



TOUCH FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA

2020/2021

ANNUAL REPORT

CONTENTS

- 01** | Message from the Australian Sports Commission
- 02** | TFA Chair Report
- 03** | TFA Board
- 04** | TFA CEO Report
- 05** | 2020-21 Highlights
- 11** | Participation Highlights 2020/2021
- 13** | National Participation Figures
- 15** | Australian Capital Territory Report
- 17** | New South Wales Touch Association Report
- 19** | Northern Territory Report
- 21** | Queensland Touch Football Report
- 23** | South Australia Report
- 25** | Tasmania Report
- 27** | Victoria Report
- 29** | Western Australia Report
- 31** | Thanks to Our Partners



TOUCH FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA

Suite 1/18 Napier Close, Deakin ACT 2600
www.touchfootball.com.au
ABN 55 090 088 207

2020/2021
ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

A message from the Chair of the Australian Sports Commission – Josephine Sukkar AM

Like so many Australians, sport has been a cornerstone of my life and has shaped me in ways I could never have imagined. I am passionate in my belief in sport's unrivalled ability to unite, inspire, and build healthier, stronger communities and I am committed to ensuring that every Australian who wants to be part of a sports community, in any role, enjoys the extraordinary benefits and grows as a result of their engagement with the sport of their choice.

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC), comprising Sport Australia and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), is proud to support Australian sport at all levels, on behalf of the Australian Government. We nurture and develop sport at the community level with the help of our partners across the industry. This support extends to our Australian athletes competing at the pinnacle of world competition.

The unprecedented challenge of the global COVID-19 pandemic since 2020 has required incredible resilience as a society and within our sport sector. We know, however, sport is playing a crucial role in the nation's rebuilding efforts, which presents us with great opportunities.

The Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics were shining examples of the hope and inspiration sport can provide to our elite athletes, but also the communities they represent. Postponed a year, it was wonderful to see our Australian athletes respond to this adversity with the equal-best gold medal haul in our Olympic history and a total of 46 medals across a myriad of sports. Our Paralympians also overcame the toughest of preparations to excel and inspire Australians, bringing home 80 medals including 21 gold across 10 sports. More so, it was inspiring to see how our Olympians and Paralympians represented us so proudly with humility and respect, reinforcing their status as important role models.

This is important, because we need Australian sport to carry forward a legacy from one generation to the next. This is about building sustainable improvement and success across everything we do.

We want to inspire a thriving participation base, recognise the invaluable contribution of our volunteers, build sport capability and give our elite athletes the very best chance to succeed to competition and life beyond.

We are immensely proud of our many programs and initiatives that support a connection and involvement with sport at all levels. Our national Sporting Schools program provides an important first step to get children active and engaged through sport, while the AIS's focus on wellbeing can ensure our athletes feel supported during their time in high performance sport so it is as positive and rewarding as it can be.

There is so much to look forward to with a golden runway of major sporting events on home soil over the next decade, leading to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Some of the world's biggest sporting events will converge on our shores, with World Cups or World Championships locked in for basketball, cricket, football, and netball, to name a few, presenting more wonderful opportunities for Australian sport to thrive.

South East Queensland's winning bid for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games provides an incredible opportunity to unite the nation through sport and provide all Australian children the chance to dream of representing their nation on the world's biggest stage, right here at home. 2032 has become a giant target to aim towards, aligning our sports, our infrastructure, and our communities to leave a positive legacy for a post-COVID Australia.

This is a pivotal time for our sector and the future green and gold runway provides an opportunity to consider the role that each of us can play in building a stronger, leaner and healthier sports industry.

On behalf of the ASC, thank you to everyone who contributes to Australian sport with the aim of making it better for all.

I could not be more excited for sport in Australia and the opportunities that will come our way.

JOSEPHINE SUKKAR AM
Chair



TFA CHAIR REPORT

Former UK Prime Minister Harold Wilson once said that ‘a week is a long time in politics’, the same can be said for sport. When we reflect on this past year, I’ve been amazed how rapidly things can change from moment to moment, but what amazes more is how agile and resilient we are as an organisation. We adapt and keep moving forward.

This time last year, we reported a final quarter of no activity due to national lockdowns. In 2020/21 we have had border openings and closings, return to play, state-based lockdowns, growth in areas of competitions, and the light at the end of the tunnel disappear as quickly as it arrived only for it to return once again.

The uncertainty has been challenging; it has made it difficult to look too far into the future with confidence or to progress major pieces of work that the organisation has earmarked. It has forced us into solidifying the current to ensure we can invest in the future. We shifted focus away from investment and growth to protect the organisation and sport; and our results this year are a testament to those efforts.

I would like to thank Jamie and the leadership team – Brad Mitchell, Wayne Grant, Tim Wyld and Garry Foran, for their ability to adapt and rebound and their untiring resolve to ensure the sport stayed on course.

It's proved a challenging time for all our staff – Victoria, in and out of lockdowns were joined by Sydney late in the year while Western Australia had tight border policies making access to national events, programs and support near impossible. These uncertainties, coupled with the personal challenges the pandemic has presented has taken a toll on our people. Thank you all for your dedication, hard work and resilience and we look forward to getting to the other side with you.

It's always difficult for the community to measure the contribution of a Board member. The role is generally never seen or heard, can often be thankless and is demanding on your personal time. Immeasurable is the word that comes to mind when I think of the contribution of our volunteer Board members. It's certainly what comes to mind when I think of departing Board member Barry McNamara – an immeasurable contribution to the sport. Barry's considered approach to all aspects of the sport will be greatly missed. We thank you for your commitment, dedication, and service. To fellow Board members Cassandra Lawry, Erin Taylor, Neil Collins, Kelvin Lockyer and Andrew Hill thank you for your continued contribution to the sport.

Over this past year, we have seen some changes to our State and Territory Advisory Committees (STACs). I would like to thank all

that have served on those committees throughout the year and welcome all those who are new to fold. The Board looks forward to working alongside you in developing localised strategy and growing the sport in your locations.

To the Boards of the New South Wales Touch Association (NSWTA) and Queensland Touch Football (QTF) sincere thanks for your support and partnership over the year. I look forward to building on our working relationships and together, growing the sport.

Thank you to the ARLC, NRL and NRL clubs for their ongoing support of Touch – it has been another turbulent year for rugby league, and I would like to congratulate ARLC Chairman Peter V'Landys and CEO Andrew Abdo on another successful year at the NRL despite the extraordinary circumstances.

Our organisation cannot support our community without partners supporting us; last year we welcomed Inferno Sports as our new apparel partner and this year we have been fortunate to welcome DoorDash, PainAway, Bristol Paint and Cluey Learning. We also renewed our partnership with SportsCover which will shortly extend into its fourth decade; we hope to be able to say the same thing about our new partners in another 30-odd years.

Finally, I would like to thank the volunteers, players, referees, and officials throughout the country – these are the people that give up their valuable time to make our sport great. We are only able to deliver the sport and achieve the wonderful things we achieve because of the contribution of our community; and for that we are endlessly grateful.

ANITA HAGARTY
Chair



TFA DIRECTORS BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCES

2020-2021 FINANCIAL YEAR

Touch Football Australia (TFA) acknowledges the dedicated support of the Directors for the period from July 2020 through to June 2021. The ongoing dedication of these Directors to the national body is vital to the sport's ongoing success and links to the membership.



DIRECTOR	Board MEETINGS ELIGIBLE	Board MEETINGS ATTENDED
Anita Hagarty	6	6
Neil Collins	6	6
Michael Rush	3	3
Barry McNamara	6	6
Erin Taylor	5	4
Kelvin Lockyer	3	3
Cassandra Lawry	6	6
Andrew Hill	6	6

TFA CEO REPORT

While it has been another year littered with disruptions it has also been another year of achievement and success stories; a year for us to look back upon with pride in the way that we navigated the challenging times and delivered strong results.

In the midst of never seen before levels of uncertainty we were able to post the largest surplus in our sport's history, deliver both marquee national events, provide community competitions across every state and territory with growth in some key segments, unveil our new strategic plan, make giant strides towards our goal of being Australia's most inclusive team sport and grow our commercial footprint.

The organisation's focus during the pandemic has been on sound financial management and governance principles to underpin our capacity to weather the storm and, when the time comes, to invest in the sport's recovery. An operating surplus of \$829,911 for the period is a result driven by those principles but importantly, supported by a healthier return to competitions than forecast and government funded relief.

The strong financial result was also supported by outstanding commercial performance. In a difficult market we have been able to retain the vast majority of our partners and we thank all of them for their continued commitment, support and loyalty. We also announced four new major partnerships; DoorDash joining us as the sport's naming rights partner; PainAway as major partner of the Emus; Bristol Paint whose partnership will focus on the broader touch football community while Cluey Learning offer educational support to develop our junior players away from the touch fields. We welcome them all to the touch football community and look forward to building on our newly created partnerships over many years to come.

