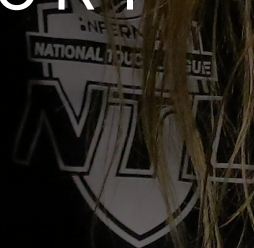




TOUCH FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA

2021/2022

ANNUAL REPORT



Touch Football Australia respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we live and work. Touch Football is played in communities across Australia, and we acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the lands on which we play and recognise the significant contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to our game.

We pay our respects to elders past, present, and emerging; commit to working respectfully to honour their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to this country; and recognise the role and value of culture in all our communities.



TOUCH FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA

Suite 1/18 Napier Close, Deakin ACT 2600

www.touchfootball.com.au

ABN 55 090 088 207

2021/2022

ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

Sport has a place for everyone and delivers results that make Australia proud.

This is the Australian Sports Commission's (ASC) vision as we embark on a defining era in Australian sport over the next decade and beyond.

We are setting out to lead, support and provide opportunities for all communities to be involved in sport, while growing elite success and representation, inspiring future generations. Our role, as the Australian Government agency responsible for supporting and investing in sport at all levels, is to increase involvement in sport and enable continued international sporting success.

We do this through leadership and development of a cohesive and effective sports sector, targeted financial support and the operation of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS).

We play a unique role in the sport ecosystem and tackle the big challenges and opportunities with and for the sector. We're proud to do so and through our vision, we aim to bring out the best in everyone involved in sport as we establish Australia as the world's best sporting nation.

The 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games provided a perfect launch pad for our athletes to shine.

To finish on top of the medal table with 67 gold and cement our status as the most successful nation in the event's history sets us up brilliantly as we look to host the next Games in Victoria 2026. These Games, uniquely hosted in regional areas, will be another opportunity to inspire Australians to get involved in sport, and to champion the role sport can play in engaging every Australian. This is a defining era for Australian sport. We have begun the Green and Gold decade to Brisbane 2032, and we are focused on building sustainable success for decades to come.

The sporting strategies, programs and facilities we deliver now have the capacity to shape Australia's long-term prosperity, well beyond sporting boundaries. A thriving Australian sport system is enormously influential to a thriving Australia.

We will advocate for sport and its positive influence on Australia, promote and support inclusive and diverse sporting environments and drive thought leadership and innovation to inspire world's best practices.

We will build the capability of sport and the people involved through projects like our Sport Volunteer Coalition Action Plan which outlines a new approach to foster positive, safe and fulfilling experiences for sport volunteers, and our Women Leaders in Sport programs which champion equal representation in sport.

It has been great to see the AIS site buzzing with activity again after a challenging few years due to COVID-19. We continue to welcome sports and athletes back to the campus, who are all keen to use our facilities to prepare for major sporting events. Our aim is for sport in Australia to be world's best so we will optimise our facilities to advance sport and use them to showcase sport at its best.

This is an incredible opportunity to unite and inspire Australia through sport as we capitalise on the calendar of major sporting events on the road to a home Olympic and Paralympic Games. On behalf of the ASC, thank you to everyone who contributes to Australian sport with the aim of making it better for all.

JOSEPHINE SUKKAR AM
Chair, Australian Sports Commission



TFA CHAIR REPORT

After the challenges of the past two years, 2021/2022 was to be a year of rebound and recovery. New variants and mother nature (extreme weather) had other ideas though causing constant interruptions to the sport.

The disruptions have been challenging for all. The uncertainty made it difficult to achieve what we set out to achieve but it again gave us an opportunity to display our flexibility and resilience; to be creative and resourceful.

There was no greater illustration of these attributes than the Inferno National Touch League where, for the first time in our history, the event was postponed due to flooding. However, we rallied, and our people worked tirelessly to ensure our participants and community had an opportunity to come together and compete.

Despite the challenges, the organisation continued to achieve significant milestones. Our commitment to make Touch Football more inclusive took major steps forward with the launch of our very first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). We also led the formation of the Pride in Sport collective involving eleven National Sports Organisations who have set out to address participation barriers for the LGBTQ community culminating in the delivery of our inaugural Touch of Pride event in Brisbane in May.

Working in collaboration with our naming rights partner DoorDash, we were proud to provide affiliates the opportunity to apply for \$100,000 in funding for equipment, education and program initiatives; the first of its kind for our sport. Congratulations to the twelve affiliates who were successful in receiving funding and we look forward to this initiative continuing. On the field, our Australian Emus squads were finally able to come together again at the inaugural Bristol Paints Aus Open. It was terrific to see the best of our talent back on the field and we can't wait for international competitions to resume in the not-too-distant future.

I would like to thank and express my gratitude to our CEO, Jamie O'Connor and the leadership team of Garry Foran, Brad Mitchell, Tim Wyld and Wayne Grant for their ability to remain focused and adapt where required to keep us on course.

Continuing with recent trends, it has been another challenging 12 months for our staff, but I have been impressed with the dedication and commitment of our people to deal with the constant state of flux and to simply get on with the job at hand. I

have been known to say that you get what you deserve, and I am eager to see the success and rewards that will come from your efforts over these past few years.

Our TFA Board also worked tirelessly behind the scenes to provide leadership and stability during this time. My sincere thanks to this inspiring group of individuals who volunteer their time and energy to future-proof the sport.

On behalf of the board, thank you to Queensland Touch Football, the New South Wales Touch Association and our State and Territory Advisory Committee (STAC) members for your commitment to enhancing the experience and growing the sport around the country. During tough times, relationships become more important, and the pressure associated with simply trying to survive places them under pressure. We all hope we are through the most challenging period for our sport, and we can get back to working hand-in-hand on the business of rebuilding our participation to pre pandemic levels.

Thank you to the Australian Rugby League Commission and the National Rugby League for your continuing support of Touch Football. We are excited by the opportunities that our future will bring together and look forward to building on our relationship and growing together.

Our organisation has been able to continue to support our community thanks to our wonderful partners. This year we were delighted to welcome Red Rooster who join DoorDash, Bristol Paint, Inferno and Pain Away as Major Partners. I sincerely thank all our partners for their support of Touch Football.

In closing, I would like to thank all our volunteers, players, referees and officials throughout the country. You are the amazing people that give up your time to make our sport great. As an organisation we are only able to achieve what we do because of what our community does. For that we are endlessly grateful.

ANITA HAGARTY
Chair



TFA DIRECTORS BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCES

2021-2022 FINANCIAL YEAR

Touch Football Australia (TFA) acknowledges the dedicated support of the Directors for the 2021/2022 reporting year. The ongoing dedication of these Directors to the national body is vital to the sports ongoing success and links to the membership



DIRECTOR	Board MEETINGS ELIGIBLE	Board MEETINGS ATTENDED
Anita Hagarty	5	5
Neil Collins	5	3
Erin Taylor	5	4
Kelvin Lockyer	5	5
Stuart Geros	4	4
Cassandra Lawry	2	2
Andrew Hill	5	4

TFA CEO REPORT

The opening to this year's report could well have been a repeat of last years with disruption and uncertainty being an ongoing theme across the country for the third reporting period in a row. As much as we try to block out the noise the reality is it has a significant impact on our ability to plan and deliver with confidence and conviction.

I am immensely proud of our organisation, and the sport more broadly, for our collective ability to change course where required and to get on with the job at hand in making sure that we continue to support our community and membership. The strain of these times on people's physical and mental health is clear and our sport, our community and our connections all play an important part in getting people through one of the most challenging periods of our time.

