

SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA TOUCH FOOTBALL

RULES AND GUIDELINES

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SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA TOUCH FOOTBALL

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Note: These Rules and Guidelines are to be read in conjunction with the 'School Sport Australia General Policies'.

SECTION A:

1.0 COMPETITION RULES

1.1 Playing Rules

Both the playing and tournament rules of Touch Football Australia, current at the time of the Championship, will apply unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Divisions

The divisions of a Championship shall include:

Boys 15 & Under
Girls 15 & Under
Boys 12 & Under
Girls 12 & Under

1.3 Team Size

15 Years & Under Division:

Teams shall consist of 14 players maximum and with on field members to be no more than six (6) players maximum.

Amended March, 2017

In the event of a PSG teams shall consist of up to 16 players maximum with on field members to be no more than six (6) players maximum.

12 Years & Under Division:

Teams shall consist of 14 players maximum and with on field members to be no more than six (6) players maximum.

Amended March, 2017

Each State or Territory is invited to send junior officials to officiate at the championship.

Added March, 2017

1.4 Ages

15 Years & Under Division:

- a) The ages are to be calculated as Under 16 as at 31 December in the year of competition.

12 Years & Under Division:

- b) The ages are to be calculated as 12 years and under as at 31 December in the year of competition.
- c) Participants must be in at least their tenth year (turn ten years during the year of competition), in order to compete in the Championship.
- d) South Australia will be entitled to have up to three (3) players who turn 13 years of age in the year of competition.

Northern Territory will be entitled to have up to 50% of team members who turn 13 years of age in the year of competition.

Australian Capital Territory will be entitled to have up to 50% of team members who turn 13 years of age after June 30th in the year of competition.

Tasmania will be entitled to have up to 50% of team members age dispensation for up to 6 months.

Amended March, 2017

1.5 Judiciary Committee

The Championship Convener, the National Secretary and one other invited official will form the Judiciary Committee. A decision will be made upon submissions given by the cautioned player and his/her Coach/Manager, and the Referee's report.

Amended March, 2017

1.6 Uniform

The uniform shall be as per the rules stipulated for all ATA competitions. Girls, however, shall be permitted to wear bicycle type pants or tights provided the team is uniform. (i.e. all the same uniform).

1.7 Protests

- (a) Any protests must be lodged in writing with the National Secretary within one (1) hour of completion of the disputed match.

Amended March, 2017

- (b) Protests or disputes concerning referee's decisions will not be considered.

Added March, 2017

- (c) Protests or disputes not concerning specific matches shall also be directed in writing to the National Secretary.

- (d) On receiving any relevant protests the National Secretary shall set up the relevant committee, as per 1.5 above, to deal with same.

2.0 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

2.1 Program

- (a) Championships shall be held annually, as per School Sport Australia roster and be a maximum of nine (9) days, with no more than five (5) school days.

Added March, 2017

- (b) At least two months prior to the commencement of the Championship, the Championship Convener shall submit to States/Territories a tentative program of matches. Early advice should be forwarded to States/Territories of any subsequent amendment to it.

Amended March, 2017

- (c) As early as possible, the Host State/Territory should also advise all competing States/Territories of the ground markings to be utilised during the Championship, and any local rules with respect to end zones/dead ball lines, sub-boxes and players' conditions. Diagrammatical representation is preferred.

Amended March, 2017

2.2 Competition Format

- (a) U/12s will compete in a round robin comp with a final between the top 2 finishing teams to decide the winning place and teams 3 and 4 playing a final to determine third place. All teams will play on the final day.

Amended March, 2017

15 Years & Under Division:

- (b) The top four (4) qualifiers will advance to the semi-finals of the 'Trophy Series'.

- (c) Teams other than the top four will play off in a 'Plate Series' (i.e. 5th, 6th, etc).

- (d) The draw should be constructed so that all teams compete on the final day.

- (c) For Secondary participants, the draw should be arranged so that no team is required to play more than three (3) games in any one day.