Strong governance, sound financial management and commercial revenue are all critical parts of being able to invest into the growth of our sport. These are the foundations of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan unveiled earlier this year with people, profile, participation, and performance called out as the four key pillars. The heart and soul of the plan is our philosophy, our mantra, our purpose - enhance the experience – grow the sport. Everything we do needs to be for the sole purpose of providing a quality experience; whether that be at a park on Thursday night or at a World Cup. If we provide positive experiences for our communities, we will grow our sport. I am excited by the direction of this new plan, and I look forward to leading our sport in achieving some very lofty targets.

Despite starting the year uncertain of what was to come we were fortunate to see community sport return to the field leading into our major summer seasons. The national response to COVID saw case numbers decline, confidence grow, and people return to the park with some parts of the country hitting record participation rates. Importantly, all states and territories with the exception of Victoria, who had a well-documented long period of lockdown, saw numbers creep back towards pre-COVID participation levels.

Not only were we fortunate to have community competitions back up and running we were also able to deliver both the National Youth Championships on the Sunshine Coast and the Inferno National Touch League at Coffs Harbour albeit with restrictions in place and without our full complement of teams due to border closures. But with every challenge

there is a silver lining and with school sports events cancelled for the year, the National Youth Championships provided us with the opportunity to welcome new divisions to the event. Boys' and girls' teams in Under 12s, 14s and 16s joined the traditional Under 18s divisions at the event for the first time in what proved to be a resounding success with broadcast of the event increasing by 25% from the previous year. I would like to extend my congratulations to both the NQ Tropical Cyclones and SQBD Sharks for their respective wins in the marquee Boys and Girls Under 18s finals.

While border closures had a major impact on the Youth Championships it was all systems go for the Inferno National Touch League in Coffs Harbour with Western Australia the only teams not able to make it for the 25th anniversary of the event. And what an anniversary it was; Drummayne Dayberg-Muir winding back the clock to dominate the Mens Opens Division will go down as one of the most impressive performances seen in its 25-year history. For those fortunate to be there, the image of him scoring the winning try in a drop-off will be burnt into memories and for those who weren't, the photo (see page 22) will be used forever.

The Sharks domination wasn't limited to the Mens Opens with both Mixed and Womens teams joining their male counterparts to take a clean sweep of the Opens Divisions on their way to another Golden Boot Award. It was the first time in history that a permit has won the treble and I extend my congratulations to Matt Gilbertson and all those involved in such a wonderful achievement.

It has quickly become evident that it wouldn't be an NTL without the Indomie All-Abilities division. In only its second year the division saw an additional five teams attend in what is proving to be the most popular part of the event. If the image of Drummayne is burnt into memories so too will be the image of Xayviar Mullins decked out in his new DoorDash referee kit taking centre stage in the final of the All-Abilities.

Making sure there is a place on the field for everyone is a major focus for our organisation and I am proud of the advancements we have made this year. Delivering one of the most open Transgender and Gender Diverse Participation Guideline documents in sport and unveiling it alongside the LGBTIQ community at the SCG was a momentous occasion; our growing partnership with Pride in Sport leading us to achieve bronze status at the Pride in Sport Awards was also tremendous recognition for the steps we have taken to create a safe and welcoming environment for all.

The creation of the very first TFA Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Panel to identify key areas which our sport can close the health and education gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants is another incredibly important piece of work and one we look forward to revealing in the not-too-distant future.

None of what we achieve happens without a highly dedicated group of people and fortunately our sport has them in spades. From TFA Chairperson, Anita Hagarty and the entire TFA Board; to the TFA Leadership team of Garry Foran, Brad Mitchell, Tim Wyld and Wayne Grant; to all TFA staff employed across the country; both NSWTA and QTF Boards and staff thank you for your support and hard work over what has been a very difficult period.

That said, and as is the case with every sport, the real work is done on the ground by a dedicated volunteer workforce. On behalf of everyone at Touch Football Australia, thank you for your unwavering dedication and commitment to making our community the greatest community there is.

JAMIE O'CONNOR
CEO





2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS



SHARKS CREATE HISTORY AT THE INFERNO NATIONAL TOUCH LEAGUE

It was a great year for the South Queensland Sharks who in the first time in the Inferno National Touch League's 25-year history managed to win all three Open Divisions (Men's, Women's and Mixed) and claim the golden boot in exciting fashion with the Men's Grand Final being sealed by a Drumayne Dayberg-Muir try in drop off.



TOUCH FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA CONTINUES TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

Touch Football Australia (TFA) received Bronze Tier recognition in the Pride in Sport Index (PSI) at the 2021 Pride In Sport Awards and became one of only eight sports to launch their Transgender Guidelines. The Pride in Sport Index is the first and only benchmarking instrument specifically designed to assess the inclusion of people with diverse sexualities and genders within Australian sporting organisations and codes more broadly. TFA continues to provide a safe and inclusive environment for members of the LGBTIQ community.



NATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Despite border restrictions the National Youth Championships went ahead on the Sunshine Coast and expanded to include the Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 divisions alongside the already established Under 18 division. Record broadcast numbers of 225k tuned in to watch the tournament as the North Queensland Tropical Cyclones and South Queensland Sharks were crowned 18 Boys and Girls champions respectively.

DOORDASH AUSTRALIA BECOME NEW NAMING RIGHTS PARTNER

We continue to grow our commercial partners with global food delivery service DoorDash becoming the Naming Rights Partner for the sport of NRL Touch Football. This partnership has delivered significant benefits to all levels of the sport with a strong focus on supporting grassroots communities. PainAway and Cluey Learning have signed on as Major Partners, with previous partner Real Skills for Real Careers also renewing their partnership.



COLD CLIMATE CLASSIC
GOOD FOOD, GOOD WINE, GREAT TOUCH

ALL THE THINGS YOU LOVE IN ONE PLACE. IT'S THE EXCUSE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.

Experience the natural beauty and fine food & wine of Tasmania.

Oh and play some Touch Footy too.

Enter the Cold Climate Classic today for a truly unique and unforgettable experience.

22-24 October 2021
Meercroft Park, Devonport, Tasmania
Stay and Play packages available

www.touchfootball.com.au/cold-climate-classic/

A NEW SPORTS TOURISM EVENT IN TASMANIA

Exciting times in Tasmania with a brand-new sports tourism event has joined the calendar with the Cold Climate Classic being launched in partnership with Events Tasmania and Devonport City Council. The event is set to be held in Devonport over the next three years alongside the Devonport Food and Wine festival and is a unique blend of Tasmanian food and wine and a social Touch Football tournament.



FINALE FIESTA



HANG OUT AT THE HUB



MEET, GREET, EAT



NON-CONTACT PROGRAM THRIVES ON THE TIWI ISLANDS

The NRL-TFA strategic alignment continues to grow with the re-launching of the non-contact strategy in the Tiwi Islands. The Non-Contact program, launched in Broome in 2019 aims to promote a healthy, active lifestyle and the game of Rugby League and Touch Football in places where it has the potential for growth. Both organisations sent a Game Development Officer to lead clinics across two days at Tiwi College. On the back of the program's visit the Boarding school intends to add non-contact Rugby League and Touch Football into their PE lessons.

SUNSHINE COAST REMAINS THE HOME OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The DoorDash National Youth Championships will continue to be held on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland following a three-year partnership extension with the Sunshine Coast Council. The Sunshine Coast will continue to be the home of the National Youth Championships until at least 2023 which has expanded to include Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 divisions alongside the traditional Under 18 division.

MYSIDELINE CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

Touch Football Australia's Competition Management System MySideline continues to develop and improve with a number of significant updates. The formation of a working group consisting of all states which represent the needs of the affiliates has been beneficial to continue to inform updates and initiatives for the system.



INDOMIE NOODLES ALL ABILITIES DIVISION GROWS

The Indomie Noodles All Abilities division continues to grow with 5 more teams competing across Tier A and Tier B divisions in its second year. The Grand Finals and round games are fast becoming a must see event in the Inferno National Touch League broadcast, as the Sydney Scorpions became Tier 1 Champions and Brisbane City Cobras becoming Tier 2 Champions.



ALLIANCE AND SCHOOL PARTICIPATION CONTINUES TO INCREASE

Outside of New South Wales and Queensland participation across the Alliance states increased by 6.3% overall and despite the effects of COVID schools' participation across Australia increased by 29%.