Coming into the new reporting period, indications were that we were on the back of the impacts of the pandemic; case numbers were low, and a vaccine was being rolled out across the country. Hope and anticipation dissipated as quickly as it appeared with much of the country plunged into lockdowns. When we reappeared shortly before the all-important summer months we were faced with unparalleled and unrelenting rain events that curtailed the hope we had for a strong summer of sport. While these events are disruptive, there were people who lost homes, livelihoods and loved ones and our thoughts are with all those people who were affected by the floods and pandemic far beyond not being able to play the sport we love.

Despite the impacts, we were again able to deliver both marquee national events; with the DoorDash National Youth Championships seeing Tasmania and the Northern Territory re-join Queensland's regions on the Sunshine Coast for the first time since 2019. And, after a false start in March the Inferno National Touch League got underway in May following the first postponement in the event's 26-year history. Queensland again showed their dominance with the Bulls, Sharks and Pineapples winning the Open Mens, Womens and Mixed divisions while the Brisbane Cobras continued their resurgence by claiming the Golden Boot.

We also welcomed back our Pain Away Australian Emus players for the first time since their successful 2019 World Cup campaign in Malaysia. While we are yet to face off in an international match, the creation of the Bristol Aus Open in Newcastle gave us an opportunity to bring the very elite of our game back together as preparations get underway for our tilt at another World Cup in 2024. While we witnessed tomorrow's stars in action, we also had the pleasure of hosting some of the original stars of our game with members of our Golden Jubilee teams coming together in Newcastle for the first time since their induction. It was wonderful to see our past reconnecting with the future; thank you to all of our Golden Jubilee players for your contribution to our sport, thank you for making the effort to come along and for allowing us to celebrate alongside you on such a special occasion.

While the elite game is critically important to us, our primary focus remains firmly on participation across all levels. With the all-important summer seasons interrupted, our participation in community competitions, schools and events took another hit. In unprecedented fashion, NSW was impacted most significantly with many community competitions abandoned as was major tournaments and events like the Vawdon Cup, NSW Senior State Cup and the Northern Conference of the Junior State Cup.

Despite that there were still some great news stories on the participation front.

Queensland saw an 11% increase in junior participation to report their best result on record and while not quite back to pre-Covid numbers their senior participation rebounded with 3.7% increase in team numbers against the previous year. The strategic focus on transitioning school participants into WA community competitions continues to reap rewards with 13.4% growth in full active junior members. The timing of lockdowns negatively impacted their summer competitions, however the ACT managed to increase their event participation by 39% off the back of the inaugural ACT Junior State Cup; similarly, events in NT grew by 14.4%. Across the board, junior and schools' participation increased by 5.3% which, with an uninterrupted run across the country, gives us great confidence that our people will return in droves and participation will be back to pre-Covid levels and beyond before we know it.

Central to our focus on growing participation has been a strong emphasis on diversity and inclusion – our All-Abilities, Indigenous and LGBTQ+ strategies are central to making sure regardless of who you are or where you come from you have a place within our community.

Touch Football has one of the highest rates of participation amongst Indigenous people with 8% of our participants identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The release of the sport's first Reconciliation Action Plan (our Reflect RAP) recognises our First Nations people and our heritage; it provides a platform for education, and it makes our game more accessible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to take part. The Reflect RAP is the first stage of our RAP journey and I am excited by what we can achieve on our Reconciliation journey.

The All-Abilities program continues to go from strength to strength; it is important to recognise Sport Australia for their ongoing support of the program as, without their continuation of funding, start-up programs like this one are challenging to sustain, particularly in a time where revenue is impacted by the big wet and a pandemic. It is without doubt one of, if not the, most powerful and successful inclusion programs in sport.

We were again fortunate to see our All-Abilities athletes take part at the Inferno National Touch League in May; again more teams come to take

TFA CEO REPORT

CONT.

part and the splitting of divisions will ensure more teams feature in the future. Attendance at the NTL is the result of a lot of hard work by a wonderful group of people that deliver the All-Abilities programs within our Affiliates – and it is here that the real difference is made. It is where people who thought they would never take part in our sport have been given an opportunity and I couldn't be prouder to lead our sport knowing the difference this makes to them and their families.

This year, we launched the Pride in Sport Collective; a TFA led program of 11 other National Sporting Organisations to develop policies and practices in removing barriers and the high rate of disconnect between sport and the LGBTQ+ community. Our organisation is passionate about the work we do in partnership with Pride in Sport, and we thank them and, all of our other partners, for their support in driving Touch Football to be the most inclusive team sport in Australia.

In 2021/2022, we report to the membership a surplus financial result of \$150,787 and the strongest financial position the sport has reported. With net assets of circa \$5.2M and in excess of \$3.5M cash at bank the organisation has performed tremendously through the pandemic and we are well placed to invest back into the sport with confidence. The result is one borne from strong governance principles, sound financial management and robust leadership alongside a healthy commercial program.

Our strong commercial program saw us welcome a new major partner in Red Rooster as well as Accor and Gage Roads as official partners of TFA throughout this year. Alongside our Principal Partner, DoorDash, our existing major partners Inferno, Bristol Paints, PainAway and all our official partners we thank you for your ongoing confidence and support for Touch Football.

Not only is it important to recognise the contribution of our commercial partners it is also important to recognise Sport Australia and the National Rugby League who work hand-in-hand with us in delivering our sport. To the Chair of the Australian Sports Commission Josephine Sukkar AM, Sport Australia CEO, Kieran Perkins OAM, Australian Rugby League Commission Chair, Peter V'landys AM and National Rugby League CEO, Andrew Abdo thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to continuing to unlock new ways of working together in delivering outcomes to the sporting community.

While we cannot achieve what we do without great partners we most certainly cannot do that if we do not have great people leading and delivering. To that end, to 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,

contribution and tireless work over this past year. Finally, to the relentlessly hard working and dedicated volunteers across the country, I thank you, on behalf of everyone at Touch Football Australia, for your unwavering devotion to our sport and I look forward to seeing many of you throughout an uninterrupted year of Touch.

JAMIE O'CONNOR
CEO





2021/2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1 JULY 2021 – 30 JUNE 2022



The 2021 DoorDash National Youth Championships again faced border challenges however continued to grow with fifty-two teams. North Queensland Tropical Cyclones claimed their maiden 18s girls' championship. Brisbane Cobras were crowned Overall Champion Entity.



The Inferno National Touch League was postponed for the first time in the event's history but that didn't deter the Queenslanders when the competition was finally held in May with all three opens finals heading north to three separate QLD regions and Brisbane Cobras claiming the Golden Boot.



Commenced a review of the current Inferno National Touch League format and established a working group of key stakeholders to consider the optimum future state.



AUS OPEN

Successfully re-launched the PainAway Australian Emus program with the inaugural Bristol Aus Open event held, an innovative three match broadcast series in Newcastle.



REFLECT RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Launched the sports first Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and established a RAP Action Group to implement the guidelines



TOUCH OF PRIDE

As part of the Pride in Sport Collective launched a Touch of Pride, a 2-day social touch football event celebrating inclusion and illustrating that Touch Football is a safe environment for all.



BEACH TOUCH FOOTY

Acquired Beach Touch Footy, an exciting series of one-day adult beach touch football tournaments with the view of expanding these events nationally.



\$100,000 IN FUNDING

Together with our Naming Rights partner DoorDash, delivered \$100,000 in funding to local touch affiliates through the inaugural Footy Cash from DoorDash funding program.



SPONSORS

Continued to grow our commercial revenue through new key partnerships with Red Rooster, Bristol Paint, Gage Roads Brew Co. and Accor Hotels whilst renewing our existing partnership with long term supporter My Sports Tape.



NATIONAL REFEREE REVIEW

Commenced a formal review into national referee systems that will lead to the implementation of performance and cultural enhancements.



