



# FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL TOUCH

## General Conditions

This document is to be read in conjunction with the event-specific Conditions Of Entry document.

All monetary amounts are in Australian Dollars (AUS \$) unless otherwise stated and exclusive of Goods and Services Tax (GST).

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# Definitions

## FIT

The Federation of International Touch, the peak body for the sport of Touch globally and the controlling body for international competition.

## National Touch Organisation

As defined in the FIT Constitution.

## Host Nation

The country represented by the NTO that is responsible for hosting the event on behalf of FIT.

## Invited Team

A team invited by FIT to compete at an event outside the usual [Team Eligibility](#) conditions.

An Invited Team is subject to all General Conditions, event-specific Conditions Of Entry, Policies and Guidelines as implemented by FIT to conduct the event. All regulations applying to NTO's therefore also apply equally to an Invited Team.

## Tour Manager

The individual appointed by a NTO to act on behalf of the NTO, responsible for liaising with FIT relating to the NTO and the event they have entered.

The Tour Manager has the delegated authority of the NTO and can make decisions, including financial ones, without consultation.

## Officials

Officials are Referees, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers, Assistant Team Managers, Tour Manager, Sports Trainers, Physiotherapists, Doctors, public officers of NTO's, and any other person appointed to a position of responsibility in a NTO or FIT event.

## Volunteers

Persons, whether they be NTO's of the NTO or not, who voluntarily assist with the running of an event. They are also recognised as Officials.

## Policies

All current FIT policies are enforced at all FIT events.

Refer to <http://docs.internationaltouch.org/> for published policies.

## Force Majeure Event

A Force Majeure Event includes but is not limited to any or all of the following:

- Natural phenomena including flood, drought, earthquake, storm, cyclone, fire, explosion, epidemic; or
- War; or
- Terrorism; or
- Riot or civil disturbances; or
- A permanent injunction of any duly constituted court of competent jurisdiction; or
- Any fact, circumstance, matter or thing beyond the reasonable control of FIT or the Host Nation.

# Agreement to Enter a FIT Event

When a NTO enters a FIT event, they agree to

- 1.1 Abide by these General Conditions and event-specific Conditions Of Entry documents.
- 1.2 Meet all financial obligations to FIT and the Host Nation adhering to timelines detailed in the event-specific Conditions Of Entry document.
- 1.3 Market the sport of Touch professionally and allow FIT to use the NTO's reputation.
- 1.4 Attend all functions where required. Non-attendance by mutual consent is acceptable.
- 1.5 Complete all scheduled matches published in the draw.
- 1.6 Comply with any requirement outlined in these General Conditions or the event-specific Conditions Of Entry document for the provision of Officials.
- 1.7 Not finalise any sponsorship arrangements that the NTO intends to obtain and use to promote a FIT event or during the running of an event until FIT provides the NTO authorisation to do so. A minimum time frame will be put in place to allow for adequate consultation. This is to eliminate sponsorship conflicts that could cause concern for either party.

Failure to comply with any of the above items may incur a penalty, with the NTO's being unable to participate further until all financial requirements have been fulfilled.

# Responsibilities

## NTO

To gain entry to a FIT event NTO's must respond within the required timelines as per the event-specific Conditions Of Entry document and will be compliant in all required areas.

Ensure all financial responsibilities have been met.

Provide a statutory declaration that all players meet the [FIT Player Eligibility Policy](#).

Ensure that all teams representing the NTO are in the correct uniform that has been registered with FIT.

Appoint a Tour Manager for the event. Ensure FIT have an up to date email address and mobile telephone number and that the Tour Manager has access to both forms of communication while in-country.

NTO's can use their and FIT names in good faith to promote the sport of Touch. Any use of FIT logos must receive written authorisation from the FIT Board and must comply with the FIT Brandbook.

## Tour Manager

Handle all liaison between the NTO and FIT.

To abide by these General Conditions and the event-specific Conditions Of Entry document.

Must not have any coaching or managerial role with a specific team. This requirement is waived when an NTO has only one team participating in the event.

Ensure that all representatives of the NTO's are aware of their responsibilities.

Attend all FIT meetings and judiciary/disciplinary hearings as requested.

## Players

To complete a Membership and Participation Declaration through the FIT online registration process.

To play to the best of their ability at all times.

To abide by these General Conditions and the event-specific Conditions Of Entry document.

To behave at all times in a manner that does not bring FIT, the NTO, or Touch into disrepute.