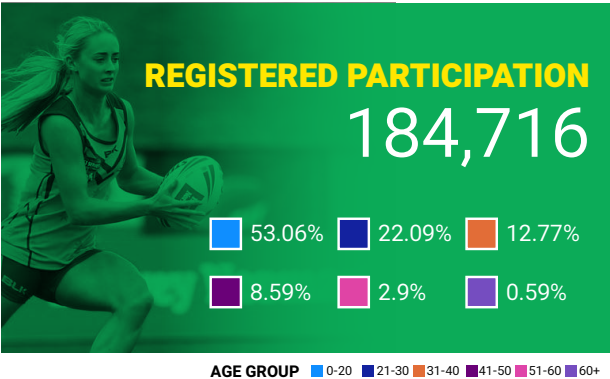
WORKING TO CLOSE THE GAP FOR INDIGENOUS PARTICIPANTS

The formation of the sports Reconciliation Advisory Panel (RAP) and the sports Reconciliation Action Plan was submitted to the indigenous council of Australia to continue working towards closing the gap for Indigenous participants. The Reconciliation Advisory Panel is made up of relevant members in our community to ensure we meet the targets outlined in the National Agreement.



PARTICIPATION HIGHLIGHTS

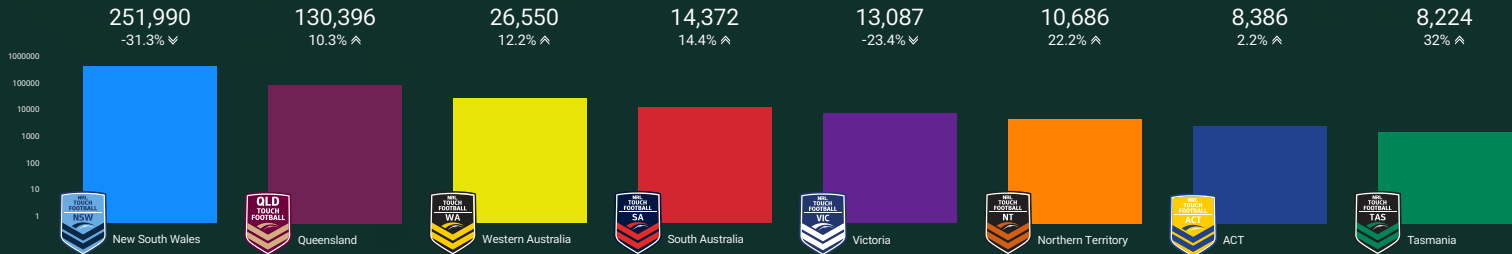
2020-2021



NET PROMOTER SCORE



PARTICIPATION BY STATE



ENHANCED SCHOOL FOCUS

215,066

TRANSITION
39.0%

EVENTS

52,040

DIFFERENCE
-10.2% ↓

DIVERSITY



FEMALES
81,289
4.2% ↑



MULTICULTURAL
45,215
70.2% ↑



INDIGENOUS
14,523
26% ↑

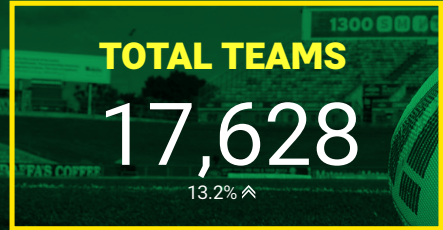
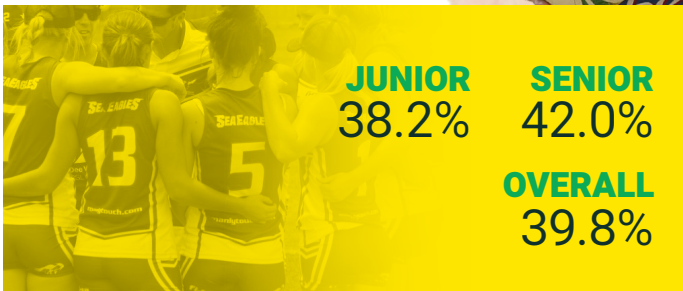


PARTICIPANTS WITH A DISABILITY
723

VOLUNTEERS



RETENTION



NATIONAL PARTICIPATION 2020/21

Participation Category	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1. Full Active Member - Adult	138,881	147,678	141,054	132,028	126,080	129,090	86,270	94,573
2. Full Active Member – Junior	69,840	72,338	71,989	77,380	80,449	88,347	93,624	90,143
3. Program Participants	22,728	20,050	6,648	9,875	12,948	13,790	10,027	11,822
4. Event Participants	67,873	73,647	91,239	60,812	63,313	74,948	57,948	52,040
5. School Delivered Programs	63,803	107,979	86,939	114,747	95,664	95,352	85,770	85,486
6. School Managed Competitions	218,053	202,176	248,490	203,779	285,056	277,085	228,910	129,580
7. Accredited Volunteer Participants	42,988	48,950	48,068	12,157	15,647	18,964	21,437	24,839
Total Participants	624,166	672,818	694,427	610,778	679,156	697,576	583,986	488,483
Schools and Juniors	351,696	382,493	407,418	395,906	461,169	460,784	408,304	305,209

Key highlights from the 2020/21 Participation Report include:

- » COVID impacted decline in Total Participants by 16.4% (95,503)
- » Full Active Membership - Adults increased by 9.6% (94,573)
- » Adult team numbers nationwide grew by 27.5%
- » Program Participant growth by 17.9% to 11,822
- » School Delivered Programs remained steady at 85,486 (-0.3%)
- » Accredited Volunteers increased from 2019-20 by 15.9% to 24,839

Key highlights from state associations:

- » QLD School and Junior participants grew by 12.4%
- » NSW Full Active Members - Adults increased by 11.1%
- » SA School Managed Competitions has risen by 51.0% to 4,935
- » NT Full Active Members for Adults and Juniors increased by 42.5% and 30.3% respectively
- » TAS Total Participants grew by 32.0% (1,996)
- » WA Event Participants rose by 86.6% (1,150)
- » ACT Full Active Juniors saw growth of 4.4%
- » VIC School Delivered Programs increased by 304.8% (4,849)

TRADITIONAL FULL AFFILIATED MEMBERS

Senior Teams Comparisons 2019/20 to 2020/21

	S2-2019	S1 – 2020	Total 2019-20	S2-2020	S1 – 2021	Total 2020-21	Total Variance	Percentage Variance
NSW	3,250	60	3,310	3,483	1,090	4,573	1,263	38.2%
QLD	2,252	1,207	3,459	1,901	1,931	3,832	373	10.8%
ACT	160	0	160	244	117	361	201	125.6%
VIC	373	0	373	198	66	264	-109	-29.2%
TAS	209	0	209	246	40	286	77	36.8%
SA	172	34	206	166	96	262	56	27.2%
WA	333	37	370	430	216	646	276	74.6%
NT	90	68	158	146	140	286	128	81.0%
TOTAL	6,839	1,406	8,245	6,814	3,696	10,510	2,265	27.5%

Junior Teams Comparisons 2019/20 to 2020/21

	S2-2019	S1 – 2020	Total 2019-20	S2-2020	S1 – 2021	Total 2020-21	Total Variance	Percentage Variance
NSW	4,245	3	4,248	4,076	145	4,221	-27	-0.6%
QLD	2,070	670	2,740	1,542	965	2,507	-233	-8.5%
ACT	90	0	90	57	0	57	-33	-36.7%
VIC	35	0	35	18	81	99	64	182.9%
TAS	129	0	129	138	0	138	9	7.0%
SA	20	0	20	25	7	32	12	60.0%
WA	50	0	50	58	0	58	8	16.0%
NT	13	1	14	5	1	6	-8	-57.1%
TOTAL	6,652	674	7,326	5,919	1,199	7,118	-208	-2.8%

New South Wales Touch Football Participation 2020/21

Participation Category	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1. Full Active Member - Adult	54,309	54,079	52,020	51,086	55,955	35,877	39,856
2. Full Active Member – Junior	40,016	54,079	42,210	43,684	52,084	53,975	50,280
3. Program Participants	8,444	517	296	3,028	1,623	825	1,483
4. Event Participants	36,959	63,060	30,055	31,119	32,208	31,677	27,137
5. School Delivered Programs	76,600	40,279	49,865	43,037	42,358	36,295	25,731
6. School Managed Competitions	189,822	229,447	179,241	255,557	251,387	206,578	106,064
7. Accredited Volunteer Participants	2,853	1,058	1,536	1,512	1,291	1,342	1,439
Total Participation	409,003	442,519	355,223	429,023	436,906	366,569	251,990
Schools and Juniors	306,438	323,805	271,316	342,278	345,829	296,848	182,075

Queensland Touch Football Participation 2020/21

Participation Category	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1. Full Active Member - Adult	60,627	59,670	52,223	49,703	48,559	32,652	34,618
2. Full Active Member – Junior	26,460	27,630	30,128	31,500	31,624	33,345	33,165
3. Program Participants	3,188	4,651	7,255	8,185	9,769	5,171	7,995
4. Event Participants	13,311	21,575	22,939	25,667	29,184	17,032	15,951
5. School Delivered Programs	15,565	17,329	27,995	18,152	15,471	20,152	23,962
6. School Managed Competitions	4,391	5,965	10,715	12,903	9,315	9,086	13,214
7. Accredited Volunteer Participants	1,033	1,166	1,316	1,349	1,322	775	1,491
Total Participation	124,575	137,986	152,571	147,459	145,244	118,213	130,396
Schools and Juniors	46,416	50,924	68,838	62,555	56,410	62,583	70,341



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY REPORT

Touch Football ACT (TFACT) saw an increase in participants during the 2020-2021 reporting period where COVID-19 directly impacted the game and still has ramifications in the territory as we navigate through the pandemic. As a sport we saw significant growth in senior participation with an overall increase of 60.8% while juniors rebounded with an increase of 4.4%. TFACT would like to thank all the members, clubs, officials, sponsors, partners and volunteers who contribute to our game through competitions, programs and support over the past 12 months.

