2024 WESTERN AUSTRALIA STATE TOUCH FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS PRESENTED BY LIVELIGHTER CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Friday, $9^{th} - 11^{TH}$ February 2024 UWA Sports Park, Mt Claremont.

Event Objective

STATE

Touch Football WA (TFWA) holds this event annually, bringing together members from all over the State of Western Australia to provide the highest level of competition to all Affiliates, coaches, referees, and participants. Our aim is to showcase the very best Touch Football that Western Australia has to offer.

This event has proven to be a highlight for this aim and every year shows further development of the 'game'. All participants who attend the tournament are offered the challenge of improvement in their chosen field. These improvements or ideas can then be taken back to all parts of the state and beyond. All participants, wherever they come from and for whatever purpose, play a role to grow and develop the sport of Touch Football.

ABN 55 090 088 20





Important Dates Reminder

Date	ltem	Potential Sanction
4 December 2023	Referee Nominations Open	
(Monday)	Team Nominations Open	
13 December 2023	Indicative Numbers Due	
(Wednesday)		
5 January 2024	Referee Nominations Due	May not accept team
(Friday)		nomination
	Team Nomination Due	Late nomination fee may apply
	Uniform Compliance Test- send all current playing	Uniform penalties may
	uniform designs to TFWA so we can ensure that	apply
	no obvious clashes will occur (we encourage	
12 January 2024	teams to do this prior to final ordering) • Player, Coaches, and Team Officials online	
(Friday)	registrations commences	
19 January 2024	Player Transfer Request Due	May not be
(Friday)		accepted
	Player Pool Nominations Due	May not accept nomination
	Player Pool Applications Due	May be unable
		to secure
		players form the Player Pool
	Import Player Application Closes	May not accept
	р	application
	Home Grown Player Status Application Closes	May be unable
		to obtain Home Grown Player
		Status
	Dispensation Requests Due	May not be
26 January 2024	Translation Dur	accepted
(Friday)	Team Levies Due	 Late payment fee may apply
(or removal
		from
	Player Transfer advised	competition
	Player Pool Allocations advised	
	Import Player outcomes advised	
	Home Grown Player Status advised	
	 Dispensation outcomes advised 	
29 January 2024	• Financial Status of all Affiliates, players, officials,	
(Monday)	and State Championships Teams assessed by TFWA	
2 February 2024	Final version of Draw released	
(Friday)	Managers Pack released	
5 February 2024	 Final opportunity to register and/or amend 	May be
(Monday)	Players, Coaches and Team Officials online	ineligible to participate in
		Tournament
7 February 2024	Final team lists due with Player numbers allocated	TO BE HELD via
(Wednesday)	Tournament Briefing Team Managers	MICROSOFT
	Team Managers & contacts will be sent a link to	TEAMS (6.30PM –
	an online meeting	7.00PM ON
		THIS DATE)
9 – 11 February	2024 Touch Football WA State	
2024	Championships presented by LiveLighter	
(Friday- Sunday)	conducted at UWA Sports Park McGillivray.	

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Contents

A - DEFINITIONS	1
B - ADMINISTRATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	2
Item 1 - Tournament Venue and Dates	2
Item 2 - Tournament Fees	2
Item 3 - Team Eligibility	3
Item 4 - Player Eligibility	3
Item 5 - Coach Eligibility	5
Item 6 – Divisions	5
Item 7 - Team Nomination Process	6
Item 8 - Medical Assistance	7
Item 9 - Referee Nomination Process	7
Item 10 – Insurance	8
Item 11 - Late Entries	8
Item 12 – Refunds	8
Item 13 - Registration Process	8
Item 14 - Player Pool	9
Item 15 - Transfer of Players & Point Value	11
Item 16 - Tents & Associated Equipment	14
Item 17 - Uniforms	14
Item 18 - Tournament Briefing	15
C - EVENT SPECIFIC INFORMATION	16
Item 1 - Rules	16
Item 2 - Tournament Management	17
Item 3 - Draw Formula	18
Item 4 - Playing Times	18
Item 5 - Match Balls	18
Item 6 - Competition Points	18
Item 7 - Forfeits	18
Item 8 - Determining Positions for Finals	19
Item 9 - Complaints and Protests	21
Item 10 - Informal Complaint/Resolution Process	22
Item 11 - Formal Protest Process or Tournament Management Investigation of a Breach	22
Item 12 - Disciplinary Regulations	23
Item 13 - Suspensions	25
Item 14 - Eligibility Issues	25
Item 15 - Score Sheets	25
Item 16 - Score Disputes	26
Item 17 - Additional Players	26





	Item 18 - Interchange Area Rules	27
	Item 19 - Incorrect Substitutions	27
	Item 20 - Coaching Positions	28
	Item 21 - Spectators	28
	Item 22 - Affiliate Contact Meetings and Guidelines	28
	Item 23 - Communication with Referees	28
	Item 24 - Presentations	29
	Item 25 - Talent Identification	29
ı	D - POLICIES	29
	Item 1 - Policies	29
	Item 2 - Member Protection	30
	Item 3 - Legal Guardianship Issues	31
	Item 4 - Supervision of Under Age Players	31
	Item 5 - Child Protection	32
	Item 6 - Images and Video Footage	32
	Item 7 - Weather	32
	Item 8 - Concussion Policy	33
	Item 9 - Blood Bin	34
	Item 10 - Glass Bottles and Alcohol (very Important Information)	34
	Item 11 - Parking Areas and Traffic Management	35
	Item 12 - Force Majeure	35





A - DEFINITIONS

Item 1 - 2024 WA State Touch Football Championships

The 2024 WA State Touch Football Championships is the premier state tournament conducted by Touch Football WA and is the prime vehicle in the talent identification and national selection processes for State Representative Teams at all levels.

Item 2 - Touch Football WA

Touch Football WA (TFWA) is the state controlling body of the sport and the owner of the Touch Football WA State Championships.

Item 3 - Touch Football Australia

Touch Football Australia (TFA) is the national controlling body of the sport.

Item 4 - Affiliate

Affiliate means a local association that conducts and/or administers Touch Football competitions and which is a member of Touch Football WA.

Item 5 - State Championship Affiliate

A State Championship Affiliate is an approved team to compete in the competition.

Item 6 - Invitational Team

An Invitational Team is a team that has been invited to compete at the Touch Football WA State Championships. When competing at the Touch Football WA State Championships an invited team is subject to all Conditions of Entry, policies and guidelines as implemented by Touch Football WA to conduct the tournament.

Item 7 - State Championships Affiliate Contact

The person appointed by the Affiliate to act on behalf of the State Championship Affiliates, responsible for liaising with Touch Football WA relating to the State Championship Affiliates and the Touch Football WA State Championships. It is recognised that the Affiliate contact has the delegated authority of the State Championship Affiliates and can make decisions including financial ones without consultation.

Item 8 – Officials

Officials are referees, coaches, managers, Affiliate contacts, medical staff and any other person appointed to a position of responsibility in a State Championship Affiliate or the Touch Football WA State Championships.





Item 9 - Doping Policy

The Touch Football WA Doping policy is the policy determined by the TFA Board of Management (BOM), which relates to Touch Football WA's position on all doping practice matters. The latest copy is available on the TFA website.

Item 10 - Code of Conduct

The TFA Code of Conduct determined by TFA relates to Touch Football WA's position on all behavioural matters of participants at Touch Football WA controlled events or representative team members.

B - ADMINISTRATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

COVID-19

COVID-19 IMPORTANT INFORMATION

It is the sole responsibility of the Affiliate and it's members to ensure they abide and adhere to the following important COVID-19 recommendations:

- If feeling unwell in the lead up to or just prior to the event, DO NOT ATTEND (or have COVID test for a clearance to play or attend)
- If you have travelled from overseas in the 28 days prior to the event, DO NOT ATTEND (or have a COVID test for a clearance to play or attend)
- If you have travelled within Australia and visited what is known as a 'Hotspot', DO NOT ATTEND (or have a COVID test for a clearance to play or attend)
- Continue to practise recommended hygiene protocols such as washing or santising hands throughout the event and avoid coughing or sneezing in a group situation where possible
- The above recommendations apply to players, coaches, team managers, officials & supporters

It is everyone's responsibility to assist in making this a safe event for all paricipants

Item 1 - Tournament Venue and Dates

The venue is:

UWA Sports Park Stephenson Ave, Mt Claremont Western Australia

The dates of the competition will be:

Friday, 9th February to Sunday,11th February 2024

Please note that there is no vehicle access permitted onto the grounds.

Item 2 - Tournament Fees

The Tournament levy is \$1,700 (GST Inclusive) per team Touch Football WA Affiliates.

The Tournament levy is \$1,950 (GST Inclusive) per team for invitational teams.

All Team Nomination Fees are due by 5:00PM Friday, 26th January 2024. Draws will only be confirmed when all fees have been paid.





Levies that are late will be treated as a late entry and will incur a late payment fee as indicated in Item 11.

Item 3 - Team Eligibility

A State Championship Affiliate is an approved team to compete in the competition.

Teams eligible to participate in the WA State Touch Football Championships are to be representatives of Touch Football Australia (TFA) registered Affiliates that are based in Western Australia (WA).

Affiliates are required to meet all requirements of the TFA Affiliate Regulations.

Affiliates are required to apply for permission to enter more than one team in each division. This will be adjudicated on a case by case basis and TFWA decision will be final. A criteria will be issued to any applying affiliate.