PRIDE IN SPORT

Led the formation of the Pride in Sport collective involving eleven National Sports Organisations who together will collectively address barriers and mental health disparities of the LGBTQ+ community and their high disconnect rates with sport.



ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Successfully secured additional government funding to continue the All-Abilities program.



KAYO SPORT

Announced the sports first broadcast agreement with Kayo Sport with the strategic intent to place all touch football content to a single platform.



ALL STARS

Touch Football made a triumphant return to the NRL All-Stars match with the Indigenous All Stars defeating the Māori All Stars at CommBank Stadium in February.



PARTICIPATION HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL PARTICIPATION

421,821



47.25%



52.75%

REGISTERED PARTICIPATION

166,941



57.3%



19.72%



11.89%



7.94%



2.59%



0.57%

AGE GROUP



0 - 20



21 - 30



31 - 40



41 - 50



51 - 60



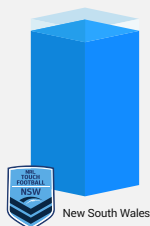
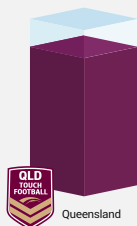
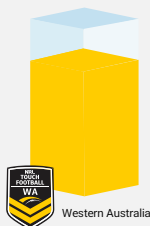
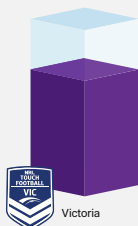
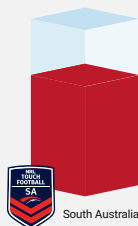
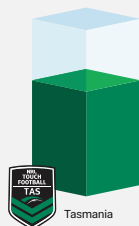
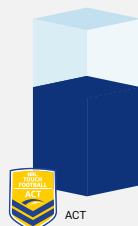
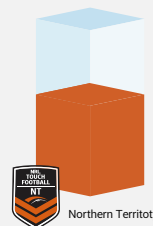
60 +

NET PROMOTER SCORE

54



PARTICIPATION BY STATE

173,648
-31.1% ▼138,105
5.9% ▲30,168
13.6% ▲16,482
25.9% ▲12,859
-10.5% ▼7,662
-16.3% ▼7,018
-6.8% ▼6,878
-35.6% ▼

2021-2022

ENHANCED SCHOOL FOCUS

172,122

TRANSITION
37.4%

EVENTS

46,518

DIFFERENCE
-10.6% ▼

DIVERSITY



FEMALES

73,342

-9.8% ▼



MULTICULTURAL

42,230

-6.6% ▼



INDIGENOUS

13,729

-5.6% ▼



ALL ABILITIES

400

-40.9% ▼

VOLUNTEERS

COACHES

602

-31.59% ▼

REFEREE

1,537

-39.1% ▼

ACCUMALATIVE TOTAL

26,978

8.6% ▲



TOTAL TEAMS

15,962

-9.5% ▼

MODIFIED TEAMS

154

45.4% ▼

FOOTPRINT

317

NATIONAL PARTICIPATION 2021/2022

Participation Category	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1. Full Active Member - Adult	138,881	147,678	141,054	132,028	126,080	129,090	86,270	94,573	83,451
2. Full Active Member – Junior	69,840	72,338	71,989	77,380	80,449	88,347	93,624	90,143	83,490
3. Program Participants	22,728	20,050	6,648	9,875	12,948	13,790	10,027	11,822	9,262
4. Event Participants	67,873	73,647	91,239	60,812	63,313	74,948	57,948	52,040	46,518
5. School Delivered Programs	63,803	107,979	86,939	114,747	95,664	95,352	85,770	85,486	83,304
6. School Managed Competitions	218,053	202,176	248,490	203,779	285,056	277,085	228,910	129,580	88,818
7. Accredited Volunteer Participants	42,988	48,950	48,068	12,157	15,647	18,964	21,437	24,839	26,978
Total Participants	624,166	672,818	694,427	610,778	679,156	697,576	583,986	488,483	421,821
Schools and Juniors	351,696	382,493	407,418	395,906	461,169	460,784	408,304	305,209	255,612

Key highlights from the 2021/2022 Participation Report include:

- » Accredited Volunteer Participants grew by 8.6% across the nation
- » TFA events increased by 803 participants which is an increase of 23.9%
- » Total Participants in Victoria increased by a total of 25.9% across all categories
- » Event numbers in the ACT grew by 39% on the back of a strong junior event program
- » Full Active Member - Juniors members continue to grow in WA with another increase of 13.4%
- » Accredited Volunteer Participants increased in the reporting period in Tasmania, up by a total of 46
- » Events in the Northern Territory continue to show strong numbers with an increase of 14.4%
- » School Managed Competitions in SA return close to pre-Covid-19 numbers with almost 5,000 participating
- » Juniors and Schools increased collectively across all Alliance States by 5.3%
- » Queensland Full Active Juniors increased by 11.0% to their highest number recorded of 36,802

TRADITIONAL FULL AFFILIATED MEMBERS

Senior Comparisons 2020-21 to 2021/2022

	S2-2020	S1 – 2021	Total 2020-21	S2-2021	S1 – 2022	Total 2021/2022	Total Variance	Percentage Variance
NSW	3,483	1,090	4,573	2,490	670	3,160	-1,413	-30.9%
QLD	1,901	1,931	3,832	2,014	1,961	3,975	143	3.7%
ACT	244	117	361	123	94	217	-144	-39.9%
VIC	198	66	264	237	95	332	68	25.8%
TAS	246	40	286	225	37	262	-24	-8.4%
SA	166	96	262	140	65	205	-57	-21.8%
WA	430	216	646	392	137	529	-117	-18.1%
NT	146	140	286	98	143	241	-45	-15.7%
TOTAL	6,814	3,696	10,510	5,719	3,202	8,921	-1,589	-15.1%

Junior Comparisons 2020-21 to 2021/2022

	S2-2020	S1 – 2021	Total 2020-21	S2-2021	S1 – 2022	Total 2021/2022	Total Variance	Percentage Variance
NSW	4,076	145	4,221	3,596	123	3,719	-502	-11.9%
QLD	1,542	965	2,507	1,993	1,005	2,998	491	19.6%
ACT	57	0	57	59	6	65	8	14.0%
VIC	18	81	99	29	1	30	-69	-69.7%
TAS	138	0	138	138	0	138	0	0.0%
SA	25	7	32	20	2	22	-10	-31.3%
WA	58	0	58	60	0	60	2	3.4%
NT	5	1	6	7	2	9	3	50.0%
TOTAL	5,919	1,199	7,118	5,902	1,139	7,041	-77	-1.1%

New South Wales Touch Football Participation 2021/2022

Participation Category	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2020-22
1. Full Active Member - Adult	54,309	54,079	52,020	51,086	55,955	35,877	39,856	28,959
2. Full Active Member – Junior	40,016	54,079	42,210	43,684	52,084	53,975	50,280	40,587
3. Program Participants	8,444	517	296	3,028	1,623	825	1,483	552
4. Event Participants	36,959	63,060	30,055	31,119	32,208	31,677	27,137	16,940
5. School Delivered Programs	76,600	40,279	49,865	43,037	42,358	36,295	25,731	21,520
6. School Managed Competitions	189,822	229,447	179,241	255,557	251,387	206,578	106,064	64,361
7. Accredited Volunteer Participants	2,853	1,058	1,536	1,512	1,291	1,342	1,439	729
Total Participation	409,003	442,519	355,223	429,023	436,906	366,569	251,990	173,648
Schools and Juniors	306,438	323,805	271,316	342,278	345,829	296,848	182,075	126,468