Human Resources

TFACT would like to acknowledge the contribution from Mark Barnes who resigned as State Manager on the 25th February to expand his career and skillset after dedicating four years to the sport. Gabe Hodges filled the void and led the territory through the vacancy period until Chris Everingham started with the organisation on the 10th May as State Manager. It was during this time that Nigel Fenton joined TFACT on a part time role shared with Kim Wilmshurst to deliver Centrally Managed competitions.

STAC

The State Council Meeting was held on the 2nd February at the Touch Football Australia offices in what will be the final Annual Meeting before the STAC restructure and was joined by TFA CEO Jamie O'Connor, GM of Commercial Tim Wyld, GM of Performance and Pathways Wayne Grant, CFO Garry Foran and the GM of Participation Brad Mitchell. Due to STAC members terms all being still current, no elections were required at the meeting.

Funding

TFACT would like to acknowledge and thank the ACT Department of Sport and Recreation for their continued backing of the sport over many years. The funding allows the sport to invest in programs and participation outcomes at a local level to benefit the local community. TFACT continues partnerships with Limelight Cinemas, The Walking Clinic, Momentum Sports and Rehabilitation, and Bakers Delight who assist across different levels of the sport. The Canberra Raiders have had a long association with the sport, and we thank them for their support and assistance when needed.

Juniors

COVID and the restriction of schools to allow external access to deliver programs led to a slow start for Sporting Schools in the ACT, however the office managed to access 18 schools when

possible to run clinics for 2,768 children over the 2020-21 period. Gala Days that were traditionally run in Term 1 and 2 for 2020 were moved later in the year with Touch Football being one of few sports to still deliver content across all age groups with a total of 911 students taking part during the reporting period.

Seniors

After an impacted 2019-20 period where we saw a decline in adult participation, the 2020-21 period saw a 60.8% increase from the previous period and planning to see continued growth leading into 2021-22. The adult category has been a difficult subgroup of participation to address nationwide and the work undertaken by staff and volunteers on the ground are making a definite impact and enhancing the experience for all members. The recent National Participation Survey rated the experience on the ground with a Net Promoter Score of 48.

Events

The 2021 Super League competition saw the Tuggeranong Vikings Women's side come away with their 4th Grand Final win in a row, making it their eighth title in nine years. The Men's MVP Award went to Jamie Hawke from Northern Phoenix and for the second year in a row the Women's MVP was awarded to Rachel McVicar from Gungahlin Cats. Congratulations to all teams and players that competed in the series.

Programs

TFACT successfully organised and ran their first All Abilities program that was linked to the 'Move it Aus' grant that was run during Season 1 of 2021. The program was a success with great involvement and we look forward to continuing the delivery again later in 2021 with the aspiration to send the territories first All Abilities team to the 2022 Inferno National Touch League.

Pathways

The ACT Raiders sent 5 teams away to the Inferno National Touch League in March with the highlight of the event being the success of the Women's 45s team. After facing a strong Sydney Scorpions team in the preliminary final and going to drop off, they were able to come out with a 2-1 victory to take them into the Grand Final against the Brisbane Cobras. After a hard fought match, the team finished as runner-up going down 7-3 in the ultimate game. The Men's 50s team also had a successful tournament after finishing the round games in 2nd position and progressed to the Finals series where they eventually played the reigning champions, North Queensland Tropical Cyclones and walked away 3-1 winners in the Quarter Final. The Semi Final game was against



the South Queensland Sharks who defeated our Raiders and went on to win the title. TFACT was also able to send 6 teams away to the NSWTA Junior Regional event held in Orange with the U16 and U18 Girl's teams progressing through to the semi-finals in a fantastic display of Touch Football.

Education

TFACT are working through the recruitment, retention and management of the Referee arm with Level 1 and 2 courses being run during the 2020-21 period which included a combination of face-to-face and virtual courses. A number of these attendees have since transitioned into Refereeing in local competitions on a regular basis with six attending the Southern Junior State Cup and achieved Level 2 upgrades. James Steinberg was rewarded with an invitation to officiate the 2021 State of Origin event in Coffs Harbour which is reward for continued service to the sport while Hayden Wearne who is beginning his career has been selected to be involved in the NSW Touch Referees Youth System (TRYs). Congratulations to all Referees.

Chris Everingham

State Manager



NEW SOUTH WALES

TOUCH ASSOCIATION REPORT

The New South Wales Touch Association (NSWTA) year, 2020/2021, will be remembered as one of highs and the lowest of lows. The way the community rebounded out of what we would now term COVID Mk1 was both pleasing and positive. The running of our events with limited numbers and tight regulations under the Public Health Order caused all means of complications for delivering the events with restrictive elements for our members. Participation, especially in work we do around the school systems, and they do themselves, took a significant hit due to COVID related restrictions on school sport during the reporting period. Pleasingly our senior participation was up 11.1% on the previous period; however, our junior numbers have shown a downturn for the first time in 5 years. The retention of the State of Origin once again was a significant highlight, yet as a sport, we were all deeply saddened by the passing of our President, Aileen May, on October 15, 2020.

Vale Aileen May

Aileen was a champion of grassroot members of the NSWTA. She was a pioneer of the women's game as a player in the early days of our sport; however, it was her role as an administrator where she made her mark on our game. Indeed, while we live in a time where women's sport is in focus, Aileen set the foundation for female involvement in the game as far back as the 1970s and 80s. In her 40 years at the park level, she consistently maintained strong links to and supported NSWTA. Her time at the Board level commenced in 2003 and served as Vice President and then as President (2010). Even while President, she continued to continuously guide her Taren Point Affiliate as their Administrator and President for over 40 years. She provided leadership to this organisation via a calm persona, diplomacy when required, and a strong and forthright manner if needed. Vale Aileen May.

Schools

COVID continued to be a disrupter to the business for the first three-quarters of the period. Its impact was felt in many areas. The most significant effect was on participation, particularly the junior element of our game—a large part of overall in the school environment. Events directly run by the NSWTA such as All Schools, Primary School Gala Days, staff delivered development programs and the Sporting Schools programs all had to be greatly reduced. Also, inter and intra school sport participation, in many areas, halted utterly. This was due to the Public Health Orders and the application of those by the various education departments. As such it meant large chunks of school participation either did not go ahead or was significantly reduced—a similar effect to what is being experienced now, which will be reflected in the next

reporting period. Our junior Affiliate numbers were also impacted by COVID. This was more so due to the extension of 2020 winter sports seasons, which overlapped our traditional junior grassroots participation period. The net result of the decline was mainly due to three factors. Some of our Affiliates had to offer greater reduced competition due to green space availability. Some did not run junior competitions. Some suffered the effect of school teams who participate in park competitions being barred by some principals. In some Affiliates, this was more than 20 teams for their Season 2 competition.

COVID Support

There were also some positives to come out of COVID. We must acknowledge the financial package provided by the NSW State Government, not just for the NSWTA but also for those Affiliates who were affected in the back end of the 2020 Season 1. Also, due to the potential impact, the Board determined to budget for a 30% downturn in participation at our Affiliates. This thankfully did not eventuate as our membership in seniors came flooding back to play.

Events

On a representative level, the COVID challenges continued—each of our majors having to be delivered in a different format. From having no spectators and no more than 500 participants on the venue at any one time, the need to gain an exemption to run our State Cup, to restricting parents for the Junior State Cup. The need to dramatically change the structure of our competitions to allow the movement on and off venue all added extra pressures and infrastructure needs to be able to run the events. Again, another surprising positive out of the situation was acceptance of the back to back to back game format that was required to be instituted. Our membership has indicated a wish to see it continue, albeit with them allowed to stay on venues rather than having to leave.