Invitational teams must be endorsed by their respective state or national body and are <u>not eligible</u> to contest any finals in any division at the 2024 WA State Touch Football Championships.

All participants at the 2024 WA State Touch Football Championships must be fully financial members of Touch Football WA (TFWA) (or in the case of invitational teams, fully financial members of TFA or for international teams, the Federation of International Touch (FIT).

All participants including players, officials (both team and referees), their current Affiliate and invitational teams must all be fully financial with TFWA by 5:00PM Monday, 29th January 2024 and abide by the laws and by-laws of TFA.

If teams from your Affiliate have competed in the Men's and/or Women's Open divisions at this year's Super League tournament you are required to enter a Men's and/or Women's open side for the State Championships before you are eligible to enter a Mixed Open side.

Item 4 - Player Eligibility

It is the responsibility of each Affiliate being represented to ensure that all of their players and officials are affiliated and financial members of a registered TFA Affiliate, or meet the pool player requirements as determined by TFWA.

Participants who are not financial will be known as 'unfinancial' and as such will be seen as unregistered participants. If the team plays with an 'unfinancial' member, all points may be deducted.

All players must be active members of an Affiliate and must have played a minimum of five games for the same team in the 'Normal' competition of that Affiliate in the current season, Season 1 / 2023 or Season 2 / 2023 prior to the 2024 WA State Touch Football Championships. In this instance, to qualify, they must have participated in five games in the one team, in one division, at the one venue with the one TFA affiliate on five separate playing dates. The staging of qualification knockouts, tournaments or competitions over a three day weekend or successive weekends does not qualify the player to meet the five game criteria.





The word 'Normal' in this situation refers to the competition dates your Affiliate has listed for their regular competition. Section four of this document entails the competition commencement and finish dates of each Affiliates seasonal competition as well as the nominated week days that the Affiliate competition will take place. The dates that have been listed, is what constitutes the Affiliates 'Normal' competition.

In extenuating circumstances, the State Championship Affiliate may ask permission to field a player not meeting the criteria above to participate in the 2024 TFWA State Championships. A Dispensation Request form must be submitted to TFWA by 5:00PM Friday, 19th January 2024.

A player may only represent one Affiliate. If a player is a financial playing member at more than one Affiliate during the current season, Season 1/2023 or Season 2/2023 then the player must decide which Affiliate they will represent.

In the 12 months prior to a TFWA State Championships a Player may be able to represent more than one State Championship Affiliate.

A player must be an active playing member of their State Championship Affiliate except if the player is a "Home Grown" or "Import" Player.

If a Player accepts a position in a State Championship Affiliates team or squad, that State Championship Affiliate may refuse the players release to play for any other State Championship Affiliate.

Acceptance would be determined as a signed written agreement between the Player and State Championship Affiliate.

Any person currently serving a suspension at Affiliate level during the dates of the tournament is ineligible to participate for the duration of that suspension.

Home Grown Status:

Recognition as a "Home Grown" player is the State Championship Affiliate or other recognised entity at which they first represented at any State Event held within Australia in any age division.

An individual can have only one "Home Grown" State Championship Affiliate.

Special consideration to determine a player's "Home Grown" status can be made upon written request to TFWA. All requests must be lodged TFWA Office by 5:00PM Friday, 19th January 2024.

After this date a list of these players will be sent out to all Affiliate Presidents and any issues or challenges to these "Home Grown" players must be supported by evidence and lodged by 5:00PM Friday, 26th January 2024.

Where there is a dispute between State Championship Affiliates, TFWA is to determine "Home Grown" status although assistance may be sought from other State and/or National offices in the determination.

If a player meets the requirements and has obtained the status of a "Home Grown" player for a State Championship Affiliate, they are deemed eligible to compete for their "Home Grown" State Championship Affiliate and will carry 50% of the points accrued to them under the player transfer point system.





"Home Grown" players will carry the applicable points every year in which they participate in an Affiliate team for which they remain ineligible.

Any new players to the TFWA State Championships will have their "Home Grown" status determined by TFWA.

Import Players:

The ability to import players applies to the Men's and Women's Open divisions only. Import Players accrue point to the State Championship team as per the Player Transfer Points System Section B Item 15.

Import Player Forms must be submitted to the TFWA Office by 5:00PM Friday, 19th January 2024 and are available on the Touch Football WA website. All Import Players will have the player transfer point system apply.

Players imported from outside Western Australia carry the applicable points every year in which they participate, as do players imported into an Affiliate team for which they remain ineligible.

Import Players from within WA may be approved as long as their State Championship Affiliate is not sending a team in that particular division and they reside further than 150 km away from the requesting affiliate. It is not available to unsuccessful players from a State Championship Affiliate who has a team entered.

Item 5 - Coach Eligibility

All coaches are required to possess or be working towards a current Foundation Coach qualification. Coaches must have all relevant Code of Ethics paperwork completed.

2025 State Championships Coaches in Open Divisions will be required to be accredited to or working towards Talent Level Accreditation.

Item 6 - Divisions

Division	Date of Birth
Men's Open	No restriction
Women's Open	No restriction
Mixed Open	No restriction
Women's 30 Years and Over	Born in or before 1994
Men's 30 Years and Over	Born in or before 1994
Mixed 30 Years and Over	Born in or before 1994
Women's 40 Years and Over	Born in or before 1984
Men's 40 Years and Over	Born in or before 1984
Men's 45's or Men's 50's (if applicable)	Born in or before 1979 (45's) or 1974 (50's)
Senior Mixed Division	Born in or before 1979 for Males & 1984 for
	Females
Master's Mixed Division*	Alternative to single gender divisions *As per
	Super League Series

Acceptable proof of age documentation includes birth certificates, current passport, or current photo driver license.





Male players can only be nominated for male divisions. Female players can only be nominated for female divisions. Both male and female players can be nominated for mixed divisions in accordance with the 8th edition of the TFA Playing Rules.

Players and team officials can only participate in one division.

NOTE: A division must have a minimum of three teams to make the division active.

If sufficient team numbers have nominated for the division at the close of nominations but teams pull out after this time, wherever possible, TFWA will endeavour to continue this division in a modified version.

Item 7 - Team Nomination Process

State Championship Affiliates must complete their manual Team Nomination by 5:00PM Wednesday, 13th December 2023.

The Nomination must contain the contact details for the State Championship Affiliate Contact including:

- Contact Name
- · Mobile Phone Number
- · Email Address
- Postal Address
- · Suburb, State and Postcode

Nominations WILL NOT be accepted unless all of the above information has been supplied.

Affiliate Contacts have the implied delegated authority of their representing State Championships Affiliate.

Affiliate Contacts must also list the details of Team Managers. Information will be passed onto these individuals as required to assist in the flow of information to participants.

State Championship Affiliates must submit at least the name and mobile number of their Nominated Medical Delegate. The Nominated Medical Delegate is the individual that TFWA will contact during the event for medical issues involving the respective State Championship Affiliate. State Championship Affiliates must submit at least the name, email and mobile number of their Nominated Disciplinary Tribunal Delegate. The Nominated Disciplinary Tribunal Delegate is the individual that TFWA can call upon during the event to sit on a Disciplinary Tribunal if required.

The Team Nomination form is available from the Touch Football WA website:

https://touchfootball.com.au/wa/

If any of the above mentioned documentation, registration or nomination deadlines are not met, or payment is not received by the due dates, teams will only be accepted to enter the competition at the discretion of TFWA.





Item 8 - Medical Assistance

State Championship Affiliates are required to supply their own medical staff for the treatment of minor injuries. It is the State Championship Affiliates' responsibility to ensure that their medical staff possesses adequate qualifications and insurances.

TFWA will ensure that suitably trained medical staff are available for the diagnoses of all serious injuries.

Item 9 - Referee Nomination Process

Each State Championship Affiliate must supply at least 1.5 suitably qualified referees per team (as indicated below) for the duration of the event (these figures will be rounded up to the nearest whole number). Equally all Affiliates are responsible for developing referees, coaches and athletes that attend the event.

Number of Teams	Number of Referees
1	2
2	3
3	5
4	6
5	8
6	9

Referees must be the minimum of Level 2 accreditation.

Referee online registrations will commence Monday, 4th December 2023 and are due by 5:00PM Friday, 5th January 2024.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AFFILIATES WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE APPLICABLE NUMBER OF TEAMS ACCORDING TO HOW MANY REFEREES THEY HAVE NOMINATED. TEAM NOMINATIONS THAT RESULT IN THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AFFILIATES BEING UNDER THEIR REQUIRED REFEREE QUOTA MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED OR A FEE IMPOSED (see below).

In the instance that a State Championship affiliate is still unable to support the required number of referees, then a specific plan for development will be implemented in consultation with the WA State Manager and State Referee Program Panel. A potential option to extend an invitation to Level 1 accredited referees to meet the above requirements may be offered on a case-by-case basis.

If a referee is nominated, then withdraws they will be need to be replaced by the Affiliate. If they are not replaced a fine of \$500 (GST Exclusive) may be imposed on the State Championship Affiliate.

In conjunction with the State Referee Panel, Touch Football WA has clarified the different referee types and how they affect numbers supplied by each Affiliate towards their referee quota. The criteria is outlined below:

• Full-time Referee – a Referee who is available for the entire three (3) day duration of the event.





- Part-time Referee a Referee who is not available for the entire three (3) days but is available for part of the event (part of one or more days and/or available the whole day for one or two days); and
- Player Referee a Referee who is also playing/coaching/managing in the event.

