



CONDITIONS OF PLAY

(current as at 12 January 2024)



1. TOURNAMENT RULES

The Conditions of Play are the events Tournament specific rules. At all times the **Touch Football Australia (TFA- 8TH EDITION)** rules shall apply unless otherwise stated below.

2. TEAM/SQUAD SIZE

All teams shall be limited to a maximum of **14 players only**. (six (6) on the field) Touring teams may apply for dispensation prior to the event.

3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1 AGE REQUIREMENTS

- 18 BOYS, GIRLS & MIXED - Under 19 as at 31 December in the year of competition (cannot turn 19 in 2024, born 2006 or after)
- 15 BOYS & GIRLS - Under 16 as at 31 December in the year of competition (cannot turn 16 in 2024, born 2009 or after)
- 13 BOYS & GIRLS – Under 14 as at 31 December in the year of competition (cannot turn 14 in 2024, born 2011 or after)

3.2 All players shall be bona fide students of the school they represent, and there shall be **no combination of school teams or players**, without prior approval (in writing) from the **TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**.

3.3 Where schools have more than one team entered across multiple divisions at the GCTAS in 2024, **players may play for one team only**. (e.g. You cannot play in 15s early in the week and then double up for the 18s when the 15s have concluded, or play in the 18 Girls as well as 18 Mixed etc.)

3.4 To be eligible for Finals, players must play at least one round game at the event and proof may be required that this has occurred.

3.5 **Girls cannot play in boys divisions unless the school does not have female teams entered.** A school must apply for dispensation for the female to play and all supporting approvals (Principal/Parent) must be in place. The safety of the individual as well as the standard and experience of the individual will be the main consideration for any decision made.
Note – dispensation may be given to a maximum of 2 female players who can play in any game in the male division.

4. REGISTRATION

4.1 All Teacher/Managers need to ensure all participants have registered on-line prior to the event. Non-registered participants will be prohibited from competing. (note - This is a requirement for Insurance)

4.2 Each team is required to also complete the official **“TEAM REGISTRATION FORM”** (hard copy) and submit prior to their first scheduled game at the event. Should this form not be received on time, no points will be allocated for games played until the form is received. Teachers should ensure Principal approval (signature) is obtained and that the **“Media Release”** section is checked.

4.3 Players cannot be added to the sheet once it is submitted.

4.4 Proof of registration (compliance) is the responsibility of the school and or the All Schools - Teacher contact person.

5. TEACHER/COACHES

- 5.1 All nominated schools/teams must be accompanied and supervised by a Registered teacher, preferably from the school nominated. (Note – where this is not possible an accredited coach/parent may undertake supervision of the team provided Principal approvals are in order.)
- 5.2 Teachers are responsible for the behavior of their students and officials. They are also deemed accountable for their school's community, including parents and friends of students. Rowdy or disruptive persons may be asked to leave with the individual school being liable for penalty. (i.e. loss of points, disqualification, suspension etc.) This is the first and only warning. Ground staff and referees have been instructed to report instances of unsporting or inappropriate behavior to administration.
- 5.3 Coaches are not permitted to coach or call instructions from behind the score line and must remain in the sub box. They may choose to stand at an end of the field, but they accordingly must remain silent. This rule applies to all members of a team, including parents, staff, and other team members. It will be strictly enforced.
- 5.4 During games teams may have up to 14 players in the sub box in playing attire plus up to 3 coach/managers or 17 persons in total. No other individuals may be in the box area at any time during the game. **Parents are not permitted in the sub box area at any time during games unless they are registered as staff.** Schools that have appointed Parents or non-teaching persons must ensure that they are firstly under the direction of the registered teacher responsible for the school's teams during all games at the event and secondly, that they understand that they are also under the direction of the Tournament Director. (see also 5.2 above)
- 5.5 All teams must adhere to the uniform policy including an appropriately numbered uniform which corresponds to the registration sheet. **The team apparel must be identical and no mis-match of items is allowable.** No team shall be allowed to compete if they do not satisfy this requirement.

6. CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

- 6.1 Teams shall play in seeded pools where a round robin will exist.
- 6.2 Seeding shall be assessed by a Panel consisting of the **Tournament Director & QSST committee members.**
- 6.3 Progression to the Final series is as per **Finals Series Progression 2024** document.
- 6.4 Where extra places are required to fill Final Series spaces, that is, the best seconds or thirds, the "Equalization Method" shall be applied to determine ranking. This method allows for the variations in Pool sizes (i.e. 6, 7 or 8 teams, see **Final Series Progression 2024 – Equalization Method**)
- 6.5 Where a team who has begun the round robin series but fails to complete round games (ie. Because of forfeit, disqualification etc.) all results to this point shall stand while all remaining games shall be awarded as a win (3 match points, 0 for the losing team) to their opponents. The differential required for progression to **Finals** shall be calculated as follows –
- (a) the average differential from lost games (only) shall be awarded to their opponent
 - (b) should there be no losses recorded the differential will be nil (as per a draw)
- 6.6 Where Teams are tied for places in a particular Pool, the following shall apply :
- (a) **Head to head Result** if applicable – i.e. two teams tied.
 - (b) best differential (i.e. for minus against)
 - (c) best percentage (i.e. for divided by against, multiplied by 100)
 - (d) Drop off where all else equal
- 6.7 **All games (including the Finals Series) shall be 25 minutes in duration – no halftime break, with both teams afforded the tap off opportunity. (see below)**
- 6.7.1 Teams shall not be required to reverse direction on the scoring of a Touchdown during round games.
 - 6.7.2 Both teams shall have a chance to tap off to commence the game. The team that wins the toss shall have the choice whether they tap first or second. (note- 6.7.4 below)
 - 6.7.3 Once the team that taps first has lost possession, the teams come back to half way to commence the tap for the second team. Play shall continue as usual from this point.
 - 6.7.4 Teams who defend first do not receive a tap on scoring in the opening set (e.g. from an intercept)
 - 6.7.5 Teams may substitute players at anytime during the tap off process.
- 6.8 In the event of ties in round games the result shall stand. In the **FINAL SERIES** (i.e. Quarters, Semis etc.), all ties shall require the '**drop - off**' to be played.
- 6.8.1 Drop Off Procedure shall be – the team that defended first at the start of the game shall have the tap in the drop off. (Note - only one tap will occur in the drop off and both sides commence the drop off with 4 players. (see TFA 8th ed. Rules)

6.8.2 Both teams must have had possession in the drop off. (e.g. if at the end of the first 2 minute period with one team leading and having had all possession – the second team is given one set of 6 commencing with a tap at half way to score and continue the sudden death. No subsequent score or the end of possession will result in a win to the other team.)

6.8.3 In the Mixed division the team may have no more than 2 males on the field during the drop off.

7. **DISMISSAL/SENDOFFS**

Players sent from the field (not a period of time) in a match shall be required to serve a two-game penalty. Note – two periods of time offences in games will constitute a two-game penalty also. At all times it is the expectation that players and officials abide by the relevant Codes of Conduct. Schools need to be aware that there is a zero tolerance of breaches and should it warrant, penalties may be increased beyond the above.

8. **GAME CARD & RESULTS**

At the conclusion of the game the referees will seek the agreement of both teams (captain or coach) and mark the card accordingly. Non agreement will require both team representatives to report to administration within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the game in question. *Teacher/Coaches are responsible for ensuring game results are submitted as per **"Results/Scoring Procedure 2024"** document.*

9. **PROTESTS / APPEAL**

All Protests / Appeals should be written and in the hands of the Administration (not the referees) within thirty minutes of the game in question. (Please note – protests regarding referee decisions will **not** be accepted.) All Protests shall be adjudicated on by a panel consisting of - the Tournament Director, a QSST Executive member and a QTF staff representative.

10. **FORFEITS**

Any school / team who forfeits a game without the permission of the Tournament Director, shall be fined **\$200** for each game forfeited.

11. **REFEREES**

All referees must wear the Official QAS Referee (pink/black) uniform unless permission to the contrary has been obtained from the Tournament Director. All referees at the GCTAS, remain under the control of the Tournament Director and the Referee Coordinator. (All teachers and their referees need to be conversant with the referee Policy)

12. **OFFICIAL MATCH BALL**

All games at the All Schools must use the official Inferno GCTAS match ball as provided.

13. **GENERAL**

- Any situations requiring clarification and not necessarily covered in the above conditions will be determined as per TFA Tournament conditions although the Tournament Director (in consultation) **reserves the right to make all final decisions as required in the interests of the event and all participants.**
- Schools / Teams / and or individuals who breach any of the above conditions including the relevant Codes of Conduct (see also 5.2 above) may be disqualified, and banned from further "ALL SCHOOLS" Championships. (Note – all penalties carry over to affiliated (TFA) community Touch competitions throughout Australia.)