Board

Pleasingly we welcomed Liz Jackson to our Board as an Independent Director. Liz has a strong background in our game. She has participated at all levels, including representing both NSW and Australia as a player. Further she has taken on youth coaching with her affiliate UNSW South Sydney Rabbitohs Touch Football. Currently she leads Global Capabilities – Education and Research for Sydney Catholic Schools, and in 2020 was rewarded with a global WISE Emerging Leaders Fellowship, the first Australian to receive the award. Liz is passionate about entrepreneurship education and promoting lifelong learning,



emphasising the value of growth, relationships, and impact on self and others. She has brought strong views on the benefits of partnerships and how these can be beneficial in all facets of the community, including the NSWTA.

Awards

We also recognise and congratulate our Rod Wise Medal Winner for 2020-21, Craig Englert of Macksville Touch Association and Northern Eagles. Another well-deserving recipient who is unassuming and works tirelessly for everyone to be able to enjoy our game. Another positive outcome from the year.

Pathways

Finally, the year finished on a positive note for the NSWTA, with the retention of the State of Origin (SOO) Shield, for the 8th consecutive time. We would extend our thanks to Queensland Touch Football for the competitive and sportsman/woman-like nature of the event and their cooperation and assistance in the delivery. We also extend our thanks and congratulations to Team NSW, our players, team management, medical team, and officials. It is on the back of their dedication, resilience, and talent that the results are built upon. We also want to acknowledge and thank the referee contingent, made up from all across Australia, for the part that they paid in the success of the 2020 SOO.

Future

For the NSWTA, like many of our membership, 2020/21 feels like we have been thrown in the washing machine, one that we thought we had finally escaped from, only recently to be drawn back into. COVID Mk2 will now challenge us even more than 2020/21, for our membership, and as a sport given the significant financial effect that NSWTA may face. At all levels, we will work together to get through this current challenge and come out stronger on the other side.

We always look for a positive to act as the light at the end of the tunnel. That positive is our celebration in 2022 of our 50th Anniversary. In many ways, given the challenges and impact of COVID, it may well be a rebirthing of an even stronger and robust organisation.



Dean Russell
General Manager

NORTHERN TERRITORY

REPORT

The 2019-20 year has been another massive year of growth and change for Touch Football Northern Territory (TFNT) with a bit of adversity mixed in. We have again focused heavily on school engagement, while still ensuring our Affiliates in Katherine, lice Springs and our Centrally Managed competitions in Darwin, Palmerston and Gove are being looked after.

Human Resources

The most significant change for TFNT was the retirement of Isobel Appo after 33 years of service to Touch Football in the NT. On behalf of the organisation we would like to acknowledge and thank Isobel for the significant contribution she played in the sport across the Territory. George Edols has continued in his role of Sports Operations Coordinator and has taken on more competition administration and provided support to the office. Brodie Morcom has transitioned into a fulltime role as Community Sports Coordinator which sees him continue to work with regional and remote communities as well as drive the growth of our sport in schools across the Northern Territory.

Funding

TFNT continued to receive crucial support from the Northern Territory Government Office of Sport and Recreation through Tier 1 Peak Sport Body funding and the Remote Sports Voucher Scheme. We extend our thanks to Debbie Halprin, Client Manager NT Sport and Recreation, for all her assistance.

Participation

The second major change for TFNT has been the relocation of our Darwin competition to the new Territory Rugby League Stadium, this has created better visibility for our sport and contributed to the growth of over 40% in team registrations on previous years. This team growth has been reflected with a 42% growth in full active adult members and 30% in full active junior members across the Northern Territory.

Events

TFNT have again successfully held a number of events, including Come and Try Clinics at Leanyer Recreation Park, Casuarina Pool, Nightcliff Pool and Palmerston Waterpark. As well as East Arnhem Cup, World No Tobacco Day Touch Comp and the Northern Territory Championships which again grew by 20%. The Northern Territory Championships had teams competing from Alice Springs, Katherine, Gove, Palmerston, Darwin and the Tiwi Islands.

Schools

TFNT in conjunction with Sport Education NT also successfully ran the All Schools tournaments in Gove, Alice Springs, Katherine and the Top End Region. All competitions were extremely well received and planning is well under way to increase teams in 2022. TFNT has continued to work closely with Sport Education NT and assisted with selection of merit teams due to the All School Sports Championships being cancelled for the second year. TFNT have worked with these selected players to include them in the representative teams to compete at the DoorDash National Youth Championships this September.

TFNT has delivered programs to 30 suburban and 5 remote schools, with 3,967 students reached, largely through the Australian Sports Commission Sporting Schools Program and Remote Schools Program. Thanks to the 'Move it Aus' Program, we also delivered Touch Football to 826 participants in remote communities. Our work in these remote communities is vital for the health and wellbeing of the residents, with our Field Officers travelling to Tiwi Islands (Milikapiti, Wurrumiyanga, Pirlangimpi and Pickertaramoor), Kalkarindji, Groote Eylandt, Bickerton Island and Tipperary Station throughout the year. These programs were hampered early in the year by COVID restrictions in schools and communities.

Partners

2021 has also seen TFNT continue to develop our partnership with Club House Territory and the Be-Inclusive Games. Throughout the year we have participated in multiple events to develop awareness for the inclusiveness of our sport. We have also partnered with Disability Sports NT and are now running an All-Abilities program in Darwin with their support.

Education

Our Referees continue to develop, and TFNT was pleased to again have Referees attend this year's Inferno NTL, along with five Referees committed to officiate at this year's DoorDash National Youth Championships. We have also been successful again in having one of our Referees, Wayne Lo, included in the NTIS High Performance Officiating Program (HPOP), which has seen him already achieve his Level 3 and working towards his Level 4.



Pathways

TFNT again had Men's, Women's and Mixed Open teams compete at the Inferno National Touch League, with a strong showing from our small player base. All three teams competed well in their games and with numerous junior players coming away for their second campaign as they continue to develop. We would like to thank our coaches Luke Norrington, Tamara Appo and Daniel Questroy along with their assistant coaches Jacob Leonard, Deanna Peckham and Craig Green for your commitment to developing these players. Due to COVID concerns from our players, our teams did not compete in the 2020 DoorDash National Youth Championships, they did however enjoy competing in the Junior Alliance Cup held in Adelaide January 2021. With the majority of these players now committed to competing at the 2021 DoorDash National Youth Championships.

We thank everyone who assisted in delivering our sport over the past year and we look forward to new initiatives.

Nathan McDonald
State Manager



QUEENSLAND TOUCH FOOTBALL REPORT

2020 was a challenging year, following the suspension of sport to the COVID-19 pandemic, the stand down of QTF staff and cancellation of our largest participation event, the Junior State Cup. With the support of Queensland State Government, Sport & Recreation Services and QSport, an approved Covid Safe Industry Plan - Field Sports, was developed and approved for use by Queensland Health. This enabled the return to activity and then play for our Affiliates, Regions and QTF competitions, programs, and events from July 2020.

Whilst there were competition and event postponements or cancellations, Queensland was very fortunate to continue to deliver Touch Football, at a reduced and restricted rate. Many Affiliates celebrated the return to play with competitions commencing for Season 2 2020, however, intermittent lock downs and restrictions have continued to impact Touch Football in Queensland into 2021. This is all part of the new normal.

Our People

QTF experienced a range of staffing shifts with many remaining on Job Keeper throughout the pandemic, while others transitioned in and out of the business. In July, Jo Blyth finished up with Premier and City Touch after over 10 years and was replaced by Rylee Krause. In August 2020, Greg Denny was appointed CEO, following a term as Interim CEO. All staff returned from Job Keeper in October 2020, a positive change for our team and stakeholders. Tristan Mana stepped down as Performance and Pathways Manager, instead taking role as Pathways Manager in South Queensland.

In 2021, QTF welcomed new additions to their extended family with Rachael Stacey (Events & Partnerships) and Rachael Harpur (Marketing) becoming new parents. They have been replaced by Dannette Taylor and Brittany Monaghan respectively during their maternity leave. A focus to invest in Game Development saw staff appointed in North Queensland from February with Katie Geiger and Darin Trudgett joining the team. Sam Heath was promoted to Sport Operations Manager in June and was subsequently replaced by Stephen Swan as Affiliate Service Manager for the Brisbane Region.

Events

Unfortunately, the state's largest participation event, the Junior State Cup scheduled for July 2020, was cancelled. This was a difficult decision for both the organisation, affiliates, and our participants. QTF would like to thank the Fraser Coast Regional

Council for their ongoing support throughout this difficult process.