There is a limit of three (3) Player Referees per Affiliate allowed to be nominated for this event. The three (3) Player Referees will be the equivalent of one (1) Full-time Referee when assessing the Affiliate's ability to meet the Referee quota. There is no maximum number of Part-time referees as long as their collective availability covers the three days of the event.

Item 10 - Insurance

The TFA Accident Insurance Scheme covers all players and officials who have met the insurance criteria of a TFA Affiliated competition. For this tournament the player must be a registered player in a WA Affiliate, or an accepted Pool Player, and their fees have been paid in full for the current season.

Invitational teams must provide evidence of their own insurance coverage. If TFWA determines that the insurance coverage does not match their own, they must purchase insurance from TFA for the duration of the tournament.

Item 11 - Late Entries

Team Nomination Forms received after the relevant closing date will only be accepted at the convenience of the competition (i.e. to replace a bye or another withdrawal) and will incur a late payment of \$100 (GST Exclusive).

Item 12 - Refunds

No refunds will be provided to any team or participant that withdraws after the close of nominations.

A full refund will apply to teams that are not able to play due to insufficient number of teams nominating to make a division active. This will be determined two weeks after the close of nominations.

Item 13 - Registration Process

It is the responsibility of each Affiliate being represented to ensure that all of their players and officials meet the eligibility criteria of the tournament.

Teams can upload their details online via MySideline. Upon receipt of the Team Nomination Form, individual Affiliate codes and instructions on how to comply with this method will be distributed.

Each individual player and official will need to complete their own online registration. The online registration process also includes the completion of the Membership & Participant Declaration.

Teams may register up to:

- 16 players per team for the Open Divisions
- 18 players per team for Over-Age Divisions





• Minimum of ten players per team for all divisions

Players must have uploaded their details by 5:00pm Monday, 5th February 2024. As a minimum, all data fields must be completed for ten players—otherwise the team may be withdrawn from the tournament.

A report on the registered players in each team will be emailed to the Affiliate Contact. This will contain only details of players uploaded online until Monday, 5th February 2024. This is the opportunity to make any final changes to the document. These changes are to be hand-written legibly on the report. Once the Affiliate Contact is happy with the document, they are to sign off on its accuracy.

No deletions, additions or replacements will be permitted after Monday, 5th February 2024. Any changes to playing numbers after this time may result in a \$20 (GST exclusive) fine per offence and must be submitted by the Affiliate Contact.

Touch Football WA must be made aware of changes or issues as soon as possible. This however does not exclude application of the fine.

All Open Teams must comply with the points system.

Participants will also need to accept the Participant Declaration during the online registration process. This acceptance must be completed by all participants including players, team officials and referees. It is the responsibility of the respective State Championship Affiliate to ensure that all their participants have completed all online requirements before taking part in the tournament in any capacity. If Touch Football WA finds issues with the acceptance of the Participant Declaration, it could result in fines or further action.

Team Lists of all Touch Football WA State Championship Affiliates must be endorsed by Touch Football WA and invitational teams must be endorsed by their respective state or national body.

It is the responsibility of the respective State Championship Affiliate to ensure that all their participants have submitted all relevant documentation before taking part in the tournament in any capacity. If Touch Football WA finds issues with the paperwork, it could result in fines or further action.

Item 14 - Player Pool

There will be an opportunity for players to nominate to play in the competition if they come from a State Championship Affiliate that is not sending a team in that particular division. It is not available to unsuccessful players from a State Championship Affiliate who has a team entered.

Before entering the Player Pool, teams should be aware that applying for players from the Player Pool is no guarantee that they will pick up the number or individual(s) they requested.

Similarly, players should also be aware that nominating for the Player Pool is no guarantee that they will be picked up by a team, the team that they requested or with other individuals they requested.

Players nominating for the Player Pool must play for the team they have been allocated too. Player Pool Nomination Forms (players wanting teams) must be submitted to TFWA Office by 5pm Friday, 19th January 2024 and are available on the Touch Football WA website.





Player Pool Application Forms (teams wanting players) must be submitted to TFWA Office by 5pm Friday, 19th January 2024 and are available on the Touch Football WA website.

The Player Pool allocations will be advised by 5pm Friday, 26th January 2024. Pool players will be notified electronically by the State Championship Affiliate who they are allocated to.

There will be one Player Pool process for the event. This will occur in January.

Eligible Players can nominate to TFWA and they will have the option of being selected by a State Championship Affiliate.

State Championship Affiliates can apply to receive Pool Players.

Where a State Championship Affiliate has chosen to not send teams in certain divisions, then they must assist players looking to participate to lodge an application to enter the pool. This provides access for participation for members who are willing to reach another team to participate. In this case the only way that a State Championship Affiliate can stop a participant accessing the pool is for financial liabilities or an issue of not being a current affiliated member of a local TFWA Affiliate. Players in this case can come to TFWA directly for clarification and assistance.

Teams can apply to receive some pool players but are required to have at least ten players before nominating for the competition or Player Pool. Teams can receive a maximum of four players from the Player Pool.

The Player Pool order of selection will occur as follows:

- 1) The team that applies for players and finished last in the previous event in the corresponding division will have first choice of player.
- 2) Then the second last team and so on.
- 3) Teams that did not compete in the previous event in the corresponding division will have the last choice of player.
- 4) If more than one team did not compete in the previous event in the corresponding division, the team that finished last in the event two years prior and so on will have the first choice of player amongst teams not competing in the previous year.
- 5) If teams have not competed previously, teams will choose in alphabetical order.
- 6) Each team will have one choice per rotation.
- 7) New rotations will continue until all team's needs are met or there are no available players remaining in the pool.

Order of Allocation

The following will be the order that the divisions will be allocated:

- a) Men's 40's
- b) Women's 40's
- c) Men's 30's
- d) Women's 30's
- e) Mixed 30's





Therefore, if someone nominated for the Men's 30's and Men's 40's and they were selected in picks during the Men's 30's allocation, they will be required to play for the Men's 30's team regardless of if this was not their preferred division.

Pool Players can be utilised under the following guidelines:

- a) Pool players must have their nominations lodged with the State Championship Affiliate that they have trialled for in accordance with the TFWA State Championship timelines.
- b) Pool players will be notified electronically by the State Championship Affiliate who they are allocated to after the Player Pool allocations.
- c) TFWA will allocate individuals to teams utilising the above-mentioned order of selection process.
- d) The limit that any one team can acquire from the pool is four players unless otherwise determined by TFWA.
- **e)** State Championship Affiliates can request directly to TFWA about recruiting players from outside of WA and these submissions will be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Players nominating for the Player Pool must play for the team they have been allocated too.

Similarly, State Championship Affiliates must allow allocated individuals to play for their team. Financial penalties may be imposed if this does not occur.

Any State Championship Affiliate that applies to Player Pool must notify TFWA the names of players for the proposed team and any shadows that were taken into consideration before they will be permitted to lodge an application for a Pool Player.

If a participant is subject to any financial disputes and this has been documented in writing from the State Championship Affiliate via formal notification to TFWA, an appeal or any other Disciplinary Tribunal matters with an affiliate then that participant is ineligible to participate in the TFWA State Championships.

Item 15 - Transfer of Players & Point Value

The transfer system is designed to promote development within the boundaries of the State Championship Affiliate and indeed such development is rewarded. The concept is based on a points system where each State Championship Affiliate is allowed a certain number of points based on the TFWA Player Points and Transfer Guidelines.

The guidelines for Open division players wishing to transfer to another Affiliate to compete in TFWA events are as follows:

- 1. A player's existing Affiliate is the one that they last represented in the Super League Series or State Championships during the 18-month period prior to the commencement of the event for which the transfer is being sought.
- 2. Players may choose which team they wish to transfer to, however the receiving team is strictly governed by the "Player Transfer Points System" (see below) whereby past and/or current Affiliate, state and/or national representative players attract points.
- 3. Players who receive dispensation as an "import player" will also be considered under the "Player Transfer Points System", and TFWA will have other restrictions or conditions on such "import players" on a case-by-case basis.
- 4. Players who participated at the 2023 WA Super League Series are not permitted to transfer for the 2024 WA State Touch Football Championships without an approved transfer.





- 5. Teams receiving one or more transferred players may only do so if they do not exceed a total of 100 points (for teams who competed in the previous season) or 150 points (for teams who did not compete in the previous season). Teams representing Affiliates/Regions more than 150kms from Perth will receive a points allowance of 150 points.
- 6. A player is considered a 'transferred player' until the nomination due date for Super League the following year. The "Player Transfer Points System" will be enforced during this period.
- 7. Players wishing to transfer to another Affiliate, with whom they would otherwise not be eligible to play, must complete a "Transfer" form.
- 8. The player must submit the "Transfer" form (with the Player's Declaration already completed) to TFWA by 5pm Friday, 19th January 2024. Details of player transfers will be distributed by 5pm Friday, 26th January 2024 and any issues will be identified.
- 9. The player submitting the transfer form should inform their Affiliate of their intention to transfer. All players must be cleared by their existing Affiliate of any financial, disciplinary or other matters and TFWA notified of the clearance for Transfer, otherwise the Transfer may be refused.
- 10. Tournament Management has the right to disallow any Transfer/Dispensation and will review all player transfers in the interests of maintaining a fair competition, regardless of whether the team concerned complies with these guidelines.

