

# **Contents**

EVENT INFORMATION	2
Rule Variations	2
Tournament Management	2
Draw Formula	2
Playing Times	2
Match Balls	2
Competition Points	3
Forfeits	3
Determining Positions for Finals/other	3
Complaints and Protests	5
Disciplinary Regulations	5
Suspensions	6
Eligibility and Unregistered Player Issues	6
Score Cards	6
Score Disputes	7
Additional Players	7
Interchange Area Rules	8
Coaching Positions	8
Spectators	8
Communication with Referees	9
Presentations	9
National Team Talent Identification	9
Champion Entity	10
POLICIES	10
TFA Policies	10
Child Protection	10
Food Handling	11
Integrity Education Plan	11
Weather	12
Blood Bin	13
Concussion Policy	13
Injury Clearances	13
Glass Bottles and Alcohol	13
Parking Areas and Traffic	13
Force Majeure	13
ANNEXURES	14
ANNEXURE A: Concussion Policy	15





## **EVENT INFORMATION**

**Rule Variations** 

The 8th edition of the TFA Playing Rules will apply to all TFA events.

## **Tournament Management**

TFA's tournament management will determine and rely on policy where it exists to interpret matters not covered or specified in the Conditions of Entry Documents.

Tournament management has the right to amend any tournament rule if required.

#### Draw Formula

The draws are dynamic and subject to change for a variety of reasons.

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

The draft draw will only be distributed after team lists have been submitted.

An updated draw will be distributed to entities with any additional draw changes advised as soon as possible.

## **Playing Times**

All matches will consist of twenty (20) minute halves with a five (5) minute halftime break, and five (5) minutes between matches.

Tournament management reserves the right to alter the duration of games in the best interests of completing the event.

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.

In instances where there are stand-alone open division grand finals, match referees may allow 'time off' for serious injury.

## **Drop Offs**

For the 2026 event, drop offs will consist of a three (3) minute period of extra time. Should neither team be leading after the expiration of three (3) minutes, each team will remove another player from the field of play, and the match will recommence until a try is scored.

### Match Balls

All teams must use the official Steeden match ball in all games throughout the tournament. Each team will receive a match ball from TFA at the tour leaders' meeting. Lost balls will need to be replaced at the expense of the Entity/team.

Extra balls can be purchased from the tournament information area at the event.









#### **Competition Points**

Competition points will be awarded for all round-robin games based on the results obtained.

The following points will be awarded:

Win = Four (4) points
Draw = Two (2) points
Loss = Zero (0) points

Forfeit = Minus one (-1) point for the offending team

Bye = Zero (0) points – if there is an equal number of byes allocated within the pool Bye = Four (4) points – if an unequal number of byes is allocated within the pool.

#### Forfeits

Teams must attend their playing fields at least five (5) minutes before the commencement of their match.

It is the responsibility of each captain to report to the referees two (2) minutes before the commencement of the game for the coin toss.

If a team is not at the field at the time of the toss, the attending team will be awarded the winning of the toss.

The offending team will receive a maximum of five (5) 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 (5) minutes have expired, the game will be deemed a forfeit, and the non-offending team will be awarded the win with a 5–0 score. The offending team will receive a 0–5 score and negative points as indicated above. The offending team will be penalised one (1) try after the first minute and one try for every minute thereafter up to five (5) minutes (e.g. three minutes late equals a 0–3 score).

Upon conceding a forfeit, the tour leader or their appointed representative of an offending team will be required to show cause to tournament management by the end of the match in question why their team should not be excluded from participating in any further matches. Tournament management or an appointed Disciplinary Tribunal will decide upon receipt of the report if the offending teams' action warrants the need to forfeit the match and may incur a monetary fine of up to \$1,500 (GST exclusive). This written report must be submitted to tournament management one (1) hour before the team's next scheduled game.

### **Forfeits in the Final Series**

If a team is forced to forfeit in the final series, the team's tour leader must submit the reasons for their forfeiture in writing, as per the above process. It must be then approved by tournament management, or a monetary fine of \$1,500 (GST exclusive) will be imposed upon the forfeiting team, which will be invoiced to the relevant entity, who is subsequently responsible for paying.