On a positive note, we were fortunate to host several events in Queensland, with regional teams participating at the DoorDash National Youth Championships at Sunshine Coast in September 2020 (with only Queensland teams present), followed by a spectator free Queensland All Schools event in October 2020, hosted at the Brisbane Metropolitan Touch Association, with the ongoing support of the Brisbane City Council.

In Nov 2020, QTF launched an inaugural Festival of Touch, with the support of the City of Gold Coast. The festival combined 5 events over 10 days, including our flagship QLD State Cup event, Affiliate Conference, Sports Performance Conference, Schools Gala Day, and QLD All Nations Carnival. Across the 5 event days, there were 4,000+ participants, 209 teams, 900+ coaches and referees plus 10,000 + spectators. We are grateful to our stakeholders and partners for their support!

Finally, in 2021, the Bundaberg Cup, Q Youth Academy, including the QLD JETS Referee program and Cas Cup carnival were all able to be run under Covid Safe event plans.

State of Origin

The postponed 2020 State of Origin (SOO) was played from Friday 18 – Saturday 19 June 2021 at C.ex International Stadium, Coffs Harbour. The event was an outstanding success, with congratulations to NSWTA on both an excellent event and a ferociously competitive series.

The results went down to the final few games, however, NSW held strong for a hard-fought victory, claiming the series 9 - 6 Division wins and the SOO shield.

Queensland were victorious in the following divisions – Men's Open (3-0), Women's Open (2-1), Men's 20s (2-1), Senior Mixed (2-1), Men's 35s (3-0), Women's 35s (3-0). Congratulations to the Queensland Players of the Series winners, including Harry Griffin (Men's Open), Lucia Fildes (Women's Open), James Hegedus (Men's 20), Khanui Cox (Men's 35), Bo De La Cruz (Women's 35) and Dan Withers (Senior Mixed).

Irrespective of the result, Queensland Touch Football could not be prouder of our Queensland players, coaches, managers, medical team, QTF staff, and match officials for their enthusiasm,



dedication, and commitment. We can't wait to see them shine on home soil in 2022.

Participation

Senior and Junior Affiliate participation numbers were again impacted by COVID-19. Senior participation had a 6.0% increase on previous year, while Junior participation had a small decrease of 0.5%. COVID impacts highlighted by the S2 2020 competitions for some Affiliates who were unable to operate due to the impact of restrictions, and reservations by participants. Thankfully, most Affiliates were able to return albeit in reduced capacity. Premier and City Touch competitions were impacted by the cancellation of previous seasons, Covid lockdowns and wet weather.

Event and program participation were impacted by COVID in S2 2020, with cancellations of many Junior events across the state, however, S1 2021 proved more promising with the return of many programs and events. School Delivered Programs remained strong despite disruption in the second half of 2020. Sporting Schools was the primary driver for growth with 16,663 participants (87% increase) involved in a Touch Football program (213 in total) delivered by one of our 123 Field Officers.

Partnerships

QTF continued to enhance our commercial strategy with thanks to our Partners for their ongoing support and compassion during these unprecedented times.

QTF would like to especially acknowledge and thank the ongoing support of the Queensland Government, through various programs, development, and participation initiatives, that support healthy and active Queenslanders.

Our Board

There were a number of changes to the QTF Directors, and on behalf of all of QLD Touch Football community, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of outgoing Directors that

finished at the QTF AGM in December 2020, including Marni McGrath, Kel Lockyer and Mark Henricksen. I would also like to acknowledge Billy Grant who resigned from the Board in January 2021. We would like to thank these Directors for their significant contributions during their tenure with QTF.

QTF welcomed succeeding Directors at the December 2020 AGM with the election of Adam Page, Rohan Ballon and Dennis DiBartolo. Terani Inoke joined as a Casual Vacancy in April 2021 in place of Billy Grant.

In addition, 2021 saw the succession of Chairmanship, following the decision of long serving Chairman Gavin Shuker to stand aside allowing for the transition of leadership under newly appointed Chairman, Troy Morgan. Gavin will remain on the Board until his two-terms are finalised at the next AGM.

Strategic Plan

QTF commenced work on its latest strategic cycle, identifying our Pillars and building strategies to Unite, Inspire and Grow our sport. Facilitated by Chairman Troy Morgan, this project was initiated by QTF staff to better understand our culture and values across all avenues of the business. QTF intend to continue further stakeholder conversations including representation from Affiliates and Regions to complete our plan.

In closing, a huge thanks to all our stakeholders and the many volunteers for their tireless effort, resilience, and enthusiasm to ensure Touch Football remained available for the enjoyment of our participants, young and old.

Greg Denny
CEO



SOUTH AUSTRALIA REPORT

Touch Football South Australia (TFSA) recovered well following the uncertainty of the 2019/20 year and were led by Renee Bryant and David Harris in their new positions of State Manager and Community Sports Coordinator respectively. Kainen Heath also joined the organisation in a casual Grounds Controller position at City Touch, bringing some stability and fresh eyes to the organisation.

STAC

The office was well supported and guided by the South Australian STAC during the 2020/21 year. Sadly, three members stepped down from their positions, leaving Deirdre Morrow (General Member) and Cody Gray (General Member) as the current members with Deirdre Morrow taking on the interim Chairperson position. TFSA would like to thank outgoing members Stacey Quinn (Chair), Emily Moskwa (General Member), Dean Philp (General Member) and Chloe Watts (General Member) for their contributions to the sport of Touch Football in South Australia.

Participation

Our South Australian Affiliates returned to their traditional season offerings after a quiet end to the previous period. Metropolitan Affiliates Demons Touch Association, Botanics Touch Association, Adelaide University Touch Club and the Centrally Managed competition, City Touch, while regional Affiliates Mount Gambier Touch Association, Whyalla Touch Association, Port Lincoln Touch Association and Barossa Valley Touch Association continued to offer competitions. Onkaparinga Touch Association made the decision to move to a rugby union summer product to align with their clubs' objectives. A special mention goes to the Adelaide University Touch Club for being awarded the Adelaide University Sports Club of the Year Award as well as Rhys Morgan for the Student Volunteer of the Year Award.

Team numbers across the regional Affiliates grew during the 2020/21 period, whilst metropolitan Affiliates maintained team numbers that were seen in the previous reporting period. The junior competitions offered by Demons Touch Association and City Touch continued to increase in participation numbers and this is a credit to the volunteers who assist with both these programs.

Schools

The junior affiliate competitions were well supported by junior Touch Football events that had returned after failing to run in the 2019/20 year. The School Sport South Australia Secondary

School (SSSA) Knockout, saw 75 teams compete across the month of May at various locations across Adelaide, with many South Australian junior representative players and coaches involved within the school teams. The Sports Association for Adelaide Schools (SASS) competition experienced growth for the second year in a row, with 20 more students participating. The Southern Vales High School Touch Football competition held at Reynella East High School and the Catholic Schools Touch Football Championships held at the City Touch fields exposed participants to the sport of Touch Football in a COVID safe manner. David Harris and his team of Field Officers continued to deliver quality Sporting Schools sessions across metropolitan Adelaide and even as far as Port Pirie. Even though a few lockdowns were experienced in South Australia, the number of sessions delivered was above what was expected for the year. David Harris has also continued to deliver the Non-Contact Program in regional South Australia, with sessions delivered in Mount Gambier, providing a great link between school and affiliate in the southeast of South Australia.

Education

Although the last year has not been the easiest to present courses, a regional Foundation Coach Course was delivered in Mount Gambier to 8 participants as well as referee courses for Badge Level's 1 and 3 in metropolitan Adelaide. These courses allowed for presenters to view the new materials and ensure that course facilitators are knowledgeable and up to date in what they are presenting.

Events

The 2020 TFSA League season was able to be completed in full even though a COVID-19 delay occurred just prior to the finals commencing. The season saw Affiliates host rounds once again with the Demon's Touch Football and Botanics Touch Football Association combining to host one double header round and the following one being hosted by the Adelaide University Touch Club. This season also saw the increase in the number of Referee coaches, which translated into Referees being coached throughout the season and the standard of Refereeing lift across the competition. Northern Vipers took home the overall Permit award after winning both the Mixed Open and Women's Open divisions. The Men's Open division was won by the Eastern Stingrays

The annual Your Podiatrist Cup event was held in Mount Gambier on the 16th of January and although there was a slight decrease

in team numbers due to the crowded Touch Football Victoria calendar, the event was a success with teams coming from Adelaide, Mount Gambier, Melbourne, and Regional Victoria. On the back of that event the Junior Alliance Cup was held in Adelaide from the 23rd till the 25th of January. This event saw teams from Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania, and Victoria competing in the age groups of under 13's, 16's and 18's with South Australia winning all 6 divisions in extremely hot conditions at the City Touch playing fields.