Player Transfer Points System:

Points only apply to the players who are being transferred into the team, not for players who last represented the Affiliate concerned in an Open division, or who have never represented any other Affiliate. Players imported from outside Western Australia carry the applicable points every year in which they participate, as do players imported into an Affiliate team for which they remain ineligible.

The points system and the ability to import players from interstate only applies to the Open divisions of the State Championships. All other divisions are subject to the player pool system.

The highest applicable points will apply. For example, if a player competed in last year's Super League and they are also in the Australian Men's Open squad during the past 18 months, then that player would attract 50 points.





Level of Representation during the 18 months prior to the first day of	Points
competition of the WA State Championships.	
State Champs/Super League Open or Equivalent Team (WA, NT, SA, Vic, ACT,	10
Tas)	
International (not AUS/NZ) Junior/Senior Team	10
Western Tigers Senior Team	10
Western Tigers National Youth Championships Team	10
NTL Senior or Equivalent (interstate permit)	15
International (not AUS/NZ) Open Squad	15
International (AUS/NZ) Senior Team	15
State Open Squad Outside WA in one of SA, NT, VIC, TAS or ACT.	25
NSW/QLD Region or State Youth Representative Team.	25
State Champs/Super League Open or Equivalent (QLD, NSW)	25
Western Tigers Open /T League Team	25
International (AUS/NZ) Junior Squad (living and registered in WA)	30
NTL Alliance Elite 8 Representation	40
International (AUS/NZ) Open Squad (living and registered in WA)	50
NTL Open, Elite 8 or Equivalent NSW or QLD based permit.	50
International (AUS/NZ) Junior Squad (living outside of WA)	50
National Rugby League Registered Player	50
Australian Rugby Union/Super Rugby Franchise Registered Player	50
State of Origin (QLD or NSW) Open Team	60
International (AUS/NZ) Open Squad (living outside of WA)	60

Allowable Points - Men's, Women's and Mixed Open

Points Limit	Affiliate
100	Affiliate teams within 150km of Perth who competed at the previous State Championships.
150	Affiliate teams within 150km of Perth who did not compete at the previous State Championships.
150	Country affiliates/regions more than 150km from Perth who competed at the previous State Championships.
200	Country affiliates/regions more than 150km from Perth who did not compete at the previous State Championships.

Note:

Transferred players do not require "dispensation" (as mentioned in the Conditions of Entry) unless they do not meet the eligibility criteria for both the Affiliate they are being transferred from and the Affiliate they are being transferred too.

TFWA has complete discretion to allocate or adjust points on a case-by-case basis, with any consideration for variation to the points system to be through application in writing.

Those players granted "Home Grown Status" will carry 50% of the points system. Please refer to Player Eligibility Section B Item 3.





Item 16 - Tents & Associated Equipment

Each State Championship Affiliate will be provided with a team marquee space for the duration of the event. Marquees may be shared between different Affiliates depending on the number of teams entered. TFWA will allocate the position of tents and while preference will be considered, it is not guaranteed.

All associated equipment including (ice-baths not permitted in 2024 – Health Department recommendations), chairs, sporting equipment, medical supplies and appliances are considered to the be the sole property of the State Championship Affiliate utilising the equipment and any unauthorised use will not be tolerated. State Championship Affiliates will be responsible for ensuring the safety and protection of all equipment they bring into the venue.

TFWA cannot guarantee water or power can be accessed at every State Championship Affiliates' tent. State Championship Affiliates are encouraged to sort out any arrangements such as water or power access by 5:00PM Friday, 26th January 2024.

Please Note: There is NO vehicle access to the grounds at UWA Sports Park. If you have heavy items TFWA will have a trolley available for affiliates to take items to their allocated marquee.

Please also note: All affiliate marquees must be cleared by 8.30pm on Sunday 11th February as all the irrigation will be turned on. TFWA accepts no responsibility for any damaged property left in the marquees.

Item 17 - Uniforms

Any playing uniform displaying the NRL Touch Football logo must be positioned on the right-hand breast of the playing top and the right-front of the playing short leg.

When used, Affiliate/ State logos must be placed on the left-hand breast of the playing top and left-front of the playing short leg as per the TFA Uniform Guidelines.

The use of Touch Football Australia's Intellectual Property (IP) including the NRL Touch Football logo is restricted under license agreement and must only be used by licensed apparel suppliers listed below:

Inferno	Tribal Sport
Steeden	EV2 (formally known as EMUSportswear)
ISC Teamwear	S-Trend
Dynasty Sport	Struddys
BLK International	KBS Sportswear

All playing uniforms must include:

- a securely fixed numbered shirt, singlet, bodysuit or two-piece suit (no temporary measures such as tape will be permitted to replace numbers);
- a 1 or 2 digit number which meets the requirements of the TFA rules of the game;
- no three digit numbers will be permitted;
- 0 can only be used in the following numbers: 0, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50;
- shorts or bike pants;





- footwear which meets the requirements of the TFA rules of the game; and
- socks (that are visible);

The only playing numbers permissible are between 0 and 50. No numbers outside that range will be permitted.

Only approved playing uniforms will be permissible for players to wear while they are involved in any game at the tournament. To assist with crowd control, team officials must also wear State Championship Affiliate issued clothing while they are involved in any game and ensure they wear closed footwear (i.e. if they are in the interchange area or in an alternative coaching position).

There are to be no changes to the playing uniform (i.e. inner or outer clothing or style of clothing) unless the State Championship Affiliate has previously submitted a medical exemption request for a player to Touch Football WA and that request has been granted.

A combination of playing uniforms is not permitted within a specific team. All members of the team must wear the same style, cut and design of shirt, singlet top, shorts, bike pants, body suits and socks.

In addition to being advised to rectify the issues/breaches, a \$20 (GST Exclusive) fine per offence to a maximum of \$100 (GST Exclusive) may be issued to Affiliates for breaches of not wearing the correct uniform including non-conforming Affiliate/Other Hats

All current uniform designs are to be forwarded to <u>warren.smiles@touchfootball.com.au</u> by 5:00PM Friday 15th December 2023 to ensure that no obvious uniform clashes occur.

Any player who is not playing in the official uniform will not be permitted to take the field of play until correctly attired. Referees will endeavour to enforce this rule, however if a breach is proven to have occurred it will result in a caution and fine as deemed appropriate by Tournament Management.

Compression Clothing:

The use of short length compression apparel such as short thigh length or calf length items of clothing will be permissible to be worn by a player (underneath their official uniform) and must be barely visible. The use of longer compression apparel will require medical dispensation from Touch Football WA prior to wearing in a game.

Item 18 - Tournament Briefing

The Tournament Briefing will be organised with Team Managers along with the Managers Pack.

The Tournament Briefing will be conducted online via video meeting. Team Managers will be sent confirmation of the briefing on Monday 5th February 2024. This briefing will include all information relating to the tournament and will be held on Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 6.30pm (20mins).

A link to join the online meeting will be sent to Team Managers and Affiliate contacts on Wednesday 7th February 2024.

TFWA staff will audit the received paperwork and Affiliate Contacts or Team Managers can collect their official Match Ball(s) and Managers Pack(s) once all paperwork has been handed in. TFWA will not issue these items if all the State Championship Affiliates' paperwork has not been received.





C - EVENT SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Item 1 - Rules

The 8th Edition of the TFA Playing Rules will apply unless otherwise stated. Rules can be viewed under the 'Policies' tab on the Touch Football WA website: https://touchfootball.com.au/about-touch-football/rules/

Drop-off:

Should a Winner be required in drawn matches, the following Drop-Off procedure is used to determine a Winner.

- Each Team will reduce their on-field Team to four (4) players and within 60 seconds take up a position to restart play from the Halfway Line, defending the same end of the field as at the End of Play.
- The Drop-Off commences with a Tap from the centre of the Halfway Line by the Team that did not commence the match with Possession.
- The Drop-Off will commence with a two (2) minute period of extra time.
- Should a Team be leading at the expiration of the two (2) minute period of extra time then that Team will be declared the Winner and Match complete.
- Should neither Team be leading at the expiration of two (2) minutes, a signal is given and the match will pause at the next Touch or Dead Ball. Each Team will then remove another player from the Field of Play.
- The Match will recommence immediately after the players have left the field at the same
 place where it paused (i.e. the Team retains Possession at the designated number of
 Touches, or at Change of Possession due to some Infringement or the sixth Touch) and the
 Match will continue until a Try is scored.
- There is no time off during the Drop-Off and the clock does not stop at the two (2) minute interval.
- Substitution during the Drop-Off is permitted in accordance with normal Interchange Rules.
- Mixed gender Teams may have no more than (2) males on the field during the Drop-Off.
- In the case of a male player serving time in the Sin Bin at the commencement of the Drop-Off the offending Team will start with no more than one (1) male on the field.
- Where a male player has been dismissed for the remainder of the match, the offending
 Team will be permitted to have no more than one (1) male on the field for the duration of the
 Drop-Off.
- At the commencement of the Drop-Off, if there is a player serving time in the Sin Bin and is
 yet to complete the required time, their Team commences the Drop-Off with one (1) less
 player on the field than their opposition and continues to play with one (1) player less until
 the Sin Bin period has been completed.
- At the commencement of the Drop-Off, if a Team has had a player dismissed for the remainder of the match that Team continues to play with one (1) player less than the opposition Team for the duration of the Drop-Off.
- The non-offending Team will retain a numerical advantage on the Field of Play during the Drop-Off in the instance of a dismissed player.