To avail themselves at all reasonable times for the media as requested by their NTO or FIT.

If required when attending a function/media request on FIT duties to wear the official uniforms supplied by the NTO or FIT as requested by FIT.

Attend all FIT meetings and judiciary/disciplinary hearings as requested.

## Officials and Referees

To officiate and perform to the best of their abilities at all times.

To abide by these General Conditions and the event-specific Conditions Of Entry document.

To behave at all times in a manner that does not bring FIT, the NTO, or Touch into disrepute.

To avail themselves at all reasonable times for the media as requested by FIT.

If required when attending a function/media request on FIT duties to wear the official uniforms supplied by FIT.

Hold applicable accreditation or qualifications appropriate to their appointed position.

To complete all reports within the required timeframes.

Attend all FIT meetings and judiciary/disciplinary hearings as requested.

To abide by and enforce all FIT policies relating to matches under their control.

## FIT

Centrally control event income such as corporate sponsorships, event naming rights, licensing, etc.

Determine and impose penalties on NTO's under these General Conditions and the event-specific Conditions Of Entry document.

Set the standard of grounds, field markings, and facilities at which the event will be conducted.

Determine a program of matches ensuring all teams have a fair and equal opportunity to win the championship.

Establish and maintain the systems for determining the champions at the end of the event.

Inform NTO's before, during and after the event of important information related to the event.

Formulate processes for NTO's to express their concerns and comment on any matter. A request for a decision or ruling is to be provided in writing to the NTO.

Determine and arrange the judicial procedures used at events.

Ensure that the match results are entered and available online promptly after the completion of each competition round.

To abide by and enforce all FIT policies.

## Requirements

### Team Eligibility

Entry is open to national teams representing NTO's who hold the *Full Member* category of membership to FIT.



Regarding entry to continental championships, only NTO's from that continent are permitted to enter. NTO's from other continents **may** be invited to participate, but only under exceptional circumstances.

When an Invited Team is involved, they are ineligible to progress into Finals matches **unless** the event-specific Conditions Of Entry document reverse this clause.

Matches played between a NTO and an Invited Team will not hold Test Match status. Therefore, no career statistics (appearances, tries, etc) will be awarded to players of either team **unless** the Invited Team is the national representative team of a NTO.

## Player Eligibility

Refer to the [FIT Player Eligibility Policy](#).

## Proof of Age and Nationality

Each player must prove their eligibility to compete in their chosen division upon request.

FIT can select individuals to be spot-checked during an event. Prior notice will be given so that players do not have to carry documentation on their person unnecessarily.

Age must be proven by showing the passport they used to enter the Host Nation. Residents of the Host Nation may present current government-issued photo identification in the event that they do not hold a current passport.

Nationality must be proven by a method described in the [FIT Player Eligibility Policy](#).

Individuals unable to satisfactorily provide evidence of their eligibility will be disqualified from further participation in the event. Any match an ineligible player took part in will be declared a forfeit.

## Coach and Manager Eligibility

All Coaches and Managers must be current members of an NTO.

Coaches must hold current qualifications as specified in the event-specific Conditions Of Entry document. If not specified a minimum of FIT Intermediate Coach equivalent is required.

The head coach of Open division teams must be a non-playing individual.

Evidence of membership and qualifications must be readily available and shown upon request by FIT.

## Uniforms

### Playing Uniforms

In accordance with the [FIT Uniform Policy](#).

### Compression Garments

The wearing of compression garments is permitted, provided that they are worn under the approved NTO uniform.

# Member Protection

## Working with Children

In accordance with the [FIT Member Protection Policy](#).

## Supervision of Juvenile Participants

The NTO is responsible for the direct supervision of any player or official in their contingent who is under the age at which ordinary criminal prosecution is possible in the Host Nation.

## Minimum age

Young people develop mentally, physically, socially, and emotionally at different rates. FIT accepts the small calculated risks in the variation of these aspects within the ranges listed above. Below these ranges, FIT is not in a workable position to make tournament wide decisions.

Although our sport is minimal contact, differences in mental, physical, social, and emotional maturity may expose individuals to unnecessary risk.

## Attaining minimum age

Each youth player must have attained the minimum age required for their division prior to the first day of competition.

The registration system will not permit persons younger than the minimum age to be registered. Falsifying date of birth data to circumvent these protections will be referred to the Member Protection Information Officers.

## Open division

There is no minimum age for players participating in Open Divisions, however those NTO's with players under the age of 18 need to ensure they have an appropriate player protection policy in place.