Partners

The welcome dinner for the Junior Alliance Cup event was hosted at the Arkaba Hotel, a sponsor of Touch Football SA and we thank the Arkaba for their continued support of Touch Football South Australia along with Coopers who came on Board as a sponsor during the 2019/20 year. The relationship with NRLSA continues to grow with interactions between the two offices continuing to



strengthen, a junior NRLSA day was hosted at the City Touch playing fields and NRLSA continue to assist at Touch Football events with staff and equipment.

Pathways

The 2019/20 period saw the rebrand of the South Australian representative teams take place, with South Australian Heat being chosen by the community, this was a great engagement piece undertaken by David Harris and was well received by the South Australian Touch Football community. The first team to wear the new South Australian Heat uniform was the Senior Mixed team, who were the only representative team at the Inferno National Touch League from South Australia. The Senior Mixed team won their first game at the Inferno National Touch League this year, a feat they have been trying to achieve for the last three years. Full credit to the team and their coach Michael Sheeky for this achievement. The 2020 Inferno NTL also saw Amanda Sheeky awarded her 10 years of Service Award, the Leading Female Referee and awarded the Women's Open Grand Final. Later in the year Amanda refereed the Women's Open at the State of Origin. Another year of great achievements for Amanda Sheeky, which we would like to acknowledge.

Renee Bryant
State Manager



TASMANIA REPORT

This year was one of recovery and rethinking for Touch Football in Tasmania. The impacts and restrictions around COVID whilst challenging, allowed the opportunity to review and reassess several practices and policies within the State. Touch Football Tasmania (TFT) is well placed to deliver growth across the state and to considerably enhance the experience of participants in the coming year and beyond. With no staff turnover within TFT this year we were able to display a level of stability to the community that may have been missing in recent years.

Participation

Against a backdrop of continued uncertainty around the pandemic, Southern Touch was able to run a shortened winter competition which commenced in late July with a total of 27 teams (previous year of 37). Devonport Touch Association also was able to run their first ever Winter competition with 5 teams participating.

Summer 20/21 competitions saw most Affiliate competitions record solid growth numbers, particularly in junior team numbers. Southern Touch grew junior numbers from 62 to 67 teams, Launceston Touch Association remained steady at 31 teams in the juniors. Burnie Touch Association whilst not running a specific junior competition this year had 26 kids participate in their junior program. Special mention to Devonport Touch Association who this year grew their junior competition from 31 teams to 40 teams. Senior team numbers were slightly up across the State for the year and participation numbers were up in every category.

Schools

School and Junior Participation has increased in the reporting period by 1,451 participants in and across the state. A record number of 76 teams also participated in the school series which has grown from 63 reported in the previous period. This continued success of the School Series event in recent years saw TFT expand again to hold 3 regional events then a finals day this year. The overall winning schools were:

- » Grade 7/8 Girls: St Patricks College (Launceston)
- » Grade 7/8 Boys: Riverside HS (Launceston)
- » Grade 9/10 Girls: Riverside HS A (Launceston)
- » Grade 9/10 Boys: Clarence HS Maroon (Hobart)

Funding

Touch Football Tasmania again received significant support from the Tasmanian Government's Department of Premier and Cabinet

(DPAC). TFT was fortunate to receive funding through the State Grants program. We would like to thank Communities, Sport & Recreation Department and in particular Rani Cavaretti for their ongoing support and assistance throughout the year and wish Rani well in her secondment.

Pathways

The past year certainly presented significant challenges in junior pathways opportunities. TFT selected 6 teams to participate in the DoorDash National Youth Championships in 2020. Unfortunately, ongoing border restrictions at the time saw these teams unable to travel and as a result a Junior Alliance Cup was created and held in January 2021 in Adelaide. TFT was successful in sending 1 team (Under 16 Girls) to the event while reservations on travel saw other teams withdraw. The team performed exceptionally well, beaten in drop off by SA in the final. A weekend training camp held in Launceston was created for the balance of the junior players with about 90 players taking the opportunity to attend.

In March 2021, TFT was successful in sending a Women's Open team to the Inferno National Touch League in Coffs Harbour. This was the first Opens team to participate from Tasmania since 2010 (excluding T League). The team defeated Northern Territory 7-1 in the 13th place playoff. Special mention to note that TFT members Ashton King (Victoria Men's Open), Archie Hurd (NT Mixed Open), Katie Bessell (Rebels Women's 30s), Jon Harmey (Victoria Men's 40s) and John Samin (ACT Men's 50s) also participated at Inferno NTL, and John Samin played in the State of Origin for the New South Wales Men's 50s this year.

In April 2021, TFT held trials for 8 junior representative teams to attend the Doordash National Youth Championships in October with a record number of trialists (163) attending over the two day event. TFT will be sending a full complement of 8 teams to the Doordash National Youth Championships in 2021 and will compete in every division.

Events

Touch Football Tasmania made the decision to separate Junior and Senior competitors at State Cup in 2021. As such, due to the timing no senior State Cup was held in the reporting period. A stand-alone junior State Cup was held in February at Meercroft Park in Devonport with a record 27 teams and 282 participants taking part. Competition was held across Under 12, 14, 16 and 18 age groups in both Boys and Girls divisions. With a focus on increased participation the event was run on a club basis with



teams earning points for themselves, their club and their Affiliate competition. The winners on the day were:

- » B12 Grasscutters
- » B14 Phantoms Trojans
- » B16 Clarence Trojans
- » B18 Condors
- » G12 Hazards Hazettes
- » G14 Aztecs Blue
- » G16 Aztecs
- » G18 Hazards Hotties

Aztecs were the winning Girl's club, Grasscutters the best Boy's club while Aztecs won the overall title for the Launceston Touch Association.

Education

TFT successfully ran a number of Level 1 Referee courses

this year, providing depth to our Affiliates' Referee stocks, and with the assistance of some high-quality coaching from Ken Golden at Junior State Cup, many of our referees were put on the path to overall improvement and likely future upgrades. Six Tasmanians were also qualified as referee coaches this year, getting to put their new skills into practice at their affiliates. Only one Foundation level coaching course was conducted, with 8 participants, but the groundwork has been laid with Affiliates for a significant improvement in this area for the next reporting period.

Jeff Quick
State Manager



VICTORIA REPORT



The 2020/21 reporting period was an extremely challenging time for the Victorian community. Our members remained strong and optimistic amidst the everchanging environment and without that support, Victoria's return to play would not have been possible. We must acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our state and National staff, as well as Affiliate Presidents and their committees, coaches, assistant coaches, team managers and members, who tirelessly contribute time and effort in growing our game in Victoria.

STAC

The Victorian State Council Annual Meeting was conducted on Saturday 15th February and was attended by Touch Football Australia (TFA) General Manager of Participation, Brad Mitchell, and delegation from Touch Football Victoria (TFV) Affiliates. TFV is delighted to welcome back Cecilia Eichler as Chair and recognises General Members Tim Cromb, Craig Coleman, Kim Butler and Mitch Mackenzie for the time, dedication and energies contributed to the sport.

Human Resources

Staffing in the state office saw some changes during the 2019-20 period. Tyler Cabansag joined the TFV team as an intern from Latrobe University which then evolved into a contract position leading the VicHealth Project called Youth in Touch. Our volunteer network has contributed to assist the state with TFV welcoming 116 new accredited volunteers and look forward to continuing the development and education in the technical space.

Participation

Despite delays to the summer season, team numbers remained strong for the 2020-21 period. Across 17 locations, 339 teams participated in senior competitions. Of this total number, 25 were junior sides, and 16 sides took part in family style competitions at Brimbank and Geelong Touch Associations. The winter season curtailed across the state as a result of the pandemic, however 126 teams still played a portion of the winter season across both metro and regional locations.

Schools

The Sporting Schools program was presented to 49 schools and delivered junior clinics to 7 additional schools over this reporting period. Activations in the school system did not run in Term 3 2020 due to COVID but TFV was able to continue servicing several school-based competitions and assisted with referee and coaching development in the following locations:

- » Southern Independent Schools
- » Eastern Independent Schools of Melbourne
- » Association of Co-Educational Schools
- » Associated Public Schools of Victoria (APS)
- » Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria (AGSV)
- » South Eastern Independent Secondary Schools

The Victorian Schools Touch Football League (VSTFL) entered its 14th season and with the help of school based staff at AGSV and APS totalled 145 teams for the season. St Kevin's took out the title winning their Grand Final against Brighton Grammar with Ivanhoe Grammar taking out the Division 2 and Haileybury College victors in the Division 3 category. Brighton Grammar continued their excellent program by winning the Year 9 and 10 titles while Mentone Grammar continued their unbeaten run in the Girls Premier competition taking the title in its first premiership year.