Queensland Touch Football Participation 2021/2022

Participation Category	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2020-22
1. Full Active Member - Adult	60,627	59,670	52,223	49,703	48,559	32,652	34,618	35,936
2. Full Active Member – Junior	26,460	27,630	30,128	31,500	31,624	33,345	33,165	36,802
3. Program Participants	3,188	4,651	7,255	8,185	9,769	5,171	7,995	7,243
4. Event Participants	13,311	21,575	22,939	25,667	29,184	17,032	15,951	20,290
5. School Delivered Programs	15,565	17,329	27,995	18,152	15,471	20,152	23,962	20,639
6. School Managed Competitions	4,391	5,965	10,715	12,903	9,315	9,086	13,214	16,097
7. Accredited Volunteer Participants	1,033	1,166	1,316	1,349	1,322	775	1,491	1,098
Total Participation	124,575	137,986	152,571	147,459	145,244	118,213	130,396	138,105
Schools and Juniors	46,416	50,924	68,838	62,555	56,410	62,583	70,341	73,538



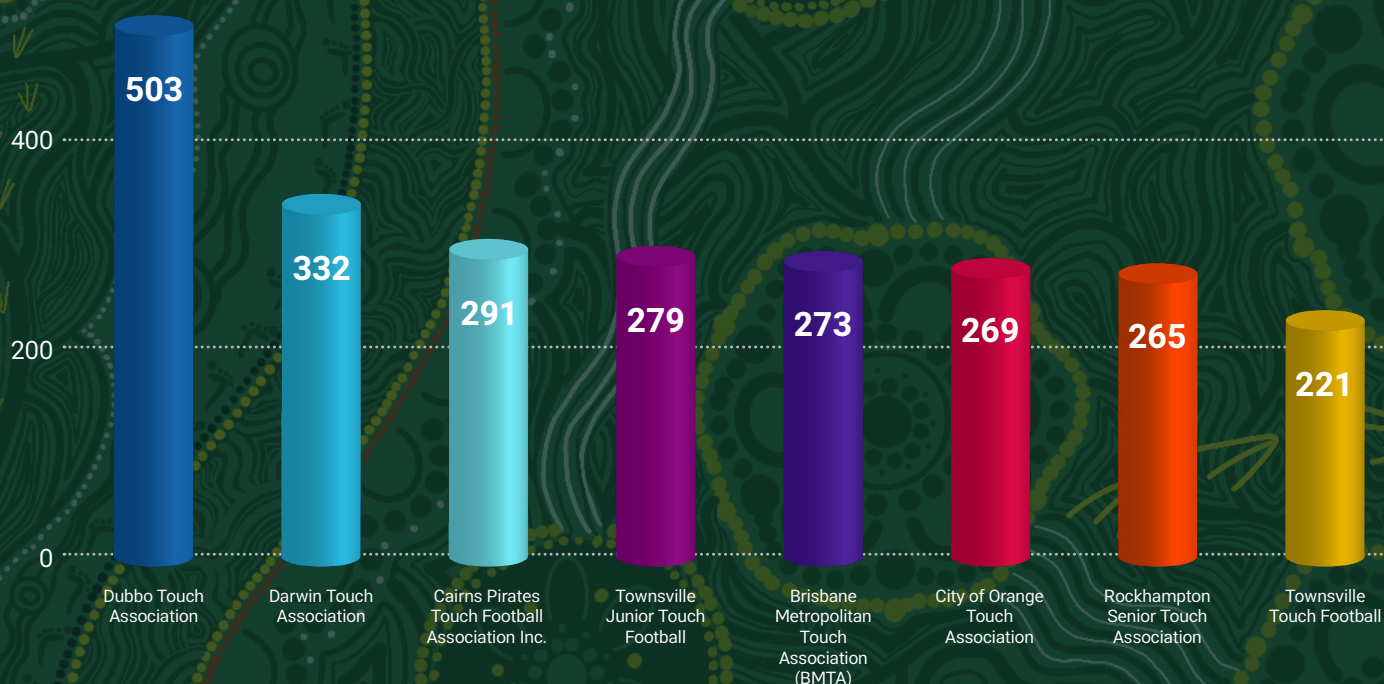


INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

- » Launched the sports first Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and established a RAP Panel and Action Group to implement the guidelines.
- » Implemented and undertook cultural awareness training for staff.
- » Identified indigenous participation hotspots for future integration strategies and development.
- » Procurement of indigenous owned and operated businesses for products and services used by TFA.
- » Researched and developed an understanding of the traditional owners or custodians of the lands where TFA offices and facilities are located.
- » Incorporated Acknowledgement of Country or Welcome to Country ceremonies and recognition into TFA events, meetings and collateral materials.
- » Promoted and showcased indigenous athletes throughout the year.
- » Staff attendance and representation at local NAIDOC ceremonies nationally.

TOP AFFILIATES FOR INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION



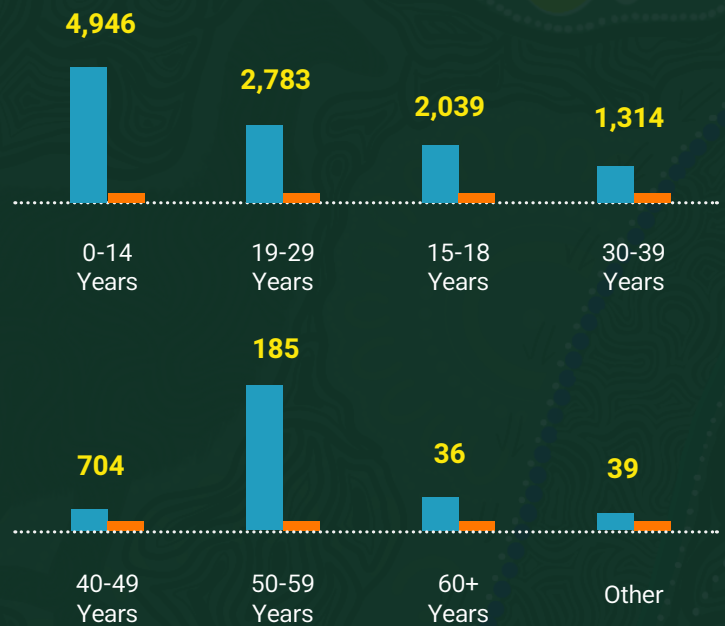
2021-2022

COUNT OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE & ETHNICITY

INDIGENOUS STATUS COLUMN

Aboriginal

Torres Strait Islanders



Number of Participants

TOTAL
13,729

FEMALE
5,981

MALE
7,748

8%

**OF TOUCH FOOTBALL
PARTICIPANTS ARE
INDIGENOUS**

Background Artwork: Stand Proud Together
Artist: Kirralee Costelloe

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY REPORT



The 2021 - 22 financial year was again one of disruption and uncertainty for Touch Football ACT (TFACT) with Covid-19 inflicting varying degrees of complexity. Whilst the rebound proved slower than desired for participation within local competitions, representative performance highlighted the period. Covid-19 restrictions saw cancellations for school sports, clinics and events such as the NAIDOC carnival and Lifeline's Touch of Life; poor weather conditions resulted in the cancellation of the ACT Super League competition. We are planning for a strong rebound heading into 2022/23.

Human Resources

During the reporting period, State Manager Chris Everingham resigned with Gabe Hodges acting as State Manager until a replacement was found. Nigel Fenton (Sports Operations Coordinator) and Emily Clarke (Competitions Coordinator) also departed. Following these departures Kim Wilmshurst commenced fulltime as Community Sports Coordinator. Mike Inkster commenced in the role of State Manager in March 2022 and Martin Bell (Competitions Coordinator) commenced in April 2022. The efforts of Gabe and Kim must be noted and recognised during this period.

The relationship between the Canberra Raiders and TFACT remained strong with co-branding and promotion of both codes continuing. Work continues in relation to forming closer ties between our referee groups, with early indication of many positive outcomes.