## Youth division

The minimum age for players in a Youth division will be detailed in the event-specific Conditions Of Entry document.

## Images

All persons accept that by participating in this event they may be photographed and/or filmed and that these images may be used by FIT for promotion of the sport.

## Event Photographer

The Official Event Photographers will have exclusive access to the inner field and boundaries of all fields, along with external media and/or hosting councils. NTO photographers may not access these areas.

## Group Photos

Commemorative group photographs are not included in the tournament fee – they can, however, be arranged directly with the Event Photographers.

## Portraits

Players are encouraged to have an individual portrait taken in their playing uniform for inclusion in a future edition of the FIT Almanac.

## Video Analysis

One (1) member of Team Management or one (1) non-playing member of the team may take up a position in the centre of the field no less than five (5) metres behind the Dead Ball Line.

Videographers must remain stationary throughout the match. They may not change ends at any time during the match. Video cameras are not permitted in the sub-box.

Videographers must remain silent throughout the match. Failure to do so will result in the referee advising them to put their equipment away and return to the sub-box. They will not be permitted to resume recording for the remainder of the match.

If both teams wish to video the match the team winning the toss will choose at which end of the field their videographer will be situated with the opposition to utilise the other end.

FIT reserves the right to take immediate possession of any footage taken by a team videographer that may assist in investigating any matter of judiciary, discipline, or protest.

# Playing Divisions

All divisions that are being offered for participation at an event are detailed in the respective nomination form for that event.

## Division Viability

A preferred minimum of five (5) teams is required for a division to be formed.

If teams subsequently withdraw resulting in less than four (4) teams, the division has the potential to be abandoned. FIT has the final decision on the composition of any Division offered at the event.

The Host Nation and FIT will not be liable for losses suffered as a result of a division becoming unviable. NTO's should determine if insuring themselves for this possibility is necessary.

## Multiple Entries

NTO's may only enter one (1) team in each division at a Tier 1 Event. At other events the FIT Board has discretion to allow the participation of a second team from an NTO if this benefits the event. The second is participating on an invitational basis and is not eligible to compete in the final series.

## Late Entry and Refund Policy

Entries received after the closing date will only be accepted at the convenience of the division.

The closing date is specified in the event-specific Conditions Of Entry document.

## Financial Penalty

Late entries may attract a late entry penalty as per the Conditions Of Entry document. This is at the determination of the FIT Board.

All fees due at point in time (including penalties) must be paid prior to acceptance and inclusion.

## Withdrawal

A full refund of the team entry fee will be made to any team that has entered and is subsequently withdrawn prior to the closing date.

Fees will not be refunded to any team that has entered and subsequently withdraws after the closing date.

## Unviable Divisions

When a division is unable to form due to lack of entries a full refund of the team entry fee will be made to all teams that had entered the division.

If due to withdrawals a division becomes unviable after the closing date a full refund of the team entry fee will be made to only those teams that had not withdrawn.

The Host Nation and FIT will not be liable for losses suffered as a result of a division becoming unviable. NTO's should determine if insuring themselves for this possibility is necessary.

## Team Entry and Registration

It is the responsibility of each NTO to ensure that every player and Official meets the eligibility criteria of the tournament and division.

Each individual who interacts with the team entry and registration system will be required to create a user account on the FIT website to be used for all of our events.

Those who already have an account from a prior event should **not** create another. If they cannot gain access to their account, in the first instance they should attempt a password reset.

### Team Entry

1. An NTO will nominate teams for the Divisions that they wish to participate in, on the relevant nomination form by the due date specified on that form.
2. An invoice for the FIT team fee will be created and sent by email per the payment schedule detailed in the Tournament Conditions of Entry..
3. Once the initial payment has been received the FIT Finance Director will mark the team as accepted, triggering an email to the NTO representative.

## Participant Registration

**Each participant is required to perform their own registration (see note below regarding children) and it is unacceptable for any third party to complete the registration process on behalf of somebody else.**

1. Tour Manager, on behalf of the NTO, will invite Team Managers to supervise the registration of individuals in their respective teams within the registration system.
2. The Team Manager will invite individuals by email to join their respective team using the facility within the registration system, or by sharing the team registration link by other means.
3. The individual will register themselves and maintain a personal user account in the FIT registration system. Children under eighteen (18) years of age at the time of registration must be registered by a parent or legal guardian.
4. The Team Manager will be notified by email of individuals joining their team and must acknowledge each registrant in the affirmative for a correct registration or by declining incorrect registrations.
5. Teams may register a maximum of sixteen (16) players. The registration system may not enforce this strictly - it remains up to Team Management to ensure the team is within limits.
6. Mixed teams have full discretion as to the balance in their squad.