Forced Interchange

Where the Referee deems it necessary to implement a Forced Interchange following an Infringement, the Referee is to stop the match, direct the ball to be placed on the Mark, advise the offending player





of the reason for the Forced Interchange, direct that player to return to the Interchange Area, display the relevant signal and award a Penalty to the non-offending Team.

Stand-off

When a player from the Defending Team enters its defensive Seven Metre Zone the Defending Team must move forward at a reasonable pace until a Touch is Imminent or made.

Ruling = A Penalty to the Attacking Team at the point of the Infringement.

When a player in Possession enters the Defending Teams' Seven Metre Zone the Defending Team is not obliged to move Forward but cannot retire back towards their Try Line until a Touch is Imminent or made.

Ruling = A Penalty to the Attacking Team at the seven (7) metre line in line with the point of the Infringement

Sin Bin

The on-field Referee is required to indicate the commencement and the end of the Sin Bin time. Any player sent to the Sin Bin must stand in the Sin Bin Area at the opposition's end of the Field of Play and on the same side as their Interchange Area.

The player is counted as a player on the Field of Play and cannot be replaced or interchanged.

A player is sent to the Sin-Bin Area for a period of four (4) completed possessions.

Any player sent to the Sin Bin must return to the Interchange Area prior to re-entering the Field of Play. Any action that causes the Touch Count to restart will result in a continuation of that Possession. For the avoidance of doubt, should a defender knock the ball down or give away a Penalty, this does not mean that the Possession has been completed, but rather the Possession continues.

Dismissal

A player or official dismissed for misconduct is to take no further part in that match and is to move to and remain outside the Perimeter for the remainder of the match.

The dismissed player or official cannot be replaced and, in accordance with TFA Disciplinary Regulations, that player shall receive an automatic two (2) match suspension.

Item 2 - Tournament Management

Touch Football WA Tournament Management will be in charge of all matters relating to this tournament.

Touch Football WA will determine and/or interpret matters not covered by the Conditions of Entry and Touch Football WA decisions will be final. Touch Football WA has the right to amend any tournament rule if required.

Tournament Management has a number of recognised processes available to support the overall management and conduct of the event. These processes may include informal and formal means and it is at the discretion of Tournament Management as to which avenues are used to eliminate issues or caution participants.

Touch Football WA maintains various events records based on previous incidents and issues. These records can be drawn on when faced with a current issue or problem if they relate. All participants need to be aware of this process and understand that information can be carried over and applied if necessary.

Furthermore, during an event there is often limited time available to complete written administrative tasks, therefore items such as recorders and templates are used to be time effective.





Item 3 - Draw Formula

After the close of nominations, an indicative draw will be distributed.

The draft draw will only be distributed after team lists have been submitted and all nomination fees have been paid. An updated draw will be distributed to State Championships Affiliates with any additional draw changes advised as soon as possible.

The final draw will be distributed by **Friday**, **2**nd **February 2024** pending the payment of Team Levies.

Item 4 - Playing Times

All games in the tournament will be twenty minutes each way with a half time break not exceeding five minutes.

With the exception of the Extreme Weather Policy being enforced which may see a variance to the above stated game periods.

All finals games must result in an outright winner. In the event of a drawn match at the end of full-time, a drop-off will determine the match winner.

Item 5 - Match Balls

All teams must use the official Match Ball in all games throughout the tournament. Footballs will be supplied by Touch Football WA to each team which can be collected at Tournament Control by a team official.

Item 6 - Competition Points

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

Win = Three (3) Points Draw = Two (2) Points

Loss = One (1) Point

Forfeit = Zero (0) Points for the Offending Team

Bye = Zero (0) Points- If there are an equal number of byes allocated within the pool Bye = Three (3) Points-If there is an unequal number of byes allocated within the pool

Item 7 - Forfeits

Teams that Forfeit less than a week out from the Tournament will receive a \$200 (GST exclusive) fine and Teams that Forfeit on the day of a match will receive a \$300 (GST exclusive) fine. These fines will be issued to the teams Affiliate.

Teams must be in attendance at their playing fields five minutes before the commencement of their round matches or advertised time for Grand Finals.

It is the responsibility of each captain to report to the referees two minutes before the commencement of their round games or advertised time for Grand Finals so that the toss of the coin





can be affected without loss of time. If a team is not at the field at the appropriate time of the game, the attending team can be awarded the winning of the toss.

The offending team will receive a maximum of five minutes from the commencement of the game (siren/whistle) to position the team on the field and be ready to commence play.

If the offending team is not in attendance after the five minutes has expired, the game will be deemed a forfeit and the non-offending team will be awarded a 5-0 win and three competition points. The offending team will receive a score of 0-5 and no competition points. The offending team will be penalised one try after the first minute and one try for every minute thereafter up to five minutes.

The Affiliate Contact of an offending team will be required to give reasons in writing as to why their team should not be excluded from participating in any further matches. Tournament Management or an appointed Judiciary will decide upon receipt of the report if the offending teams' action warranted the need to forfeit the match and will incur a monetary fine of \$500 (GST exclusive). The team will then be ruled ineligible to participate in the respective final series. This written report must be submitted to Tournament Management before the completion of the timeslot relating to the forfeited match.

Forfeits in the Final Series

If a team is forced to forfeit in the final series, the respective Affiliate Contact must submit in writing the reasons for their forfeiture and it must be then approved by Tournament Management, or the following automatic penalties will apply:

- 1. A monetary fine of \$500 (GST exclusive) will be imposed upon the forfeiting team, which will be invoiced to the relevant State Championships Affiliate, who is subsequently responsible to pay.
- 2. The forfeiting team's overall standing will be demoted to last place in the pool and carry over to the following year when the new draw is completed.
- 3. The State Championships Affiliate of the forfeiting team will be ineligible to apply for or receive any pool players from the following year's player pool relating to the same division in which the forfeit took place.

NOTE: Forfeits for any reason in the final series negates the forfeiting team's rights to participate further in the tournament.

Item 8 - Determining Positions for Finals

Positions for the Final Series will be determined as follows:

- 1. Highest competition points if equal
- 2. Difference (for and against) if equal
- 3. Percentages if equal
- 4. Result of Round game if draw
- 5. Drop off

FORFEIT AFFECTED POSITIONS

If two or more teams finish level on competition points and any of those teams were involved in a forfeited match in the round games, the forfeit may cause some obvious problems. When a non-offending team has been involved in a forfeit, the 'for and against' from that forfeit will not count in the final calculations.





Similarly, for the other teams that finish on equal points, they will have the 'for and against' from that forfeited team deducted from their total. For teams involved competing against teams on two occasions during the tournament, the calculations for the benefit of this rule will be the corresponding game in each round. For example:

Team C forfeits to Team A in game three (first round)

Team A wins 5 - 0 on forfeit. Team B defeats Team C 5 - 3 in game four (first round)

If after the round games, the 'for and against' is:

Team A – 50 for and 10 against (plus 40) Team B – 60 for and 20 against (plus 40)

The above results would be deducted first, and the result is:

Team A – 45 for and 10 against (plus 35) Team B – 55 for and 17 against (plus 38)

Therefore, Team B would gain the higher position

For the purpose of keeping records, if a forfeit occurs, the non-offending team will be awarded a 5-0 win and three competition points. The offending team will receive zero competition points and will receive a score of 0-5 against their record.

This section only deals with forfeited affected positions for non-offending teams. The offending team that causes the forfeit will have their calculations treated as normal as they have been penalised by not gaining any competition points for the match they forfeited.

DIFFERENCES

The difference is determined by subtracting the total number of trys scored 'against' from the number of try's scored 'for'. The team with the best difference will obtain the high position. For example:

Team A scores 50 for and 10 against Team B scores 40 for and 10 against

By subtracting the 'against' from the 'for', Team A would be 'plus 40', whilst Team B would be 'plus 30'. Team A would therefore obtain the higher position.

If teams have the same 'difference' the percentage system would then apply.

PERCENTAGES

If this system is used, it is easily explained that the 'difference' is in the 'plus' situation (see above), the team with the least amount of trys scored against them, would obtain the higher position. However, if the 'difference' is in the 'minus' situation, the team that has scored the most trys (for) would obtain the high position.





The percentage system is calculated by placing try's 'for' over try's 'against' and multiplying by 100 over 1.

Team A=(50/10)X100=500% Team B=(60/20)X100=300%

In the above example Team A would obtain the higher percentage

RESULT OF ROUNDS

If all is equal, then the results of the preliminary game between the two will determine the higher position.

DROP-OFF

If the result of the round game was a draw, a drop-off will occur with details to be communicated by Tournament Management.

Item 9 - Complaints and Protests

TFWA recognise that all parties wish to have the opportunity, should a situation arise, to have their position heard and/or considered.

A 'complaint' may be dealt with informally or formally through the lodgement of an Official Protest.

Tournament Management aims to provide a simple dispute resolution process for complaints based on the principles of procedural fairness. Any person (a complainant) may report a complaint about a person/s, and/or organisation.

Tournament Management will ensure a fair hearing/consideration occurs at various levels in a fair and reasonable manner. However, TFWA also requires that as the primary purpose is to seek an outcome/resolve an issue, all in attendance at a judiciary is to work on that basis and the primary purpose of all in attendance is to work within the framework stipulated. The aim to deal with the complaint or incident at the lowest level at which a matter can be dealt with shall always be preferred.