12 Years & Under Division:

- (d) For the 12 Years & Under Division participants, no teams are to be scheduled to play more than two (2) full games in any one day.

Items (e) and (f) removed March, 2017

2.3 Duration of Games

All matches will be 2 x 20 minute halves with a half time interval not exceeding five (5) minutes.

2.4 Competition Points

For all round robin games, competition points will be awarded on results obtained. The following points will be awarded:

For a Win	3 points
For a Draw	2 points
For a Loss	1 point

2.5 Final Series (15 Years & Under Divisions Only)

Trophy Series:

- (a) The top four teams with the most competition points will contest the semi-finals of the 'Trophy Series'.
- (b) If any teams finish level on points for positions one, two, three or four, placings will be determined by the following criteria in order -
 - * Best difference (Touchdowns for minus Touchdowns against)
 - * Best percentage (Touchdowns for divided by Touchdowns against) x 100%
 - * Round robin match result
 - * Drop off
- (c) If three teams finish level in third position, the team with the 'Best difference', etc., would retain third position, whilst the remaining two teams would play-off for fourth position. In the event where three teams are equal on points for fourth position, a "drop off" system will be applied to determine outright fourth position. The team with the 'Best difference', etc., will be ranked 1st. The other two teams will compete in a "drop off" to determine the 2nd ranking. The winner of this "drop off" will then play the team ranked 1st to determine fourth position.
- (d) The semi-final will consist of first position playing fourth position and second position playing third position. The two teams winning the semi-finals will contest the Final.

Plate Series:

- (e) The bottom four teams, where applicable, with the most competition points will contest the semi-finals of the 'Plate Series'.
- (f) If any teams finish level on points for positions five, six, seven or eight, placings will be determined by the following criteria in order -
 - * Best difference (Touchdowns for minus Touchdowns against)
 - * Best percentage (Touchdowns for divided by Touchdowns against) x 100%
 - * Round robin match result
 - * Drop off
- (g) If three teams finish level in seventh position, the team with the 'Best difference', etc., would retain seventh position, whilst the remaining two teams would play-off for eighth position. In the event where three teams are equal on points for eighth position, a "drop off" system will be applied to determine outright eighth position. The team with the 'Best difference', etc., will be ranked 1st. The other two teams will compete in a "drop off" to determine the 2nd ranking. The winner of this "drop off" will then play the team ranked 1st to determine eighth position.
- (h) The semi-final will consist of fifth position playing eighth position and sixth position playing seventh position. The two teams winning the semi-finals will contest the Final.
- (i) Following the Plate Semi-Final, the losers of these games play off for 7th and 8th positions in the 15 years and under division.

2.6 Drawn Games

If any finals series game ends in a draw the "drop-off" rule shall apply. Substitutions shall be allowed during this period.

2.7 Changes to Finals Format (15 Years & Under Divisions Only)

Where there is not a full representation, in a division, from each State/Territory, then the Finals Series format will be at the discretion of the Host State/Territory, in consultation with the National Secretary and the nominated competing teams in that particular division.

2.8 Sin Bin

A Sin Bin will operate in all matches. Players sent to the Sin Bin for a second time during a match may be excluded from further participation in that match. A Judiciary will meet to consider further action.

3.0 FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT

3.1 Venue

The determination of the venue for each year's Championship shall be in accordance with the SSA Championship Roster. Where a State or Territory is unable to fulfill the hosting of the Championship, then it shall be the duty of the National Secretary, in consultation with the School Sport Australia Roster Committee, to arrange a suitable alternative Host State/Territory.

3.2 Ball Type

- a) A Junior Touch Ball will be used for the 12 years division.
- b) A Senior Touch Ball will be used for the 15 years division.

The balls are to be supplied by the SSA host member body and are to be included in the Championship Budget.