## Statutory Declaration

The Tour Manager must provide a signed statutory declaration prior to the start of the event that all registration details, including players date of birth and playing numbers, are correctly recorded in the event registration system.

## NTO Enquiries

Upon the acceptance of their entry, enquiries for any NTO or their teams must be made by the nominated Tour Manager. All correspondence from FIT will be sent to the Tour Manager.

It is the responsibility of the Tour Manager to ensure that all representatives of the NTO are conversant with these General Conditions and the event-specific Conditions Of Entry document.

## Playing Rules

The 5th Edition of the [FIT Playing Rules](#) will be implemented at all FIT events.

# Event Operations

## Control of the Event

The Host Nation appointed Event Manager in conjunction with the FIT Event Delivery Team and the FIT Board will be in control of all matters relating to the Event.

Any matter not covered in these General Conditions or the event-specific Conditions Of Entry document will be determined by the above Officials and their decision will be final.

## Team Briefing

If deemed necessary, a briefing meeting may be held prior to the commencement of the event.

For details of the meeting please refer to the event-specific Conditions Of Entry document.

## Insurance Cover

The event will be covered by adequate public liability protection against injury and property damage.

All other insurances, including travel and injuries sustained through competition, are the responsibility of participating NTO's and individual participants.

## Match Balls

All matches must be played using an official match ball throughout the event. Each team will be supplied one (1) match ball by FIT prior to their first match.

A limited quantity of replacement stock will be available for purchase.

## Competition Points

All preliminary stages teams will earn competition points.

- 3 points for a win, win by forfeiture, or due to a bye
- 2 points for a draw
- 1 point for a loss
- 0 points for a loss by forfeiture

No competition points are awarded or ladders kept during knockout stages.

The competition ladder will be sorted with the following precedence:

- Competition points
- Differences (tries scored - tries conceded)
- Percentages (tries scored ÷ tries conceded)

## Progression

In the event that two or more teams are tied on the ladder and a clear choice is required for progression, the following will apply in order.

1. the results of matches between the tied teams will be isolated and sorted as above
2. if still equal, the team that scored more tries scored will progress
3. if still equal, the Drop-Off system will be used to determine the order for progression

In the event that two or more teams are tied on the ladder and all will progress, but there is an advantage to be had by placing higher, the following will apply in order.

1. the results of matches between the tied teams will be isolated and sorted as above
2. if still equal, a coin toss will be used to determine the order for progression

## Tents

For the safety of all participants and spectators, no tents or shade structures may be erected at the venue without prior arrangement with the Host Nation appointed Event Manager.

Any tent or shade structure erected without permission will be removed.

## Forfeitures

Both teams must be in attendance at the playing field five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of every match.

It is the responsibility of team captains to report to the match referees so that the toss of the coin can be performed without delay to the start of play. If a team is not at the field at the advertised starting time of the game the team in attendance will be awarded the winning of the toss.

## Timing

One of the referees will be positioned on the field for five (5) minutes. Another member of the referee team will make contact with event staff to advise of the situation.

A member of the event staff will be sent immediately to the field to control the situation. As referees do not wear watches they will nominate a person to keep time until the arrival of the event staff member, at which point they will take over the role of keeping time.

## Scoring

Teams have a maximum of five (5) minutes from the scheduled commencement of the game to take up a position ready to begin play. One (1) penalty try will be awarded to the attending team ready for every whole minute their opposition delays the start of the match.

If the match has not commenced after five (5) minutes have elapsed the game will be declared forfeit with the score being recorded as 0-0.

## Subsequent Actions

The team not in attendance will immediately be suspended from participating in future matches.



The Tour Manager for the team not in attendance will be required to show cause through written submission to the Tournament Director as to why the suspension should be lifted and the team allowed to compete in the remainder of the event.

## Fines

On the first occasion that a NTO team forfeits a fine of AUS \$250 must be paid prior to any other team representing the NTO will be allowed to participate further in the event.

On the second and subsequent occasions, the fine amount will double up to a maximum amount of AUS \$2,000.

