

GOLD COAST TITANS

ALL SCHOOLS

Information Memo January 2024



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

This Memo is meant to provide some preliminary information for this year's event. As per usual, there are quite a few new schools, and we welcome all to our pride and joy event. Please be advised that I am your main contact for all things All Schools and later in the year Alex Wong (Referees coordinator) will also be an important contact as well.

This year sees the Touch World Cup being played in Nottingham, England and as such I am away for a month in July. Hence the early start to All Schools organization in 2024. I expect to have the draft draw out prior to departure in late June or early July. Please keep note of all timeline requirements to ensure there will be no issues. I will have access to emails but limited time to action any major problems while away.

PARTNERS

We look forward to working with our partners again and we thank them sincerely for their continued support of this event. They include –

- ❖ Major Events Gold Coast (MEGC)
- ❖ Gold Coast Titans National Rugby League club
- ❖ Qld Touch Football
- ❖ Inferno Apparel
- ❖ Village Roadshow

TOURNAMENT DETAILS

The event begins at 7.30am Wednesday 2 October for all Junior teams (i.e. 13s and 15s divisions) Junior finals are Saturday 5 October. Days are usually from 7.30am until 8.30pm. The Opens (18s) divisions begins Friday 4 October from 12pm and rounds continue Saturday with Finals on Sunday 6 October with the event wrapped up by 4pm.

PARTICIPATION ADVICE

Nominations will be confirmed with receipt of the Participation Advice. This is an important element of our organization, and we rely on all participating schools to provide accurate information. Please read the notes and return the PA form by the deadline – Friday 16 February 2024. **Important - If you fail to submit by the deadline your place will be offered to another school without further warning.**

AGE ELIGIBILITY

I would like to take the opportunity to reinforce the age eligibility for the event given you are busy organizing your teams. For all other relevant Tournament specific rules including age eligibility please refer to the Conditions of Play 2024.

The **AGE REQUIREMENTS** are -

- **18 BOYS, 18 GIRLS & 18 MIXED - Under 19 as at 31 December, cannot turn 19 in 2024, born 2006 or after.**
- **15 BOYS & GIRLS - Under 16 as at 31 December, cannot turn 16 in 2024, born 2009 or after.**
- **13 BOYS & GIRLS - Under 14 as at 31 December, cannot turn 14 in 2024, born 2011 or after.**

REFEREE REQUIREMENTS 2024

The information here is provided to answer most referee queries – we hope!! The basic entry fee requires all teams to provide referees to avoid any surcharges.

This event would not be possible without the extraordinary number of officials to keep it going. In 2023 we used over 300 referees (costing \$65k) and in order to secure at least the same number again, we seek your cooperation in maintaining our numbers and importantly, to ensure both the sustainability and the future proofing of the event. To that end, you are required to –

1. **Student Referee.** As the primary Condition of Entry, you must provide one student referee from your school who will accompany your team/s and officiate at the event. **NO STUDENT REFEREE – NO ENTRY.** (Most schools already bring student referees and in fact provide more than one. It is our goal to increase the number of student officials across the state)
2. **Referee quota.** As a secondary condition of entry, you must provide one referee per team nominated up to a maximum of 4 referees. This of course would include your one mandatory student referee as in condition 1 above. (e.g. 3 teams nominated – 3 referees required (one student referee and 2 others), 6 teams nominated – 4 referees required, one student referee and 3 others.)
3. **Junior division & Senior division.** If you have nominated teams in both divisions, i.e. Juniors (13s & 15s) and Senior (18s) you must provide a referee to officiate in both divisions. For example, in previous years schools had teams in all divisions but their referees only refereed in the Junior section of the event. From 2024 you need to ensure referees are covering both divisions if you have teams in both divisions. At all times referees are allocated games at the times their designated school is at the grounds.
4. **Surcharge.** If you cannot provide/source the extra referees to fulfil your quota, a surcharge is payable at \$250.00 per referee required.
5. **Referee Registration Process.** This process begins in term two and schools must ensure that they know the process. Further information and reminders will be provided later in the year. Please consult the Referee Policy for relevant details.
6. **Interstate/International teams are not subject to the referee obligations/surcharges.**
7. **Referee Audit.** An audit of compliance is conducted at the end of the Tournament. Schools who fail to meet the referee obligations as above will be surcharged. It is each school's responsibility to ensure compliance and to say that you didn't know is not an acceptable excuse.

SCHOOL CONTACT PERSON

A critical part of our organization is the connection we have with each school. This is done via the school contact. If you have updated or changed this person, please let us know immediately or when you submit the "Participation Advice". Please do not request extra persons to be added to the mail out list – it is already ridiculously big. Also, could you please ensure communication comes to us through this school contact and not individual team coaches.

WEBSITE

While I welcome your queries, many of the questions or information you require are available from our website. Please familiarize yourself with it and check out the Resources provided including information on **Accommodation ideas, Referee Policy, Seed Information, Finals Day, Finals Progression, Insurance, Code of Conduct, Cancellation and Withdrawals Policy and Conditions of Play.** (n.b. these are continually being updated)

www.qldallschools.com.au

PRELIMINARY GAMES

For new schools please be advised that you may be required to play a 'Preliminary Game' at some time prior to the event in October. This assists us to clear excess games since we cannot physically place all 1800 games at the event. Otherwise, there would be less flexibility in the draw and for example, many of you would be

required to play more very early (7.30am) and or very late games (8pm) during the event. This assists us in reducing the total games required as well as enabling more schools to nominate and or gain a place in the event. Note – not all schools or indeed all teams, are required to play a preliminary game. It is usually dependent on the draw and what issues I have. For example, some of the bigger divisions (e.g. 15 girls can expect to play one since there were 112 teams in this division alone in 2023!!) The best and easiest way to play your Preliminary game if you are allocated one, is to register for your local All Schools event. (Qld schools only) I can then coordinate with the Region and ensure the game is placed as part of their draw. Finally, last year some schools indicated they were going to play at a Regional event but then didn't and failed to alert me to this fact. I had liaised with the Region, organized their Preliminary game and opponent school and the Region went to the trouble to organize the draw around them. Very annoying and time-consuming for us when we find out they are not intending to play anymore. Please, if you state you are going to play at a Regional All Schools (on the Participation Advice) and then change your mind don't forget to let us know immediately. Note - If you don't play at a Regional All Schools that's fine, (it's not compulsory) however you will need to organize your allocated Preliminary game with a 'like' school after hours and before the end of term 3.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES

Please ensure you are accurate when nominating teams. We do allow a window for changes knowing that you have had to nominate teams early in January and circumstances may subsequently change with kids losing interest etc. However, once I begin the draw process, (late May early June) we will charge you a fee every time you require a change since not only is it more work, but taking up spots initially then not using them, is disruptive and unfair to schools who could have had your place. If the change is easy and doesn't require hours of extra work, you won't be charged.

DRAW REQUIREMENTS

As per last year, schools should be prepared to play on 3 school days (except Seniors who start Friday) and any departure from this will be provided to schools who travel the greatest distances. Local schools should not request 2 school days given they usually have reduced costs compared to schools travelling some distances. Remember country schools who request not to play on Wednesday of the event will be required to start Thursday morning from 9am.

Peter Bell.