Funding

TFACT continues to enjoy the financial support of the ACT Department of Sport and Recreation, without such support our investment towards providing healthy programs for participants would not be achievable. In addition, the support of local businesses The Walking Clinic, Momentum Sports and Rehabilitation and Bakers Delight continued for which TFACT is grateful.

Competitions

Pleasingly summer competitions saw increased participation from 2020-21 with 162 Senior and 77 Junior teams competing representing a 4% increase. Winter competitions saw a 12% decline however with 99 Senior and 6 Junior teams participating. We are confident that participation will rebound throughout the ACT ahead of 2022/23.

Schools

TFACT delivered 10 School Gala Days and 175 School Clinics

resulting in 3,186 school age children experiencing the Sport. Considering all school sporting activities were suspended for two full terms within the ACT, this is a positive outcome in what was essentially half a year.

Events

The ACT Junior Cup was held successfully during the period resulting in 56 teams competing. Covid enforced shutdowns enabled planning and preparation to occur with various modified formats explored including TouchFit and League Touch competitions scheduled for launch this summer season. In addition to these initiatives, a new Alliance Club was formed, "All Abilities Alliance" which will deliver the TFA All-Abilities Program and enter teams into social ACT competitions.

Pathways

Whilst the reporting period may be described as a period of rebuilding and reestablishment, multiple successes occurred throughout. TFACT entered 11 teams in the NSW Junior State Cup and 7 teams in the NSW Junior Regional Championships with the U16 Girls securing a semi-finals berth at this event. The ACT Raiders were also represented by 7 teams at the Inferno National Touch League with the Men's 45s team winning the championship and Women's Open team securing a semi-finals berth. To win a title and to secure an overall 5th placing for the Women's team is a springboard to greater results and momentum into the 2022 - 23 reporting period.

Representative honours were achieved by the following individuals:

PainAway Australian Emus Youth Squad

Elise Simpson 18 Girls
Jess Crowe 20 Girls

NSW SOO

Dee Smith
Bec Beath
Kim Grant
Kerrie Rendell
Angela
Donaldson
Rachel Platt
Natalie Taffs

Donna Fraser

Darren
Reynoldson
Trung Le
Todd Mills
Dean Taylor
Colm Maguire
Steven
Hughes

NSW Merit Team

Lahni Hall
Chloe Smith
Elise Simpson

Mike Inkster
State Manager



NEW SOUTH WALES



TOUCH ASSOCIATION REPORT

2021/2022 has proven to be the most challenging year to navigate in New South Wales Touch Association history. The timing of the Omicron variant and accompanying lockdown over the months leading into summer had a devastating effect on participation at all levels, events and interactions.

Participation

The challenges of operating in an uncertain environment saw many of our members and prospective members forced to make choices about their level of participation. Therefore, the impact was twofold. Firstly, participants had to decide whether they would participate amongst health concerns and state vaccination policies. For our volunteers, the timing of the lockdowns meant that any competitions that could continue could not do so until post-November 1st. This made it difficult to secure green space and forced competitions to push their starting and finishing dates back whilst navigating to the Government's prohibiting vaccination policy. Faced with all these complications, eighteen affiliates elected not to run Season 2 competitions with the majority of competitions reporting a downturn in participation. We acknowledge all the volunteers who decided to push through in what was a stressful time for all.

When lockdowns lifted there was genuine excitement within the state to kick start the sport again. However, the devastating La Nina weather pattern significantly disrupted grassroots competitions and our representative calendar. Many affiliates were once again forced to cancel or postpone their season 1 competitions due to flooding, field accessibility and field deterioration issues.

Events

Of the six (6) major NSW events, only two were completed; the Junior State Cup Southern Conference and the Junior Regionals. The Vawdon Cup and Country Championships were cancelled due to COVID lockdowns and despite our best efforts the weather eventually forced the cancellation of the Junior State Cup Northern Conference and the State Cup, the first time in its history the State Cup had not been played.

Schools

The impacts of both elements, Omicron and weather effects, considerably reduced our ability to deliver in schools throughout 2021/2022 placing further downward pressures on participation. The impact of not being able to run programs hampers our ability to promote the sport and our affiliate-based competitions for these participants to move into. While this does not have the same financial impact on the organisation as our Affiliates

and events, the work done in this area of the business is an investment in our future.

The net result of these two significant disrupters this year is substantial. Senior participation declined by 27%, and junior participation by 19%. This, coupled with the loss of four (4) major events, has significantly impacted our financial performance for the period. We are grateful to the federal and state government support packages that have greatly aided the organisation.

Indeed, 2021/2022 is not a year that any of us wish to relive. We look forward to the next 12 months, one whereby we can celebrate the sport via recognition of the NSWTA's 50th Anniversary but also as a challenge to bring people back to the game. It's a challenge we are up for.

Dean Russell

General Manager, NSW Touch Association



NORTHERN TERRITORY REPORT



The 2021/2022 year was a challenging period for NT operations with Covid-19 causing disruptions to programs and competitions. A highlight for the period was securing facilities at Territory Rugby League Stadium, Marrara for the Darwin Touch Association (DTA) and TFNT operations. This is an important outcome that allows us to provide first class competitions at a first class venue.

Participation

Participation in the Northern Territory (NT) was impacted by Covid-19, particularly in the school system where restrictions were placed on external deliverers resulting in a decline of DoorDash First Try program and school managed competitions. TFNT also saw decline in organised competition numbers but were still able to provide opportunities for the sport across the Territory. While the result was a decline in adult membership, we managed to deliver an increase in junior membership which was a terrific result.

Partners

TFNT continued to receive support from the Northern Territory Government Office of Sport and Recreation through Tier 1 funding, the Remote Sports Voucher Scheme and the Youth Vibe Holiday Grants program. We extend our thanks to Debbie Halprin, Client Manager NT Sport and Recreation for her ongoing assistance and support of Touch Football. Our partnership with Club House Territory and the Be-Inclusive Games also continued throughout the year with multiple events developing awareness of the inclusiveness of our sport. We thank Disability Sports NT who deliver All-Abilities programs and Banila Dilda Health Services who provide a strong working relationship with School Sport NT.

Pathways

Six NT representative teams and four referees attended the 2021 DoorDash National Youth Championships across U12, U14 and U18 divisions. This represented the largest contingent of junior teams that TFNT have ever sent to a national event. Unfortunately, the rescheduling of the 2022 Inferno National Touch League from March to May had an impact on our teams and forced our withdrawal but we look forward to being well represented again in 2023.

Programs

TFNT finalised the Sport Australia 'Move it Aus' grant for the combined NRL / TFA joint program that enabled delivery of touch football to remote and regional areas in the Territory. The grant was a success and allowed staff to travel to locations such as Yulara, Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek in the third quarter of 2021 and provide opportunities for first timers to experience the game and extend our reach. TFNT would like to thank the NRL for their assistance in managing the grant delivery.

Events

TFNT delivered several events throughout the reporting period which saw an uplift in event participation of 14% from 2020-21. The Northern Territory Titles saw 25 teams from Darwin, Palmerston, Gove, Alice Springs and Katherine take part while other events included the World No Tobacco Day event, Katherine All Schools and the Dave Langridge Cup.

Schools

Although Covid-19 restrictions limited access to the school system, 14 metropolitan and 14 remote programs were delivered to schools. Youth Vibe Holiday Grants enabled programs to be delivered at Katherine along with DoorDash First Try program sessions throughout schools when restrictions eased. A total of 2,780 children were activated through a combination of school delivered programs and school competitions.