TFWA reminds all parties that the following issues will not be open to protest and therefore formally advises all teams that they must be aware of, and comply with this requirement, prior to the commencement of games:

- The Referee The referee is the sole judge on matters of fact and is required to adjudicate on the rules of the game during play. The referee may impose any sanction necessary to control the match and in particular award penalties for infringements against the rules, at his/her discretion and interpretation
- Authority of the Referee Players, coaches and officials of both teams are under the control of the officiating referee, during the conduct of a game/match.

Any protest put to Tournament Management on the above issues will be dismissed without the right of appeal.

Tournament Management does request that any matter associated with the above may be brought to the attention of Tournament Referee Management so that direct discussions can occur with the TFWA Referee Panel and subsequently the referee, as required.

All other complaints will be dealt with promptly, seriously, sensitively and confidentially, as per the outline above.





If you wish to remain 'Anonymous' in the lodgement of any complaint or issue, Tournament Management may have difficulty assisting you to resolve your complaint. Procedural fairness means that Tournament Management is required to provide the person/people you have complained about with full disclosure of details pertinent to the complaint and the complainant, so they have a fair opportunity to respond.

Item 10 - Informal Complaint/Resolution Process

Step 1: Talk with the other person (where this is reasonable, safe, and appropriate)

In the first instance, you (the Complainant) should try to sort out and resolve the problem with the person or people involved (respondent) if you feel able to do so.

Step 2: Ask Tournament Management to become involved

The Tournament Management will:

- take confidential notes about your complaint;
- · try to establish the facts of the problem;
- ask what outcome/how you want the problem resolved and if you need support;
- provide possible options for you to resolve the problem;
- refer you to an appropriate person to help you resolve the problem, if necessary;
- inform the relevant government authorities and/or police if required by law to do so;

Step 3: Outcomes from initial contact with Tournament Management

After talking with Tournament Management, you may decide:

- there is no problem;
- the problem is minor and you do not wish to progress the matter;
- to try and work out your own resolution; or
- to seek a mediated resolution with the help of a third person (such as a mediator); or
- to seek a formal process.

Item 11 - Formal Protest Process or Tournament Management Investigation of a Breach

Step 1: Making a Formal complaint through lodging a Protest

If your complaint is not resolved or informal approaches are not appropriate or possible, you may:

- lodge a formal protest;
- to ensure protests are seriously lodged a \$200 bond must be provided;
- protests are to be lodged (by Affiliate Contact or their nominated representative) within 30 minutes of the conclusion of game or an appropriate Tournament Management determination.

Upon receiving a formal complaint via the protest form, or if a potential breach of the rules or Conditions of Entry of the event has occurred Tournament Management will decide whether:

- they are the most appropriate person to receive and handle the protest or breach;
- to investigate the matter and resolve if possible, using the existing parameters such as the Conditions of the event or precedent;
- undertake avenues to mediate a desirable outcome;





- the nature and seriousness of the complaint warrants a formal member protection procedure;
- to refer the complaint to a disciplinary regulations process and hearings tribunal;
- to refer the matter to the police or other appropriate authority;

In making the decision(s) outlined above, Tournament Management will take into account:

- whether they have had any personal involvement in the circumstances which means that someone else should handle the protest or breach;
 - whether the facts of the protest or breach are in dispute; and
 - the urgency of the protest or breach, including the possibility considerable disadvantage while the investigation and resolution process is underway.

If Tournament Management is the appropriate person to handle the protest or breach they will, to the extent that these steps are necessary:

- put the information they have received from you to the person/people you are protesting about and ask them to provide their side of the story;
- decide if there is established information on the balance of probabilities to determine whether the matter alleged in your protest or breach did or did not happen; and/or
- determine what, if any, further action to take to reach a resolution or outcome.

Step 2: Investigation of the Protest or Breach/Scorecard Dispute

- a person appointed by Tournament Management will conduct an investigation to determine what further action to take;
- if the protest is referred to mediation, to resolve;
- if the protest or breach is referred to a hearings tribunal, the hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations;

Step 3: Resolution

Tournament Management will document the complaint or protest, the process and the outcome. The Affiliate Contact or their nominated representative will be notified of the decision. Any notice to be served on any person to attend a hearing will be served on the Affiliate Contact or their nominated representative. Any such service is deemed to be served on all parties or persons within that State Championship Entity.

The documents will be stored in an event-based folder that will allow for future reference if required. If the protest is upheld, then the bond will be returned. If the protest is dismissed, the bond may not be returned and would be retained by the event.

Step 4: Reconsideration of initial outcome or subsequent appeal

If, under this process you are not satisfied, you may request that Tournament Management reconsider the complaint or protest through the appeal process. The grounds and process for appeals then moves to the First Level Appeal Process, explained within the TFA Disciplinary Regulations.

Item 12 - Disciplinary Regulations

TFA have implemented Disciplinary Regulations and have expressly withdrawn the A Ready Reference Guide to Judiciary Matters.

Touch Football Australia is the 'TFA Authority' and when using the Disciplinary Regulations commences at the Disciplinary Tribunal level and allows for a first level appeal to occur in an event





environment. This is therefore the final level of an appeal that will be used within the event environment.

A second level appeal process is available, however cannot be implemented inside an event environment. Second level appeals will be undertaken separately to an event under normal Disciplinary Regulations timelines and processes (see Points 7-18 below).

In all cases the Disciplinary Regulations apply to this event, with amendments to the timelines (annotated in Bold) to ensure the urgency in dealing with situations that arise in an event context as outlined below:

7. CONVENING DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

(b) Notification of persons charged under these Disciplinary Regulations must include details of the day, time and place of the Disciplinary Tribunal hearing at which the charge will be heard in accordance with these Disciplinary Regulations and must be provided at least one hours' notice to such hearing.

8. REPORTS BY OFFICIALS

- 8.2 Two match suspension under TFA Playing Rules
- (a) Where a player has been dismissed for the remainder of the match by a referee under rule 23 of the Touch Football Rules, 8th Edition (as amended from time to time), the referee must report the dismissal to the relevant TFA Authority. Under the Playing Rules a player dismissed for the remainder of the match will receive an automatic two match suspension from all matches conducted by any affiliated Touch Association. Any such automatic two match suspension must be reported verbally by the referee or competition organiser within 30 minutes, with two hours allowed to provide the written report.

11. DUTIES OF TFA AUTHORITY UPON RECEIVING A REPORT

- (b) Provide the charged person, team or club with a copy of the Incident Report form. In carrying out this function the Hearings Officer shall:
 - (A) provide a copy of the Incident Report form to the charged person (or a representative of a charged team or club) a minimum of one hours' notice prior to the hearing; or
 - (B) if the TFA Authority does not have contact details for the charged person, team or club, make a copy of the Incident Report form available for collection by the charged person, team or club and notify the team manager of the requirement to collect the form;

18. NOTICE OF APPEAL

- a) The Appellant must:
 - lodge a notice stating full details of charges and results thereof and stating in full
 the grounds of appeal with the Appeals Officer within 30 minutes of the notification
 of a determination of a Disciplinary Tribunal hearing using the Notice of Appeal
 form at Appendix D or other form issued by the TFA Authority ('Notice of Appeal');
 and
 - II. pay the appeal fee to the Appeals Officer when lodging the Notice of Appeal, which shall be:





- (a) \$200 for an Appeal Tribunal conducted by a TFA Authority (first level of appeal); and
- (b) \$400 for a TFA Appeal Tribunal conducted by Touch Football Australia (second level of appeal).

The appeal fees do not apply in the case of appeals by minors and may be waived (in any other case) in the discretion of the Appeals Officer.

b) An Appellant shall be notified by the Appeals Officer within 12 hours of receipt of the first level Notice of Appeal as to whether an appeal hearing is to be granted (under regulation 17) and the time, date and place of the appeal hearing, in the event that it is granted.

Item 13 - Suspensions

In the event of a player being sent from the field for the remainder of the game, an automatic two match suspension will apply unless the Disciplinary Tribunal considers further action is warranted.

Any player who receives three separate periods of time throughout the tournament will be required to appear before Tournament Management to show cause why he/she should not be given an automatic two match suspension (or more if the Disciplinary Tribunal considers further action is warranted).

The suspension applies to the next two matches the team participates in at the event or future events. It does not include byes, or if the player belongs to a team that forfeits in a match. Games forfeited to the suspended player's team will count.

Any player who receives a third period of time during the final's series will automatically receive a two game suspension at the following TFWA event they participate in.

In the event that a suspension or penalty is imposed that may affect a local or state event, there needs to be communication with the relevant state office.

Item 14 - Eligibility Issues

In the event of a protest being lodged regarding a player's eligibility (should Touch Football WA feel the protest has foundation), the State Championships Affiliate will be required to provide proof of eligibility.

Documentation of an individual required to prove eligibility would include:

- Statutory Declaration for the individual that they have met eligibility criteria
- Copy of the individuals Registration Form
- Copy of typed sign-on sheets of which the individual participated in to be eligible

Should a State Championship Affiliate be unable to prove eligibility of a player, they will be unable to participate in the tournament. If the individual has already participated, the team will lose any points gained while playing an ineligible player.

Review Process:

After the Final Team Lists are lodged online, player names will be distributed to Affiliate Contacts. If there are any issues with the eligibility of individuals, they are to lodge a Protest with Tournament Management with accompanying evidence.

No Protests can be lodged about listed individuals after 5:00PM Saturday, 10th February 2024.