## Protest, Disputes and Discipline

In accordance with the. FIT Disciplinary Policy

### Lodgement

Any protest or dispute must be lodged in writing by the Tour Manager within thirty (30) minutes of the conclusion of the event or match in question to the Tournament Director. At this time the report will be assessed and if warranted will be referred to an appropriate convening authority.

Applications will not be accepted for refereeing decisions during the conduct of a match.

### Suspensions

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

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

## Signage

Any public display of a NTO logo and/or their partners at any official event venue must receive written permission from FIT and the Host Nation prior to the event.

Sponsors and/or partners that directly conflict with FIT or event partners will not be granted display permissions.

The maximum penalty for unauthorised display is AUS \$2500.

## Merchandise

The merchandising of FIT events will be the responsibility of FIT and the Host Nation.

No NTO, their sponsor, or any third party can sell merchandise at an event without the written consent of the FIT Board.

## Participant Welfare

NTO's must supply their own medical staff ensuring they possess adequate qualifications and insurance.

The Host Nation will ensure suitably trained medical staff are available for triage and first aid.

## Blood Bin

Any player with a bleeding cut or abrasion is to leave the field immediately and have the cut or abrasion cleaned and covered. At this time any blood-stained clothing and equipment must also be cleaned or replaced.

Only after the flow of blood has been stemmed, the cut or abrasion cleaned and covered, and blood-stained clothing and equipment cleaned or replaced may the player return to the field.

## Concussion

A concussion is a brain injury and is defined as a complex physiological process affecting the brain, induced by biomechanical forces. Concussion may be caused by either a direct or indirect blow to the head, face, neck or body causing an impulsive force transmitted to the head.

Any player with concussion or suspected concussion should be immediately and permanently removed from training or play. Appropriate emergency management procedures must be followed. The injured player must not return to any activity that day and should be medically assessed.

In all cases of concussion or suspected concussion, it is strongly recommended that the player is referred to a medical or healthcare professional for diagnosis and guidance regarding management and return to play, even if the symptoms resolve.

## Extreme Weather

The Tournament Director may suspend play during extreme weather either for the safety of participants or to ensure that surfaces remain playable for the remainder of the event.

Wherever possible, match duration for remaining fixtures will not be altered however in order to complete the event this may be unavoidable.

## Heat and Humidity

In locations where heat or humidity is a concern for participant welfare, the Tournament Medical team will make all decisions on when to institute additional water breaks or suspend play.

## Torrential Rain and Flooding

Heavy or consistent rain can result in unsafe playing surfaces for participants - in such cases the Tournament Director will decide on the playability of the surfaces.

Continuing to play on fields after rain may deteriorate the fields faster than when they're dry; in such cases the Tournament Director may alter match durations or the competition fixture to preserve field conditions for the integrity of the competition.

## Electrical Storms

If there are electrical storms within 10 Kilometres of the venue, play will be suspended and participants will be directed to seek shelter. Play may not resume until there has been 30 minutes without any electrical strikes within 10 Kilometres of the venue.

## Doping Policy

In accordance with the [FIT Anti-Doping Policy](#).

## Transport and Accommodation

All transport and accommodation arrangements associated with participation in the event are to be arranged by the NTO and their members.

This includes but is not limited to

- Ensure all participants hold a valid passport
- Ensure all participants satisfy the visa requirements of the Host Nation
- Transport from the country of origin to the Host Nation
- Transport within the Host Nation
- Accommodation for the duration of the participants stay in the Host Nation

FIT and the Host Nation will not be responsible for any transport or accommodation of NTO's.

## Official Tourism Partner

The Host Nation will advise local tourism partners appointed to assist with travel and accommodation for participating NTO's.

## Breaches of Responsibility

In the event that a participant, member or NTO breaches any responsibility as set down in these General Conditions or the event-specific Conditions Of Entry document, that particular participant, Member or NTO will be required to explain the breach to a duly convened meeting of the FIT Board or their representative, normally the FIT Event Director.

Any rule breach not mentioned in this document will be subject to a fine as determined by the FIT Board or their representative, normally the FIT Event Director.

Any appeal against the determinations of the FIT Board or their representative is to be lodged with an appeal fee of £500. Such appeal fee will be refundable if the appeal is upheld.

## Force Majeure

If FIT or the Host Nation is unable to perform, in whole or in part, any obligation under these regulations due to a Force Majeure event, FIT or the Host Nation is relieved of that obligation under these regulations to the extent and the period it is unable to perform.

FIT and the Host Nation are under no obligation to refund to any individual or team any fees paid if it is unable to perform by reason of a Force Majeure event.