Education

Two Level 1 referee courses and one referee coach course were held during the period. We offer our thanks to Ken Golden for attending the Northern Territory Titles in his referee coach capacity which resulted in two referees receiving upgrades at this event.

In closing, I would like to thank the STAC, our stakeholders across the game, staff, affiliates and all of our volunteers who support the game across all reaches of the NT. We look forward to an exciting time over the next year where we can get players back on the field and programs back into the school systems.

Gabe Hodges

Alliance State Manager



QUEENSLAND TOUCH FOOTBALL REPORT



Queensland Touch Football (QTF), our regions and affiliates continued to show resilience after significant disruptions and challenges across the state.

Ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and unprecedented rain events directly impacted the 2021/2022 season and caused the cancellation and abandonment of many events, including the 2021 Queensland State Cup. This was a great disappointment to QTF, affiliates, players, coaches referees and supporting partners, with this year's event on track to hit a record number of 124 teams.

Severe flooding in February impacted the south-east and Sunshine Coast region with several affiliates inundated with fields and facilities decimated, leading to seasons being lost and extensive damage. Others suffered less extensive damage, however rain and field closures caused continuing competition disruptions. The QTF office became inaccessible due to flood damage, resulting in the temporary relocation and significant damage and loss of inventory.

Despite these challenges, QTF saw an increase in participation against 2020-21. Junior participation grew by 11%, while senior participation numbers have stabilised (+3%) which is a significant achievement, given participation is still rebounding after the impact of the pandemic.

Our People

QTF would like to acknowledge the contribution of the staff over the past 12 months, in a year that has seen many challenges and much change. We said goodbye to several staff, welcoming new and returning staff through-out the year.

The Events team, saw the departure of Danette Taylor, Danny DeVries and Molly Pougnet, replaced by Matthew Scott and Mia Jesson. Renee Sandilands and Rylee Krause departed Premier and City Touch, while we welcomed Peter Shallcross and Gwen Behrendorff. A special acknowledgement for the contribution of Renee Sandilands, who dedicated over 10 years' service to Premier and City Touch.

QTF welcomed back Rachael Stacey, Partnership Manager and Rachael Harpur, Marketing and Communications Manager, both returning part-time from maternity leave. A special thanks to Brittany Monaghan, maternity leave replacement as Marketing and Communications Manager.

QTF also continued to employ several Game Development staff across the state, both full-time and part-time capacity. This greatly assists our regions and affiliates to support the development of the game across the state.

QTF would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Renee Marsh, NQ Operations Manager who served the North Queensland region over many years.

Events

Thankfully, our largest participation event, the 2021 Junior State Cup took place mere days after Covid-19 lockdown was lifted. Given the event was cancelled due to the pandemic in July 2020, it was pleasing to see our touch football community gather in Hervey Bay to celebrate the return of the Junior State Cup.

It was with great disappointment that the Festival of Touch was interrupted by significant rainfall, leading to the cancellation of the 2021 Queensland State Cup and Queensland All Nations events. The latter was able to be rescheduled in early 2022. Thankfully, we were able to proceed with the Affiliate Conference, Sports Performance Conference and the SEQ Schools Beach Gala Day. We thank all of our stakeholders and partners for their support across the Festival of Touch events.

While, the start of 2022 looked more promising with Bundy Cup, Q Youth Academy, including the Qld JETS and CAS Cup successfully held, continuing rain events continued to cause disruptions. Many events had to be rescheduled or cancelled, which lead to a congested calendar.

The greatest impact overall was to our junior Affiliate events, which had a huge impact on our junior participants leading into Junior State Cup in July. Thanks to resilience of many of whom had to reschedule events more the once, and to the patience of your junior participants/parents, coaches and support staff.

Participation

Overall participation in Queensland increased 6% during the reporting period.

Event participation saw a positive increase up 27% after the significant disruption of the previous year. While program participation was down, impacted by wet weather, field closures and Covid restrictions; that said, 7,000 participants were still involved in programs across the year.

Schools' participation in Queensland remains strong overall with 36,737 participants involved in school delivered and school managed programs, competitions and events. DoorDash First Try popularity continues to be strong with 1800+ sessions across 184 school programs delivered to 14,000 participants. Queensland All Schools remains the showcase event with 6,500 participants, 424 teams from 215 schools participating across the 5 event days.



Programs

QTF launched the Women in Touch and Coach Developer program, which was received with great support from across Queensland.

The Coach Developer program was designed to support our junior and emerging coaches and provide professional development opportunities catered to the individual coach's needs. The program, a combination of online and face-to-face was piloted at Junior State Cup North in Townsville and officially launched for 2022 Junior State Cup.

Women in Touch, funded by the Queensland Government's ActiveKIT initiative, targets women who wish to become more active; with the vision to create a fun, relaxed and social environment to engage women to join our touch football communities. Women in Touch programs were run across Queensland from Palm Beach, to Mackay and the Whitsundays with lots of fun being had by all.

Pathways

Queensland teams represented the bulk of teams at the 2021 DoorDash National Youth Championships, with border restrictions again limiting the number of teams able to enter Queensland. That aside, competition was still fierce amongst the Queensland regional teams in the battle for state supremacy, with congratulations to the Brisbane Cobras awarded overall champion region.

Queensland teams dominated the 2022 Inferno National Touch League, claiming 10 of the 17 championship titles. This included the Central Queensland Bulls, South Queensland Sharks and Sunshine Coast Pineapples claiming the Open Mens, Womens and Mixed division titles, the second year running that Queensland

teams collected all three opens titles. Congratulations to the Brisbane Cobras who were awarded the Golden Boot, as the overall champion region.

Partnerships

We thank all of our partners for their ongoing support and commitment to the sport and appreciate their understanding during challenging 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 participating in touch football.



Our Board

QTF farewelled long-serving board members, former Chairman, Gavin Shuker and Director, Peter Tong, who finished their tenures at the 2021 AGM. QTF Chair, Troy Morgan acknowledged the significant contributions of both outgoing Directors, on behalf of the entire QLD Touch Football community.

QTF welcomed new Directors, Terani Inoke and David Zanette appointed to the vacant positions. They joined fellow Directors, Troy Morgan, Adam Page, Rohan Ballon and Dennis DiBartolo, who continue to work hard to ensure the future for touch football in Queensland remains positive.



In closing, I would like to thank the QTF Board and staff, regions, affiliates and all of our stakeholders who support, enjoy and love the game of touch football each and every day.

Greg Denny

CEO, Queensland Touch Football



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

REPORT



Touch Football South Australia (TFSA) enjoyed varying levels of success through an unpredictable reporting period due to Covid-19 interruptions across all levels of the sport.

Participation

The 2021/2022 season saw declining participation numbers in affiliated competitions, with small participation gains made by a handful of junior competitions. Senior adult participation declined across the state as did school and event participation. The TFSA office is steadfast in our commitment to turn this around heading into 2022/23.

TFSA maintained a network of affiliates throughout 2021/2022 which consisted of metropolitan affiliates: Adelaide University Touch Club, Botanics Touch Association, Demons Touch Football Association and the Centrally Managed competition, City Touch and regional affiliates: Barossa Valley Touch Association, Mount Gambier Touch Association, Port Lincoln Touch Association, and Whyalla Touch Association.

Schools

On the back of growth in school and junior competitions in 2020-21, the DoorDash First Try Program continued to deliver positive results. Although Covid and weather continued to cause disruptions and postponements, participation in school competitions continued to grow and was well supported by metropolitan schools. School-based competitions including the School Sport SA Championships, the annual SA Catholic Schools Touch Football Championships, SAAS, North-Eastern Zone, and the South Australian Christian Schools Association Touch Football competition all experienced growth and/or returned. The return of these competitions led to encouraging numbers trialling for SA junior representative teams.