Item 15 - Score Sheets





It is the responsibility of each team to allocate the appropriate person to sign the score sheet at the end of each game. The appropriate person can be seen as the Coach or Team Manager. In signing the score sheet the nominated person on behalf of their team has acknowledged and accepted the information contained on the score sheet to be true and accurate.

This information includes:

- Full-time and half-time scores
- Playing Numbers
- Try scorers
- Send Offs or Period of Times

Touch Football WA encourages all referees, team players and officials to communicate throughout the game to make sure that all parties have responsibility in ensuring that the score sheet is correct. If you do not agree with the information on the score sheet, do not sign the score sheet and lodge a protest via the Affiliate Contact as indicated above.

If the score sheet has not been signed and the time has passed for a protest to be lodged, the information on the scoresheet will be recorded. If the information on the score sheet is unclear, the relevant parties may be contacted to confirm.

Item 16 - Score Disputes

If a team does not agree with the score on the score sheet, they are to lodge a protest via the Affiliate Contact as indicated above.

The following information is to be provided with the protest:

- Who tapped off
- The order the scoring occurred (including player numbers of both teams)
- The half-time and full-time score

The opposing team will be called to verify the score. If they do not agree or in the event of inconclusive evidence the score will be recorded as the score that the referees have recorded. Alternatively, video evidence can be provided, and the evidence will be used if conclusive.

Item 17 - Additional Players

A team may only play 14 players per match. If a team registers more than 14 players for the tournament then the management of the team must correctly indicate on the score sheet that will be available at the field, who the players are and who will be playing in that match by crossing off the player names off the score sheet who will not be playing.

Tournament Management will take a common-sense approach to teams who do not purposefully break this rule by failing to complete this administrational requirement. A \$20 (GST exclusive) fine per additional player will be issued to the State Championship Affiliate if this occurs.

If a team believes that the opposition plays an unregistered player or plays more than 14 players, they are to lodge a protest. For the protest to be upheld, the opposition must agree that they broke this rule or conclusive video evidence must be provided.





Item 18 - Interchange Area Rules

The interchange areas will be positioned on both sides of the fields, as illustrated in the 8th Edition of the TFA Playing Rules (six a side).

The team winning or awarded the toss has the right to choose the interchange area on behalf of their team.

A maximum of 20 registered participants (including players, coaches, and team managers) may be present on the playing surface (including interchange area and permitted coaching positions). Each individual must wear closed footwear.

Failure to comply with this will result in individuals being asked to leave the field for the duration of the game and may result in further action. If a team believes that the opposition had more than 20 registered participants in their interchange area, they may lodge a protest. For the protest to be upheld, the opposition must agree that they broke this rule or conclusive video evidence must be provided.

If the protest is upheld, it cannot change the result of the game however, it may attract significant fines

Item 19 - Incorrect Substitutions

Interchange Procedure:

- 17.1 Players may Interchange at any time.
- 17.2 There is no limit to the number of times a player may Interchange.
- 17.3 Interchange players must remain in their Interchange Area for the duration of the match.
- 17.4 Interchanges may only occur after the player leaving the Field of Play has entered the Interchange Area.
- 17.5 Players leaving or entering the Field of Play shall not hinder or obstruct play.
- Ruling A Penalty to the non offending Team at the point of the Infringement.
- 17.6 Players entering the Field of Play must take up an Onside position before becoming involved in play. *Ruling A Penalty to the non offending Team at the point of the Infringement.*
- 17.7 When an intercept has occurred or a line break made, players are not permitted to Interchange until the next Touch has been made or ball becomes Dead.

Ruling A = If a player enters the Field of Play and prevents the scoring of a Try, a Penalty Try will be awarded and the offending player sent to the Sin Bin.

Ruling B = If a player enters the Field of Play but does not impede the scoring of a Try the off ending player will be sent to the Sin Bin.

17.8 Following a Try, players may Interchange at will, without having to wait for the player to enter the Interchange Area but must do so prior to the Tap being taken to recommence play.





Item 20 - Coaching Positions

A coach may position themselves at the end of a field. If they are at the end of the field, they must remain five meters behind the dead ball line. Where a fence or advertising signage prevents this, they must remain behind the fence or advertising signage.

Any coaching/managing staff at the end of a playing field cannot issue any verbal or physical commands directly to the team they are observing and can only communicate to the team or other coaching/management staff in the interchange area by returning to the interchange area, or by use of electronic communication equipment.

Any person found to be disregarding this tournament rule will be asked to return to the interchange area. Coaches are reminded that they are under the jurisdiction of the referee regardless of being either in the interchange area or at the end of the field.

Failure to comply with this will result in individuals being asked to leave the venue for the duration of the game and may result in further action.

Item 21 - Spectators

Spectators must not be within 5m of any Field Boundaries during game play.

Event Staff will be responsible for ensuring all teams meet this requirement.

Item 22 - Affiliate Contact Meetings and Guidelines

All Affiliate Contacts meetings must be attended by the registered Affiliate Contacts only, or their nominated replacement, who must also be a registered official with the State Championship Affiliate concerned.

The Affiliate Contact is not to enter the field of play before, during or after a match except for in an emergency situation. The Affiliate Contact may request the opportunity to speak to the Referees Panel through Tournament Management.

The Affiliate Contact is responsible for submitting all reports, number changes or protests on behalf of their State Championships Affiliate.

Item 23 - Communication with Referees

During a match, only the team captain can communicate with a referee. This communication must only occur between the captain and the on-field referees i.e. not the referee water carriers

After the conclusion of a match, the Team Manager or Coach can approach the referees to sign the score sheet but are not to engage in 'heated' discussion.

A meeting may be established to discuss any issues arising during the game via a request through Tournament Management after a 30 minute 'cool off' period has passed.

Those permitted to attend the meeting include:

• Coach





- Designated Affiliate Contact
- Touch Football WA Tournament Management (or designated staff member)
- Match Referee(s)
- Referee Panel Member(s)

Item 24 - Presentations

All trophies and medallions will be presented to the teams and individuals at the conclusion of their respective final matches wherever possible, or as soon as practical. Touch Football WA is committed to adequately recognising all finalists and therefore will look to adopt measures that reflect this.

A comprehensive presentation format will be circulated to all team contacts.

Item 25 - Talent Identification

This event will be used for the continuous Talent Identification process for the selection of state squads. It is important for the purposes of selection; any number changes or uniform issues are communicated with Tournament Management.

It is not necessary for players to nominate for this process; however, all players will be assessed unless they inform Touch Football WA that they are not available for selection.

Selectors will be responsible for the selection of the most valuable player in each division during the Grand Finals.

D-POLICIES

Item 1 - Policies

It is the responsibility of each State Championship Affiliates to ensure that their respective Affiliates behave in the manner as detailed in the:

- TFA Constitution and By Laws
- 2024 Touch Football WA State Championships presented by LiveLighter Conditions of Entry
- Touch Football WA's Disciplinary Guidelines
- TFA Code of Conduct
- TFA Member Protection Policy
- TFA Child Protection Requirements
- TFA Anti-Doping Policy
- TFA Responsibility Code

All of these documents are available from Touch Football WA, or from the Touch Football WA and TFA websites.

In addition to the Membership & Participant Declaration Form, which is to be accepted online by all players and officials, the following rules of conduct must be followed:

Players/Officials will at all times comply with the reasonable and lawful directions, requests and instructions of Touch Football WA and Staff, Affiliate Contacts and Team Management.





Players/Officials will exhibit exemplary conduct at all times including whilst travelling to and from the tournament.

Players/Officials causing wilful damage to property will be required to take responsibility for that damage and make appropriate restitution. Such players may also expect to be suspended or dismissed from participating further in the tournament and any future tournaments or teams.

Players/Officials/Affiliate Spectators are required to demonstrate respect for fellow players, administrators, and officials at all times. Ill-disciplined, poor behaviour or lack of respect for other persons or property may result in the suspension and/or dismissal of the player from the tournament and any future tournaments or teams. Further action may also be taken.

You are reminded that by law a player under 18 years of age is not permitted under any circumstances to enter a licensed premise or to partake in the consumption of alcohol while at the event, or while travelling to and from the event.

Any player/official found to have participated in group dares/scavenger hunt that includes the theft or damage to property may result in that player being suspended and/or dismissal of the player from the tournament. Further action may also be taken.

Any player/official caught participating in a 'nude/streak' run during the time the tournament is being conducted may be suspended from all Touch for a period of up to 12 months from the date of the offence.

The taking or supplying of any illegal drug will not be tolerated. Any player/official found to be breaking the law by using or supplying illegal drugs will be handed over to the Police for due process.

Any player/official/spectator that uses offensive language towards other players, officials or administrators may result in that person receiving a suspension and/or dismissal of the person from the tournament. Further action may also be taken.

Any practice that involves any form of victimisation, financial fines, abuse or physical or sexual harassment will not be tolerated.

Touch Football WA will coordinate the investigation of any reports of a breach of these codes and policies. If proven, strong action will be taken by Touch Football WA.

Item 2 - Member Protection

Member Protection is a significant issue both within the community and within the sports environment. Touch Football WA has a moral responsibility to ensure we are remaining current with Member Protection issues related to the members of Touch Football WA.

One initiative that Touch Football WA is currently adopting as an education process on the issue is the 'Play by the Rules' program available at www.playbytherules.net.au. This website has a number of interactive courses that coaches and officials can undertake to learn more about Member Protection. Below is the statement from the home page of the Play by the Rules website.

