

SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA***Boys and Girls 12 Years & Under and 15 Years & Under
Combined Touch Football Championships*****RULES AND GUIDELINES****Section A – Championship Overview**

- A - 1.** These Rules and Guidelines should be read in conjunction with School Sport Australia Policies, Championship Protocols and the Touch Football Championship Organisational Manual.
- A - 2.** Both the playing and tournament rules of Touch Football Australia, current at the time of the Championship, will apply unless otherwise stated.

Amended November 2019

- A - 3.** The Championships shall be conducted in accordance with a current Memorandum of Understanding between School Sport Australia and Touch Football Australia.

A - 4. Championship Length

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

A - 5. Championship Divisions

The divisions of a Championship shall include:

- Boys 15 Years & Under
- Girls 15 Years & Under
- Boys 12 Years & Under
- Girls 12 Years & Under

A - 6. Eligibility**A - 6.1 15 Years & Under Division**

- A - 6.1.1** Students are to be aged from 13 to 15 years as at 31 December in the year of competition.

A - 6.2 12 Years & Under Division:

- A - 6.2.1** Students are to be aged from 10 to 12 years as at 31 December in the year of competition.

- A - 6.2.2** Participants must be in at least their tenth year (turn ten years during the year of competition), in order to compete in the Championship.

A - 7. Age Dispensation

Age Dispensation may be granted to a State or Territory for these Championships as allowed through the School Sport Australia Sport Participation Policy.

Amended June 2019

Amended March 2017

A - 8. Team Size

A - 8.1 15 Years & Under Division

Teams are limited to a maximum of fourteen (14) players and with on field members to be no more than six (6) players maximum.

Amended March 2017

In the event of a Pacific School Games teams are limited to a maximum of sixteen (16) players with on field members to be no more than six (6) players maximum.

A - 8.2 12 Years & Under Division

Teams are limited to a maximum of fourteen (14) players and with on field members to be no more than six (6) players maximum.

Amended March 2017

A - 9. Attendance at Championships

All students who participate in the School Sport Australia Touch Football Championships must remain at the Championship location throughout the duration of the Championships and be bound by all Championship arrangements, except in exceptional circumstances as per School Sport Australia policy.

Added December 2020

Section B – Competition Structure

B - 1. Program / Schedule

B - 1.1 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

B - 1.2 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

B - 2. Competition Format and Draw

B - 2.1 12 Years & Under Division

- B - 2.1.1** 12 Years & Under will compete in a round robin competition followed by a playoff round to determine final positions.

Amended February 2020

- B - 2.1.2** The final round of the championship will be determined by overall position at end of round robin i.e. 1 plays 2, 3 plays 4 etc.

Added February 2020

- B - 2.1.3** The draw should be constructed to include all teams on the last day.

Added December 2018

Amended November 2019

Previous rule (Plate Series) removed November 2019

- B - 2.1.4** For 12 Years & Under participants, the draw should be arranged so that no team is required to play more than two (2) games in any one day except in the event of a Pacific School Games when three (3) games can be scheduled but not on two successive days.

Amended October 2020

Added December 2018

B - 2.2 15 Years & Under Division

- B - 2.2.1** 15 Years & Under will compete in a round robin competition. This will be followed by a final series of positions 1 – 4 and 5 – 8. Refer to Rule number B - 2.2.4.

Previous rule (Plate Series) removed November 2019

- B - 2.2.2** The draw should be constructed so that all teams compete on the final day.

- B - 2.2.3** For 15 Years & Under participants, the draw should be arranged so that no team is required to play more than three (3) games in any one day.

B - 2.2.4 Final Series (15 Years & Under Divisions Only)

B - 2.2.4.1 Trophy Series

- B- 2.2.4.1.1** The top four teams with the most competition points will contest the semi-finals of the 'Trophy Series'.

- B- 2.2.4.1.2** 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

B- 2.2.4.1.3 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.

B- 2.2.4.1.4 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.

B - 2.2.4.2 Positions 5 through 8:

B- 2.2.4.2.1 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

B- 2.2.4.2.2 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.

B- 2.2.4.2.3 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 for final 5th and 6th positions in the 15 years and under division.

B- 2.2.4.2.4 Following the playoff of fifth position playing eighth position and sixth position playing seventh position, the losers of these games play off for 7th and 8th positions in the 15 years and under division.

B - 2.2.4.3 Drawn Games

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

B - 2.2.4.4 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 SSA Sports Advisor and the nominated competing teams in that particular division.

B - 3. Duration of matches

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

B - 4. Game Protocols / Specific Rules / Results

B - 4.1 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.