Events

Mount Gambier Touch Association hosted the annual Your Podiatrist Cup in January, which saw twenty-two teams from Melbourne, Adelaide, regional Victoria, and Mount Gambier compete across three divisions. The event also provided an opportunity for junior players from South Australia and Victoria to represent the SA Heat and the Victorian Storm in a best of three series with the Victorian Storm taking out the overall title. We thank the coaches and referees for their contribution and commitment to the event. TFSA would also like to thank

the Mount Gambier Touch Association, the Portland Touch Association and the Your Podiatrist Cup Committee for their ongoing efforts to deliver and grow this event.

The 2021 TFSA League season provided an opportunity for representative players to compete and concluded with an exciting finals series. A dominant Central Scorpions permit won the Women's and Mixed divisions and were declared the overall champions. The Northern Vipers defeated the heavily backed Eastern Stingrays in the Men's Grand Final to conclude the season.

Pathways

SA sent a Women's 27s team to the 2022 Inferno National Touch League alongside two referees. The team, led by coach Joel Nolan and captain Georgia Brown put together one of the best performances from a SA Heat team in many years finishing as runners up. We would like to congratulate Joel Nolan and the team on a great performance as well as referees Jon Hall and Amanda Sheeky for their continued support of the SA Heat representative program.

Education

TFSA League enabled three referees to be upgraded to their Level 3 badges and we thank the Referee Panel and Referee Coaching team for supporting all of our referees. TFSA also held several Referee Courses and acknowledges our volunteer course facilitators for their ongoing commitment to educating and developing referees within our sport. A special mention also goes to Amanda Sheeky on being awarded the Leading Female Referee at the Inferno National Touch League and officiating the Women's Open Final.

In closing, TFSA would like to thank the STAC for their ongoing contribution and guidance, the SA Referee Panel, our affiliates, volunteers, partners and members. I'd also like to acknowledge NRL South Australia staff for their ongoing support and valuable contributions. And of course, thank you to both the Office for Recreation and Sport and Coopers Brewery for their continued support and investment into our sport.

Renee Bryant
State Manager



TASMANIA REPORT



The past year was one in which Touch Football Tasmania (TFT) focused on consolidating previous gains and continued planning and engagement to develop participation and growth opportunities for all within Tasmania. Building from the previous years' successes Tasmania was able to continue to deliver participation growth and an improved experience for our participants.

Participation

Winter competitions operated again in both Hobart and Devonport with Southern Touch returning to pre Covid-19 numbers with 37 teams participating. Devonport ran a shortened 6-week competition with a total of 4 teams and the TFT office ran a 6-week social program in Launceston that attracted a further 4 teams.

Summer competitions saw mixed results for affiliate competitions across Tasmania. In Hobart, Southern Touch increased senior participation by 19 teams to 120 whilst junior player numbers remained consistent. Launceston Touch Association (LTA) had a marked drop in their senior social divisions down from a combined total of 116 teams the previous year to 99 teams. LTA committee have reviewed their operation and are confident they will be able to reverse the losses in the coming seasons. Devonport Touch Association (DTA) added 1 junior and 1 senior team from the previous year with 31 senior teams and 41 junior teams. Burnie Touch Association (BTA) welcomed a new and highly engaged committee with 6 teams competing in their senior competition and for the first time a 4-team junior competition was also run. Overall, participation is strong across the state.

Schools

Participation in DoorDash First Try sessions increased by over 500 students on the previous year. Unfortunately, ongoing Covid-19 restrictions required TFT to postpone our School Series until the second half of 2022 which adversely affected the participation numbers for this reporting period.

Funding

TFT was again fortunate to receive significant financial support from the Tasmanian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) through the State Grants program. We extend our thanks to Communities, Sport & Recreation Department and in particular Neil Connell for their ongoing support and assistance. Event specific funding was also obtained through Events Tasmania and Devonport City Council to establish a new sports tourism offering, The Cold Climate Classic, the inaugural running

which was held in October 2021. We extend our thanks to both organisations for their support and look forward to working with both to develop a world class event in Devonport each year.

Pathways and Representative

In October 2021, TFT attended the DoorDash National Youth Championships with a full contingent of 8 age group teams. Further, a contingent of 8 referees attended from Tasmania, which is the largest referee contingent Tasmania has ever sent to an interstate event, with Bayley Aziz awarded referee of the tournament while Kodey Pendergrast obtained his Level 4 upgrade. The event was a terrific success and provided unmatched development opportunities for players, coaches and referees.

In May 2022, TFT sent 3 teams to the rescheduled Inferno National Touch League with Men's Open, Women's Open and Women's 27s teams travelling to Coffs Harbour. Our Opens teams were littered with youth players as we look to the future with a large number of 15- and 16-year-old players featuring in both teams. They acquitted themselves extremely well and will improve from the experience. The Women's 27s had a great campaign reaching the semi-finals while Bayley Aziz backed up his NYC performance with an upgrade to level 5.

Events

In October 2022, TFT ran the inaugural Cold Climate Classic tournament in Devonport. Despite Covid-19 related interruptions, five teams braved the wet conditions to enjoy a great weekend of Touch and off field entertainment and in a positive sign for the concept they have all confirmed their attendance in this year's event.

The Tasmanian Senior State Cup was held in Launceston over the weekend of December 11-12 with a total of 11 teams competing across 4 very hotly contested divisions. The winners were

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| » Men's Open | Southern Touch |
| » Women's Open | Launceston Touch Association |
| » Senior Mixed | Launceston Touch Association |
| » Men's 30s | Launceston Touch Association |

Launceston Touch Association were awarded the overall Senior State Cup trophy.



Hobart's Southern Touch hosted the Junior State Cup in February, the second time it has been run separate from the senior event. With Mount Wellington (Kunanyi) looming in the background and under beautiful blue skies a record 35 teams took to the field including the first Under 10s division

- » 12 Girls Condors (Southern Touch)
- » 14 Girls Aztecs (Launceston Touch Association)
- » 16 Girls Phantoms (Southern Touch)
- » 18 Girls Aztecs Gold (Launceston Touch Association)
- » 14 Boys Riverside Grasscutters (Launceston Touch Association)
- » 16 Boys Sharks (Launceston Touch Association)
- » 18 Boys Condors (Southern Touch)

Sharks were awarded best Boys' club; Aztec were best Girls' and overall club with LTA being awarded the Junior State Cup for the best affiliate results.

Following Senior State Cup in December, TFT held its first annual awards event at the Launceston Country Club where we recognised the following award recipients

- » Junior Representative Player of the Year: Archie Hurd
- » Senior Representative Player of the Year: Archie Hurd
- » Representative Team of the Year: Girls Under 16
- » Coach of the Year: Anthony Bransden
- » Referee of the Year: Bayley Aziz
- » Volunteer of the Year: Kristi Mead



Our thanks go to Country Club Tasmania and the Federal Group for their support of the awards as well as each of our Affiliate competitions for their support. We look forward to making this an ongoing part of our calendar.

Education

Giant strides were made in the provision of education courses, particularly in the referee space. Throughout the year there were 97 participants in Level 1 referee badge courses, 18 Level 2 course participants and 10 participants in a Level 3 course. On the coaching front, a Foundation coach course was held in June with 7 people attending.

TFT would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people that make up the Touch Football community across Tasmania. From STAC members, affiliates, volunteers and participants who have contributed to the growth and success of Touch Football across Tasmania we look forward to continuing to work with you all.

Jeff Quick
State Manager



VICTORIA REPORT



The 2021/2022 reporting period was again an extremely challenging time for Touch Football Victoria (TFV) and the wider community due to repeated lockdowns which saw a number of competitions commenced only to be shut down shortly after. The fact that any Touch Football got played in Victoria against this backdrop is testament to the energy and engagement of the entire touch community in Victoria.