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

Determining Positions for Finals/other

#### Finals/Other

Positions for the Final Series/Other will be determined as follows:









- 1. Highest on the table if equal
- 2. Differential (for and against) if equal
- 3. Percentages if equal
- 4. Result of preliminary game (count back) if drawn
- 5. Fewest tries scored against
- 6. Most tries scored if equal
- 7. Drop off; and
- 8. Any other method as determined by TFA.

#### **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 preliminary rounds, 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 final calculations. Similarly, the other teams that finish on equal points will have the 'for and against' from that forfeited team deducted from their total. For teams 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 a forfeit.

Team B defeats Team C, 5 – 3 in game four (first round).

If after the preliminary rounds, 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.

# Differential

The differential is determined by subtracting the total of tries scored 'against' from the number of tries scored 'for'. The team with the best differential will obtain the higher 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.

The percentage system would apply if teams had the same 'difference'.

## **Percentages**

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

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









Using the above example:

Team A = 
$$50 \times 100$$
 =  $500\%$  Team B =  $60 \times 100$  =  $300\%$ 

10 1 20 1

Team A would obtain the higher position.

## Result of Preliminary Game (Count Back)

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

### Fewest tries scored against

If the result of the preliminary game was a draw, the team with the least number of tries scored against them will be used to determine the higher position.

### **Most Tries Scored**

If the result of the preliminary game was a draw and the teams have an equal number of tries scored against them, the team that scored the most tries will be used to determine the higher position.

### **Drop-Off**

If the result of the preliminary game was a draw, and the tries scored against and the tries scored for are equal, then a drop-off will occur, with details to be communicated by tournament management.

## **Any Other Method**

In extenuating circumstances, TFA may be required to adopt an alternative method to determine finals series placings and may do so at its sole discretion.

#### **Complaints and Protests**

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

A 'complaint' regarding the tournament may be dealt with informally or formally in accordance with <u>TFA's policies</u> and these tournament conditions following 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 regarding the tournament; however, it will require endorsement and submission by the entity. Matters that are a breach of the National Integrity Framework and occur outside of a match will be handled in accordance with the <u>Complaints, Disputes and Discipline policy</u>.

Management will not consider complaints about the decisions of a referee made during the game.

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

TFA reserves the right to adjust time frames quoted in the <u>Disciplinary Regulations</u> to ensure it handles complaints in a time frame befitting tournament conditions.

# **Disciplinary Regulations**

Touch Football Australia is the 'TFA Authority' and when using the <u>Disciplinary Regulations</u> for Touch Football. In the first instance, any incident reported to TFA will be reviewed by a Disciplinary Tribunal Chair, and an offer of an Early Guilty Plea may be made in line with Point 13 of the document. A Charged Person is not obliged to accept the Early Guilty Plea





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and may choose to attend a Hearing, which will be convened during the event in line with the processes contained within the new Regulations.

In all cases, the <u>Disciplinary Regulations</u> apply to this event. Item 14 outlines the types of Offence and the level of Penalty that apply to incidents that are substantiated.

## Suspensions

If a player is dismissed for the remainder of the game, an automatic two (2) match suspension will apply unless the Disciplinary Tribunal considers further action is warranted.

Any player who receives three (3) separate sin bins over the tournament will be given an automatic two-match suspension.

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

All automatic two (2) match suspensions will apply and cease at this event and will not carry over into future events.

If a suspension or penalty is imposed by a Disciplinary Panel that may affect a local or state event, there needs to be official communication with the relevant state office.

### Eligibility and Unregistered Player Issues

If a valid protest is lodged regarding a player's eligibility (should TFA feel the protest has foundation), the entity will be required to provide proof of eligibility.

Documentation of an individual required to prove eligibility would include:

- Statutory Declaration that they have met the eligibility criteria.
- Evidence of an individual's registration.
- Copy of sign-on sheets or any other data to substantiate that the individual is eligible.

