

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. 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.

Amended November 2019

1.2. Divisions

The divisions of a Championship shall include:

Boys 15 Years & Under
Girls 15 Years & Under
Boys 12 Years & Under
Girls 12 Years & 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 15 years and under 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) Age Dispensation may be granted to competing States or Territories for these Championships as allowed through the SSA Sport Participation Policy.

Amended June 2019
Amended March 2017

1.5. Judiciary Committee

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.

1.5.1. 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 SSA Sports Advisor 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 SSA Sports Advisor shall set up the relevant committee, as per 1.5 above, to deal with same.

2. 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

12 Years & Under Division:

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

Amended February 2020

- b) 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

- c) The draw should be constructed to include all teams on the last day.

Added December 2018
Amended November 2019

Previous rule (c) (Plate Series) removed November 2019

- d) 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.

Added December 2018

15 Years & Under Division:

- a) 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 2.5.

Previous rule (b) (Plate Series) removed November 2019

- b) 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.

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.

Positions 5 through 8:

- e) 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
- f) 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.
- g) 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.
- h) 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.

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 SSA Sports Advisor 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. 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. CHAMPIONSHIP OFFICIALS

4.1. Officials

- 4.1 It is preferred that Junior Referees nominated for our National Championships be a minimum of Level 3 accreditation.
 - 4.2 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.
 - 4.3 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.
 - 4.4 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.
- 4.2. 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 B:

Elite Player Program section removed March 2017

5. 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.

Amended March 2017

- 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

Original item (c) removed December 2018

- c) 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)
- iii) Player of the Final (one per division)
- iv) Encouragement Award (one per division)

Amended March 2017

- d) Players selected in the All Australian teams will be presented with School Sport Australia All Australian Plaques.

Added March 2017

- e) The cost of all medallions and trophies is to be covered in the Championship budget.

Added March 2017

- f) Selection for the above Awards shall be made by the relevant Talent Identification Personnel. This person shall be appointed/invited by the SSA Sports Advisor in consultation with the Championship Convener.

Amended March 2017

- g) Each State or Territory's official team personnel shall determine all other awards.

12 Years & Under Division:

- h) 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

- i) School Sport Australia medallions shall be presented to the first, second and third placed teams.

SECTION C:

6. 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. 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 Honour Award Recipients:

Gabe Hodges	ACT	2018
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7.3. 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/VIC	2014
Tanya Hazel	NT	2015
Hamish McLean	VIC	2018

7.4. School Sport Australia Eclectic Service Award Recipients:

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