Participation

Even with ongoing lockdowns and uncertainty, TFV and affiliate competitions were able to successfully deliver participation opportunities across the state. Overall participation numbers were consistent with the previous year, with shortened and interrupted seasons the norm across the state.

There is a level of concern for our competitions, particularly around Melbourne CBD with a large number of office-based employees that have not yet returned to the city fulltime. It is felt this may have an impact on the size of these competitions going forward; however, this presents an opportunity for our regional competitions, and we will be working with our affiliates to capture those people who have left the city to work remotely.

Schools

The DoorDash First Try program was presented to a record 64 Schools, including 35 schools in Term 2 2022 alone. The office delivered an additional 80 sessions to 78 classes and 1,233 students outside of the First Try sporting schools program over this reporting period. With DoorDash First Try programs not running in 2021 the bulk of these sessions were delivered in 2022 and could not have been done without the efforts of David Diack and a group of committed Field Officers.

TFV continued to service several school-based competitions during the year assisting with referee and coaching development opportunities in the following locations:

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

The Victorian Schools Touch Football League (VSTFL) entered its 15th season. The VSTFL with great help from the staff at AGSV and APS reached 146 teams for the season with the following being the results:

- » St Kelvins College won Division 1
- » Brighton Grammar won Division 2
- » Caulfield Grammar won Division 3
- » Brighton Grammar won Year 10A
- » Brighton Grammar won Year 10B
- » Brighton Grammar won Year 9A
- » Melbourne Grammar won Year 9B
- » Mentone Grammar won the Senior Girls Division

The Victorian Secondary School Touch Championships saw an improved 67 teams from 18 schools take part in March 2022; a sharp rise as schools looked to re-engage post the Covid-19 restrictions of 2021.

Funding

TFV continued to receive significant support from VicHealth and Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) throughout the year. VicHealth has been 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

In July 2021, TFV held trials for junior Victorian Storm teams that were attended by 244 players. TFV were able to select boy's and girl's teams in all age groups (12s, 14s, 16s and 18s) with the intent of taking part in the DoorDash National Youth Championships. Unfortunately, due to lockdowns and ongoing travel restrictions the teams were not able to take part. Senior teams were able to travel to the Inferno National Touch League in May with 9 teams competing; one of the largest contingents at the event.

A shortened VT League competition was held over 6 weeks commencing in November with double header rounds played each week. Congratulations to the following teams:

- Melbourne Lions Women's Division 1
- Melbourne Lions Women's Division 2
- Monash Vikings Men's Division 1
- Melbourne Lions Men's Division 2
- Melbourne Lions Club Champions

Once again TFV delivered the Senior and Junior State Cups in Ballarat with 37 and 26 teams competing respectively. TFV also supported the delivery of the Geelong Battle of the Best, and University programs at RMIT, ACU and Victoria University and we look forward to the return of the Sale Knockout in 2023.



Recognition

TFV would once again like to thank our STAC members, affiliates, volunteers, participants and staff for their support and guidance through what has been a long and difficult period. We believe we are well placed to rebound strongly from the adversity of the past years and look forward to continuing to grow the game and enhance the experience for everyone involved across Victoria.

Jeff Quick

State Manager



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REPORT



The 2021/2022 reporting period was another challenging year with further Covid-19 disruptions. Whilst this saw senior participation decrease slightly, pleasingly junior participation continued to grow in the state increasing by 3.4% from last year. The number of teams participating in affiliated competitions remained consolidated with the previous year although the number of individual participants per team was down.

Touch Football Western Australia (TFWA) are indebted to our affiliates and volunteers who deliver competitions and programs throughout the year, both in metropolitan and regional locations and we thank them all.

Funding

TFWA thanks The Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and Healthway for their ongoing funding commitments to the sport.

DLGSC continued to provide funding throughout 2021/2022 and have committed future funding for 2022-23. Healthway funding was also ongoing in 2021/2022, as TFWA continued promoting the LiveLighter and 'Go for 2&5' messages. This funding has been extended until 2025.

School

With WA borders closed for much of the year, the impacts of Covid-19 were not as severe as the rest of the country which saw TFWA delivered school programs flourish across the state. TFWA staff conducted face-to-face clinics and sessions engaging with 19,446 students across various programs which was an outstanding achievement. By the time School Sport Western Australia (SSWA) carnivals returned, Covid-19 had already made its mark with school competitions halved and SSWA Country Week cancelled.

Events

The 2021 LiveLighter Super League Series, held over eight (8) rounds plus finals, saw 17 teams compete in the open divisions. Our series champions were:

- » Men's Champions: Northern Districts
- » Women's Champions: Fremantle
- » Mixed Champions: Southern Districts

We were pleased to feature this series on Kayo Sports which provided exposure and awareness of the competition throughout Australia.

The 2021 Junior State Championships presented by GO for 2&5 were a fantastic success achieving further participation growth. The 2021 event saw 70 teams participate from U8s to U17s divisions - up from 62 teams the previous year. The return to UWA Sports Park provided an opportunity to implement engagement initiatives by positioning spectators close to the action and utilising the natural grass amphitheatre as seating for the Grand Finals. The enthusiasm from affiliates, parents, officials, and players will continue to see this event grow and we look forward to working with our regional affiliates to encourage increased regional participation.

The senior State Championships presented by LiveLighter were conducted under Covid-19 restrictions which impacted participation especially from regional areas. Regardless, it was excellent to see teams from Busselton, Geraldton, the Goldfields, Hedland and Karratha still make the trip to Perth and compete. Held at UWA Sports Park, 45 competing teams across the nine divisions participated all vying to be crowned State Champions. Congratulations to Northern Districts who claimed the overall champion. A special thanks to the referees and Tournament Panel who assisted in making the weekend a success despite the operational challenges.

The ANZAC Challenge didn't escape the impact of Covid-19 and was postponed before going ahead in May 2022. Held in conjunction with NRL WA, the ANZAC Challenge Day featured Men's and Women's Open games played on the same program as tackle Rugby League games. Thanks to the partnership with the NRL and NRL WA, the ANZAC Challenge game engagement increased within the Touch Football community with the Kiwis Men's and Women's teams claiming victory over the Perth City teams in 2022.

The North-West Touch Carnival was conducted in Port Hedland in June 2022 with representation from Exmouth, Geraldton, Hedland, Karratha and Paraburdoo/Tom Price. Hedland Red were crowned champions. Credit to Hedland Touch Association for making the carnival happen under the circumstances and delivering a successful event.

Education

Six Level 2 and three level 3 regional based referees received upgrades at the North Western Championships in Port Hedland – thanks to the referee team from Perth who assisted with courses, coaching and refereeing games over the weekend.



Staff

TFWA saw a change in operational staff following two departures during the year with Jeremy Wallace shifting into a full-time position while Kathleen Madden (Events & Competitions) and Tallas Williams (Community Sport) also joined our team. I both welcome and thank them for their contribution and look forward to continuing to work alongside them to grow the sport across the state.

I'd also like to extend my gratitude to the many others that have contributed and remained focused on the sport throughout 2021/2022. Thank you to STAC members Sally Irwin (Chair), Lauren Norris, Jason Cullen, Neil Collins and Jamie O'Connor. Also, the Referee Panel of Chris Murray (Chair), Ben Dempsey, Marcus Lee, Rob McKay, Lucas Patterson and Alison Watters.

Thank you to all our affiliates and your committee members who deliver our game and provide advice and feedback and along with all the volunteers assisting in the delivery of Touch Football in WA.

Warren Smiles
State Manager



THANK YOU TO TFA'S VALUED PARTNERS

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



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