B - 5. Points Allocation

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...

B - 6. Method of Determining a Winner

B - 6.1 12 Years & Under Division

Refer to rule B - 2.1.1 for the method to determine final placings

B - 6.2 15 Years & Under Division

Refer to rule B - 2.2 and its sub items for the method to determine final placings

Section C – Facilities / Equipment**C - 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 Touch Football Advisor, in consultation with the School Sport Australia National Programs Committee, to arrange a suitable alternative Host State/Territory as per Championship Rotation Policy.

C - 2. Ball Type

C - 2.1 A Junior Touch Ball will be used for the 12 Years & Under division.

C - 2.2 A Senior Touch Ball will be used for the 15 Years & Under division.

C - 2.3 The balls are to be supplied by the SSA host member body and are to be included in the Championship Budget.

Section D – Uniform

D - 1. 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).

Section E – Injury Management

Refer to School Sport Australia Championship Protocols and Policy for the management of injuries. This policy will override any sport specific injury management Protocols.

[School-Sport-Australia-Injury-Management-Policy.pdf \(schoolsportaustralia.edu.au\)](https://schoolsportaustralia.edu.au/School-Sport-Australia-Injury-Management-Policy.pdf)

New Policy Dec 2023

Section F – Officials

F - 1. The following officials are required:

F - 1.1 Umpires/referees

F - 1.2 Referee Coordinator/Coach

F - 1.3 Scorers

F - 1.4 Timekeepers

F - 1.5 Student Official Manager

Added October 2020

- F - 2.** Each State or Territory is invited to send junior officials to officiate at the championship.

Added March 2017

- F - 3.** It is preferred that Junior Referees nominated for our National Championships be a minimum of Level 3 accreditation.

- F - 4.** Level 1 referees will not be considered.

Added October 2020

- F - 5.** Level 2 referees will be considered on a case by case basis, based on their experience and endorsement by a Level 6 Referee from their home state. The final decision on the inclusion of each Level 2 referee will be made by the National Sports Advisor in conjunction with the host state.

- F - 6.** Nominations for Level 2 referees must be submitted no later than five weeks prior to the Championships. Any late submissions cannot be guaranteed a placement.

- F - 7.** When possible, Level 2 referees will be allocated games in the U/12 Divisions for day 1. Post day 1, referee allocations will be at the discretion of the Referees Co-Ordinator based on referee performance, ability and attitude at the championship.

- F - 8.** Where possible, junior referee education and upgrading will be included as a part of the Championship program. As part of the upgrade process junior refs may be given the opportunity to complete both the theory and practical components of an upgrade as a part of our Championships.

Amended November 2019

Section G – Protests

- G - 1.** Any protests must be lodged in writing with the SSA Sports Advisor within one (1) hour of completion of the disputed match.

Amended March 2017

- G - 2.** Protests or disputes concerning referee's decisions will not be considered.

Added March 2017

- G - 3.** Protests or disputes not concerning specific matches shall also be directed in writing to the National Touch Football Advisor.

- G - 4.** On receiving any relevant protests the National Touch Football Advisor shall set up the relevant committee, as per H - 1 below, to deal with same.

Section H – Tribunal / Judiciary

- H - 1.** The Championship Convener, the SSA Sports Advisor 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

Section I – Trophies / Awards / Medals

I - 1. Presentations – Trophies

I - 1.1 15 Years & Under Division

- I - 1.1.1** A perpetual shield shall be available to all Champion teams. It shall be the responsibility of the host member body from the previous year to ensure the trophy is forwarded to the Championship host member body and is available for presentation to the winner of the Championships.

Amended March 2017

- I - 1.1.2** Four player awards categories shall be conducted at the Championship in the 15 Years and Under divisions. These are:

- I - 1.1.2.1** All Australian Team (twelve per division)
- I - 1.1.2.2** Player of the Series (one per division)
- I - 1.1.2.3** Player of the Final (one per division)
- I - 1.1.2.4** Encouragement Award (one per division)

Amended March 2017

- I - 1.1.3** Players selected in the All Australian teams will be presented with School Sport Australia All Australian Plaques.

Added March 2017

- I - 1.1.4** Selection for the above Awards shall be made by the relevant Talent Identification Personnel. This person shall be appointed/invited by the SSA National Touch Football Advisor in consultation with the Championship Convener.

Amended March 2017

- I - 1.1.5** Players selected must display a high level of sportsmanship and behaviour throughout the entire Championship.

Added July 2023

I - 1.2 12 Years & Under Division

As per School Sport Australia policy there are no individual awards presented at 12 Years & Under Championships.

Amended March 2017