4.0 CHAMPIONSHIP OFFICIALS

4.1 Referees/Officials

It shall be the responsibility of the host State/Territory to ensure that there be adequate qualified referees/officials appointed for the duration of the Championships. Where problems are likely to occur the National Secretary should be contacted so that arrangements may be made to utilise referees/officials from interstate or from within the ranks of the competing teams personnel. Non-qualified or non-affiliated personnel are not to officiate at a National Championship. It is strongly recommended that States/Territories include suitably qualified senior and/or junior officials as part of their touring party.

The referee coordinator to be a referee coach to provide coaching and possible upgrade of referee qualification of junior refs throughout carnival.

An official should be placed as the student official manager to oversee the well being of the student officials – as opposed to the technical aspects of the ref's coach. This manager will ensure children are fed, drinking, sun safe etc and follow all relevant education policies. A registered teacher is to be appointed as the student official manager.

SECTION B:

Elite Player Program section removed March, 2017

5.0 TROPHIES, AWARDS

5.1 Presentations – Trophies

15 Years & Under Division:

- (a) A perpetual shield shall be available to all Champion teams. It shall be the responsibility of current Champion State/Territory to see that the Trophy is with the Host State/Territory in time for presentation to the winner of the succeeding Championships.

- (b) School Sport Australia medallions shall be presented to the first, second and third placed teams of the Trophy Series (Third place to be decided by a play off between the losing semi-finalists).
Amended March, 2017
- (c) **The cost of the Plate Series winners and runners-up medallions/trophies', is to be covered by the Championship budget.**
- (d) Four player awards categories shall be conducted at the Championship. These are:
 (i) All Australian Team (twelve per division)
 (ii) Player of the Series (one per division)
 (ii) Player of the Final (one per division)
 (iii) Encouragement Award (one per division)
 Amended March, 2017
- (e) Players selected in the All Australian teams will be presented with School Sport Australia All Australian Plaques.
 Added March, 2017
- (f) The cost of all medallions and trophies is to be covered in the Championship budget.
 Added March, 2017
- (g) Selection for the above Awards shall be made by the relevant Talent Identification Personnel. This person shall be appointed/invited by the National Secretary in consultation with the Championship Convener.
 Amended March, 2017
- (h) Each State or Territory's official team personnel shall determine all other awards.
- 12 Years & Under Division:**
- (i) The Awards/Trophies/Friendship Pins for this division shall be carried out as per School Sport Australia General Rules for 12 Years and Under Championships.
 Amended March, 2017
- (j) School Sport Australia medallions shall be presented to the first, second and third placed teams.

SECTION C:

6.0 CHAMPIONSHIP ORGANISATION

6.1 Roster

Championships shall be held annually, as per School Sport Australia roster and should be a maximum of nine (9) days, with no more than five (5) school days.

Items 2 through 7 removed March, 2017

SECTION D:

7.0 SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA TOUCH FOOTBALL AWARDS

7.1 School Sport Australia Touch Football – Life Members:

- Anne Pickering (SA - 1996)
- Peter Bell (Qld - 1997)
- Ray Grieshaber (Qld - 1998)

7.2 School Sport Australia Service Award Recipients:

Kerry Norman	QLD	2001
Greg Maynard	WA	2001
Kendall Stirrat	NT	2001
Maree Tomlin	TAS	2005
Ashley Trueman	SA	2005
Garry Clarke	NSW	2005
Steve Tomlin	TAS	2006
Gabe Hodges	ACT	2008

Phil Jones	SA	2008
Mark Hilderbrandt	NSW	2009
Kim Bond	NT	2010
Debbie Quan	WA	2011
Matt Schinkel	SA	2011
Kelly Wetton	WA	2012
Sandra Hughes	ACT	2013
Chris Jones	SA	2013
Greg Frost	SA	2013
Carolyn Batch	ACT	2014
Justin McConachy	ACT/MIC	2014
Tanya Hazel	NT	2015

7.3 **School Sport Australia Eclectic Service Award Recipients:**

Michael Butler	SA	2016	Touch Football, Cross Country, Track & Field
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