The Victorian Secondary School Touch Championships was impacted slightly this year, however 41 teams from 12 schools still participated across all divisions with the event hosted at Endeavour Hills. Caulfield Grammar took out the top prize in both Senior boys and girls divisions. Haileybury College won the Year 9/10 Boys while Luther College were victorious in the Year 9/10 Girls competitions. Finally Hampton Park Secondary College took out the Year 7/8 Boys title with Haileybury College wining the Year 7/8 Girls title.

Programs

Victoria delivered its first All Abilities program in Victoria as part of the Sport Australia 'Move it Aus' grant in partnership with Firkbank Grammar. The program formed part of the national delivery with future expansion planned if funding continues at a national level.

The partnership with NRL Victoria continues to evolve with the integration on a number of Gala Days throughout the year along with the combined development of the State Sports Centre enhancing the collaboration between the two entities.

TFV continued to receive support from VicHealth along with Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) throughout the year. VicHealth is a long-term partner of Touch Football in Victoria and demonstrated this support through funding for projects tailored to female participation and youth engagement.

Pathways

Victoria Storm's representative season was cut short with major impacts for our teams set to compete at the 2020 DoorDash



National Youth Championships. Victoria was however thrilled to send 3 teams to compete at the Junior Alliance Cup in Adelaide over the Australia Day long weekend. TFV was also successful in sending 8 teams to compete at the Inferno National Touch League in March where all teams competed to the best of their abilities. Congratulations to all players, coaches, officials and volunteers who were involved in all campaigns.

The 2020 Victorian Touch League was impacted due to the state lockdown, however all clubs were involved in alternative competitions for both junior and senior representative players. The Youth in Touch Super Series was held in November, with 22 teams taking part across the 12s, 14s and 18s divisions which provided both entry and competitive opportunities for all participants.

The Indomie Super Series commenced in January 2021 for teams originating from Victorian Touch League Clubs, with Women's, Men's and Mixed divisions. A total of 24 teams took part in the competitions with Melbourne Phoenix being successful in the Men's Division 1 competition, Harlequins taking out the Division 2 Men's and Division 2 Women's titles while the Melbourne City Lions won the Mixed and Women's Division 1 titles.

TFV was able to deliver a successful Junior and Senior State Cup in 2021. The Junior event was held in Geelong, with 23 teams from 7 Affiliates taking part which was an increase on the 2020

numbers. The Senior State Cup was held at a later date and reverting to a one-day tournament at Elwood Park with a total of 39 teams participating.

The 2020-21 reporting period also saw TFV support the Geelong Battle of the Best, Sale Knockout and University programs at RMIT, ACU and the Victorian University.

Recognition

TFV was also pleased to recognise Life Service Awards for Kimberly Butler and Laurie Smyth for their contributions to the sport over a sustained period.

TFV would like to thank our STAC members, volunteers and staff for their support and guidance through what has been a very difficult period. The sport is looking forward to a brighter 2021-22 and are hopeful that the road to recovery is paved with ample opportunities for members to be back enjoying the sport they love.

Ella Squires
State Manager



WESTERN AUSTRALIA REPORT

The 2020-2021 year saw an excellent rebound from the main COVID period through 2019-2020. With growth in Juniors overall of 32.1% and Senior participation saw an increase of 21.0% during the past year since the data recorded from the 2019-2020 year. Touch Football Western Australia (TFWA) staff are indebted to those Affiliates and volunteers who delivered competitions and programs throughout the year, both in the Metro and Regional locations and we thank you all.

STAC

The Western Australian State Council Annual Meeting was not held until 2nd February 2021 due to some disruption through COVID restrictions. The meeting was conducted fully online for the first time which allowed the attendance of TFA Chair Anita Hagarty, TFA CEO Jamie O'Connor, TFA GM Participation Brad Mitchell and TFA Alliance States Manager Gabe Hodges. Due to STAC members terms all being still current, no elections were required at the meeting.

Funding

The Department of Sport & Recreation continued to provide funding to TFWA for the 2020-21 period and have committed for a further year of 2021-2022. With Healthway funding locked in until the end of 2022, it was business as usual promoting the LiveLighter message in conjunction with the grant from Healthway. WA based All Flags, Signs & Banners continued their sponsorship deal and supply of quality flags and signage to dress up the TFWA events including Affiliate banners.

Schools

After a slower start than normal for the 2020-21 year the programs in schools increased as 2021 progressed, including many regional visits through the NRL / TFA Non-Contact MOVE IT AUS Grant funding. School Sport WA (SSWA) carnivals returned with good entry numbers. TFWA staff and Field Officers conducted face to face clinic and sessions with 14,131 students in school programs which was an outstanding achievement given the challenges over the past year. 1,087 children took part in school competitions with SSWA Country Week being cancelled due to a COVID lockdown reducing this participation. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions around the nation, School Sport Australia cancelled all National Tournaments, therefore no tours by SSWA teams were conducted in 2020-21.

Events

With an ounce of luck and plenty of challenges with COVID

postponements, all of the scheduled events were conducted successfully by TFWA during 2020-2021. The TFWA 2020 LiveLighter Super League Series held over eight (8) rounds, plus Finals, saw 18 teams compete in Open & Masters (50+) divisions.

Champions were Fremantle in both Men's & Women's divisions with Tompkins Park winning the Mixed division. No Masters final was held. All the Men's, Women's games and the Grand Finals were televised on NITV and FOXTEL Channel 172 with the Mixed Grand Finals included, which gained great coverage around Australia.

The 2020 Junior State Championships presented by GO for 2&5 were a fantastic success. The 2020 event saw 62 teams participate in age groups 8's to 17's years. This was up from 37 teams the previous year. Thanks to the City of Wanneroo for their support with the venue at Kingsway Sporting Complex. The enthusiasm from Affiliates, parents, officials and players will assist this becoming the premier junior sporting event in WA.

February 2021 saw COVID strike again with a lockdown in Perth postponing the State Championships presented by LiveLighter and moved until the end of March. Finally held on 26th – 28th March 2021, it was a great event with all 49 originally entered teams participating. Excellent to see Busselton, Geraldton, Goldfields, Karratha and Newman teams still make the trip to Perth to compete after the February postponement. Held at UWA Sports Park, saw a quality weekend of Touch Football with a special thanks to the referees and Tournament Panel who assisted in making the weekend, whilst overcoming a shortage of available referees.

In conjunction with NRLWA, TFWA joined the ANZAC Challenge Day with games of Men's and Women's Open Division Touch being played on the same program as the tackle Rugby League games. TFWA will now schedule this into the Western Australia Touch calendar of events and become part of the annual ANZAC Challenge Day with thanks to the partnership with the NRL and NRLWA. Kiwis Men's & Women's teams were victorious over the Perth City teams in the 2021 Touch games.

North-West Touch Carnival was conducted in Exmouth in September 2020 (5 teams) with the decision made to conduct the event on the long weekend in June for 2021. Tom Price Touch Association hosted the 2021 carnival. This proved a great success with 10 teams representing Broome, Exmouth,



Geraldton, Hedland, Karratha, Paraburdoo and Tom Price. A TFWA sanctioned event allowed three Level 2's and two Level 3 Referees to gain their upgrades with Karratha Blue crowned as champions. Thanks to all the referees, especially the player/ referees and the Perth referees who travelled and assisted with courses, coaching and refereeing games over the weekend.

Many people have contributed to the growth of the game in 2020-2021 even with the difficult times COVID presented. A heartfelt thankyou to STAC members Rob McKay (Chair), Sally Irwin, Zoe Dacey-Aiken, Ben Dempsey and Monique Williamson. The Referee Panel of Chris Murray (Chair), Annabelle Connolly, Ben Dempsey, Marcus Lee and Alison Watters. The Representative Panel Michael Beatty, Joseph Carrello, Justin Creighton, Alasdair Dempsey, Patreece Edwards, Kit Frazer, Teejaye Mau and Debbie Quan.

A thank you to all and your assistance, dedication and advice is appreciated.

To the TFWA Staff of Sam and Dion your dedication and commitment to your roles assisted in achieving the growth that was recorded and your time and efforts are very much appreciated.

Warren Smiles
State Manager



THANK YOU TO TFA'S VALUED PARTNERS

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



MAJOR PARTNERS



OFFICIAL PARTNERS



EVENT PARTNERS



BROADCAST PARTNERS





TOUCH FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA

Suite 1/18 Napier Close, Deakin ACT 2600

www.touchfootball.com.au

ABN 55 090 088 207