

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 9 GIRLS vs HILL PHOENIX
ROUND 8 – 14 JUNE 2026
VENUE ROFE PARK

It started off as a miserable, drizzly day at Charles McLaughlin Reserve, but thankfully the sun broke through just in time for the first bounce and we were treated to perfect conditions for a great game of footy.

The Hornsby Berowra Eagles came out flying in the first quarter, dominating possession with the ball rarely leaving our forward third. Whenever Hills Phoenix managed to clear the danger, our midfield trio of Evie, Abba and Sophia were quick to win it back and send it straight into our forward 50 for another attacking opportunity. Unfortunately, despite controlling much of the play, we couldn't quite capitalise on our dominance, finishing the quarter with four behinds after some near misses in front of goal.

The second quarter was a real arm wrestle, with both teams battling hard for every possession. Hills Phoenix lifted their intensity and the game became much more even, with only a handful of points separating the teams at the main break.

The third quarter belonged to Hills Phoenix early, as they burst out of the blocks with three quick goals. It looked as though the girls might be heading towards their first defeat of the season (not that we keep score!). However, Evie had other ideas. She put together a remarkable quarter, kicking four goals of her own, including one spectacular effort after taking a bounce and snapping truly from near the boundary line. Her brilliance swung the momentum firmly back in the Eagles' favour.

With confidence high, the Eagles put the game to bed in the final quarter. Saphira was outstanding up forward, finishing with 2 goals 3 behinds, including a fantastic banana kick that had the crowd cheering. The girls continued to work hard all over the ground to run out winners 43 to 27.

There were plenty of highlights across the team:

- Chloe was outstanding in the air, taking four strong marks.
- Livie produced a crucial smother that prevented what looked like a certain opposition goal.
- Mila impressed with her excellent handballing and willingness to bring teammates into the game.
- Erica worked tirelessly all day, showing tremendous determination and gut-running effort.
- Maddie and Mieke were rock solid in defence, repeatedly stopping Hills Phoenix attacks and helping launch the ball back into attack.

Most pleasing of all was the teamwork, resilience and never-give-up attitude shown by the girls. They stuck together when challenged, backed each other up all over the ground and once again showed why they are such a fantastic team to coach and watch. Go Eagles! 🦅 .