Play by the Rules provides information and online learning about how to prevent and deal with discrimination, harassment and child abuse for the sport and recreation industry. Play by the Rules is a partnership between the Australian Sports Commission and all State/Territory sport and recreation and anti-discrimination agencies.





The information on Play by the Rules is not intended to be, nor should it be relied upon as, a substitute for legal or other professional advice. Play by the Rules is supported by the Australian and State and Territory Governments.

Touch Football WA will encourage each official attending Touch Football WA events to complete the online course and supply to their State Championships Affiliates a certificate of completing the course. The course is very easy, informative and takes limited time to complete. The printed certificate would be submitted at the Tournament Briefing with the Registration Information.

The certificate can be supplied and then a register can be maintained for future events, therefore the ongoing requirement would be for new officials each event. We hope that you find value in this initiative as we all work towards providing an environment that is both positive and safe for all participants.

Item 3 - Legal Guardianship Issues

Legal Guardianship is the responsibility of the State Championships Affiliates.

In some instances, persons under the age of 18 will be in attendance at the event. In understanding our expectations around your role and responsibilities we provide you some additional information related to legal guardianship.

This communication contains general advice only and does not take into account individual objectives, circumstances and/or a legal view. The information contained in this communication is only to offer some additional information on this particular area and individual research and advice should be sort for your personal circumstance.

Guardians – A guardianship is a legal right given to a person to be responsible for the food, healthcare, housing, and other necessities of a person deemed fully or partially incapable of providing these necessities for himself or herself.

What are a Guardian's Duties:

The guardian makes decisions about how the person lives including their residence, healthcare, food and social activity. The guardian is intended to monitor the person, to make sure that the person lives in the most appropriate, least restrictive environment possible, with appropriate food, clothing, social opportunities and medical care.

Communication with the Parents:

Ensure you are informed of any medical concerns, including food allergies. In addition, you will need to agree on things like sleeping arrangements, the administration of over-the-counter medications, and procedures for contacting the parents in an emergency.

Information provided and acknowledged from the following websites:

http://www.expertlaw.com/library/estate_planning/guardianship.html

Item 4 - Supervision of Under Age Players

State Championship Affiliates are to be reminded that they are responsible for the direct supervision of any player or official who is under the age of 18 years. All steps should be taken by the State





Championships Affiliate to protect these persons from all forms of harassment. This includes ensuring that:

- All minors must be made fully aware of the TFA Code of Conduct
- All officials comply with the relevant Child Protection laws
- When travelling to, during and from the tournament all care is taken to supervise minors

Item 5 - Child Protection

Anyone who will be taking part in the 2024 WA State Touch Football Championships who will be dealing with a 'substantial' number of players who are under the age of 18 years will be required to hold a valid Working with Children's Check. What is deemed to be a 'substantial' number of players will be determined by Touch Football WA in conjunction with the WWC Screening Unit and the Sports Federation. Please note that parents who are coaching/managing their own child's team are exempt from having to hold a Working with Children's Check.

Item 6 - Images and Video Footage

All persons accept that, by participating in this event, they may be photographed and/or filmed and that these images may be used by Touch Football WA and authorised parties for promotion of the sport. Touch Football WA will not pass any image onto unauthorised third parties unless prior approval is sought. If you do not wish Touch Football WA to be able to use your image or be filmed, you must notify Touch Football WA in writing.

With the use of social media, it is now important Touch Football WA through TFA has regulations around the filming of players and games at events. To protect the privacy and images anyone filming games or players will be required to be registered with Tournament Management and have permission to film. In allowing filming they must comply with relevant clauses around the use of footage, these will be provided on the registration sheet.

Item 7 - Weather

The climate in Perth is susceptible to fluctuating weather patterns. Touch Football WA reserves the right to organise the affected games in whatever format which will assist the games to occur in an equal condition as possible.

Touch Football WA will use <u>Extreme Weather Guidelines</u>, in the case of Hot Weather, Wet Weather and Storms.

Match Reschedule:

If due to any other extraordinary circumstances, a game cannot be completed to full time the game may be rescheduled as soon as possible at a time and on a ground arranged by Tournament Management in consultation with both teams.

If the game has commenced, and cannot continue prior to half time the following will apply:

- The game will start from the beginning and must be completed up to the regulation full-time.
- 2. The score will commence at 0 0.

If half-time has occurred and the game cannot continue, the following will apply:

- 1. The game will start from the beginning of the second half and must be completed to the regulation full-time.
- 2. The score will commence at the score that was recorded at half-time.





3. If a team refuses to complete the game when it has been resumed, that team shall forfeit the game.

If, due to time constraints or any other reason, a game cannot be rescheduled the following will occur:

- 1. Games that did not continue prior to half-time will be abandoned and a 0 0 score will result.
- 2. The result of games that did not continue after and including half-time will be the score at that point in time.

NOTE: Tournament Management reserves the right to judge and adjust to suit the conditions as required.

Item 8 - Concussion Policy

Touch Football Australia has released it's own <u>TFA Concussion Policy</u> (click on link). This Policy will be used at all TFA events.

The aim of these guidelines is to ensure that all players with a suspected concussion receive timely and appropriate advice and care to safely return them to activities and sport. It will outline the process that must be followed to:

Recognise an athlete with a suspected concussion or red flags

Manage a suspected concussion or red flag

Manage return to participation after concussion

Document/ report a concussion

Communicate information effectively to the athlete regarding concussion, monitoring and return to sport process

How to recognise concussion and what are the symptoms/ signs of concussion and further information can be found here https://concussioninsport.gov.au

Or

https://touchfootball.com.au/media/11311/tfa_concussion-policy-july-2021_2.pdf

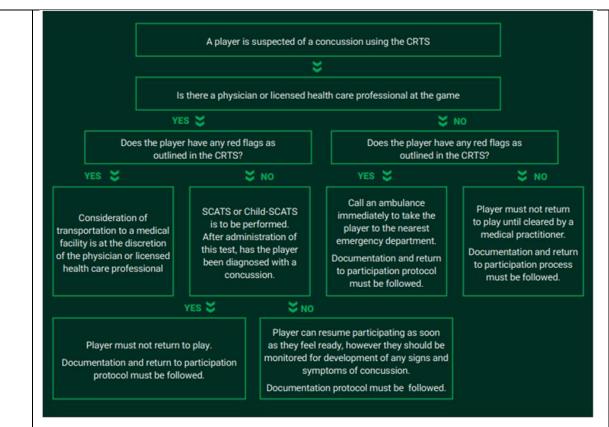
An electronic clearance form for return to play to be completed by a doctor can be found at the below link to assist in any player needing medical care due to a concussion

https://touchfootball.com.au/media/11227/tfa-medical-clearance-form.pd

The TFA approved Return to Sport Policy will now align as per the following table:







Item 9 - Blood Bin

Any player with a bleeding cut or abrasion is to leave the field immediately and have the cut or abrasion cleaned or covered. At this time, any blood-stained clothing must also be either cleaned or replaced. If the player does not leave the field immediately, the referee will stop the game and ask the player to leave the field (normal substitution rules apply).

Once the flow of blood has been stemmed, the cut or abrasion cleaned and covered and any blood-stained clothing and equipment cleaned or replaced, the player may return to the field and continue play. If bleeding cannot be controlled and the wound securely covered, the player must not continue in the game.

Item 10 - Glass Bottles and Alcohol (very Important Information)

All participants are to refrain from bringing glass containers of any type into the venue.

As per the Liquor Licensing Act, no person is permitted to consume alcohol outside of the designated drinking areas. It is illegal under Liquor Licensing Laws for any person to bring alcohol onto the grounds or consume alcohol other than that purchased from the Licensed Area while at the grounds. Any person found consuming alcohol not purchased at the venue will be kindly asked to leave the venue and will be prevented from participating in the remainder of the event.

Penalty:

A fine of \$1,000 (GST exclusive) will apply for each incident. This penalty will be enforced, and the offender(s) will be invoiced accordingly. Touch Football WA will require Affiliate Contacts and Team Managers within each State Championships Entity to assist and take control of their members. Touch Football WA representatives will seek names and/or details of any breaches that occur, but State





Championships Affiliates may be required to assist Touch Football WA by identifying the offender(s) or face carrying the penalty on behalf of unidentified members.

Item 11 - Parking Areas and Traffic Management

Touch Football WA will communicate all traffic management information in the Manager's packs and pre-Tournament communications.

Any individual parking in an incorrect area will be towed. Any fines or infringements incurred by individuals or teams are solely the responsibility of those persons and no liability is applicable to TFWA.

Item 12 - Force Majeure

- A. If Touch Football WA is unable to perform, in whole or part in any obligation under these regulations of a Force Majeure Event, Touch Football WA is relieved of that obligation under these regulations to the extent, and the period it is unable to perform.
- B. In addition to C. Policies (Item 12 A) Touch Football WA has no obligation to refund any individual or team any fees paid if it is unable to perform by reason of Force Majeure Event.

Force Majeure Event:

For the purpose of these regulations a Force Majeure Event includes but is not limited to any or all of the following:

- Acts of God including flood, drought, earthquake, storm, cyclone, fire, explosion, epidemic; or
- War; or
- Terrorism; or
- · Riot or civil disturbances; or
- Permanent injunction of any duty constituted court of competent jurisdiction; or
- Any fact, circumstances, matter or thing beyond the reasonable control of Touch Football WA.