Donald Shepherd (Photos available on Teams)