If an entity cannot prove a player's eligibility, the player will be unable to participate in the tournament.

All eligibility protests must be lodged before the final whistle of the final game of the tournament.

Teams and entities that are found to have breached the eligibility criteria after the final whistle may be subject to repercussions for future TFA events, including refusal of entry and/or loss of points.

Similarly, if a valid protest is lodged regarding a player participating, but that player is unregistered to the team in question, the entity protesting will be required to provide evidence of the unregistered player participating in said game.

A team found playing an unregistered or ineligible player will have those games the player participated in recorded as a forfeit, and the team may be disqualified.

## Score Cards

Each team is responsible for allocating an official score person for each game. Both scorers are required to score the game from the allocated scoring area. The official scorecard will be recorded at that location.









The official score persons are to sign the scorecard at the end of each game. In signing the scorecard, the nominated person, on behalf of their team, has acknowledged and accepted the information on the scorecard to be accurate and correct. This information includes:

- Full-time and half-time scores
- Try scorers
- Sin bins or dismissal sanctions
- Injuries
- Non-participating players.

Each team must complete a team and score sheet for every game they participate in. The information that is required is player numbers and try scorers for both teams. This information must match up with the official scorecard (i.e. number of try scorers matches the final score).

TFA encourages all referees and the official score persons to communicate throughout the game to make sure that the score sheet is correct.

If you disagree with the information on the scorecard, do not sign the scorecard and lodge a protest via the tour leader as indicated in the Score Dispute section below. Protests will be reviewed by tournament management.

If the information on the scorecard needs to be clarified, the relevant parties may be contacted to confirm.

### Score Disputes

Teams that do not provide an official score person negate their right to dispute the score.

The time to lodge a protest is **60 minutes from the conclusion of the match**.

If a team does not agree with the recorded score, the following process should be followed:

- Note that there is a score dispute on the official scorecard
- <u>DO NOT</u> sign the scorecard
- Notify your Tour Leader of the dispute and provide all relevant information as outlined below.
- The Tour Leader must then formally lodge the protest with Tournament Management.

The following information is to be provided with the protest:

- The team that tapped off first and the direction of play.
- The order in which the scoring occurred (including player shirt numbers of both teams).
- The half-time and full-time scores.
- Video evidence (if available).

Video evidence will be used only if conclusive. For example, if a VEO camera captures the entire game from first whistle to final whistle and all tries and try scorers are visible.

If the scorecard has not been signed and 60 minutes have passed, the information on the scorecard will be recorded.

Tournament Management may take up to 60 minutes from the time the protest is lodged to decide on the final score. In the event of inconclusive evidence, the score will be recorded as the score the referees have recorded.

**Additional Players** 









The maximum number of players any team can register is sixteen (16).

### Open Category (Opens and 20s) and W27, M30 and SX

Teams in the above divisions may only play a maximum of fourteen (14) players per match. If a team registers more than 14 players for the tournament, then the official team scorer must cross off the name/s of the player/s who will not be playing from the score sheet.

#### Masters Divisions (W35, M40, W40, MX, M45, W45, M50, W50, M55, M60, M65) and All Abilities

Teams in the above divisions may play a maximum of sixteen (16) players per match.

If a team believes that the opposition plays an unregistered player or plays more than the permitted number of players, they can lodge a protest with Tournament Management. Conclusive evidence must be provided to substantiate the claim/s.

## Interchange Area Rules

The interchange areas (20m x 4m) will be positioned at halfway on both sides of the field. All interchanges must occur within the interchange area.

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

A maximum of 22 registered participants may be on the playing surface (including interchange area and permitted coaching positions). Everyone must wear closed footwear.

Non-participating players must not wear their playing uniforms in the interchange area and are required to wear the approved off-field uniform.

Failure to comply with this will result in individuals being asked to leave the field perimeter for the duration of the game and may result in further action, including a fine and/or suspension.

## **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 at least five (5) metres behind the dead ball line and cannot issue any verbal or physical commands. Where a fence, spectator line or advertising signage prevents this, they must remain behind the fence or advertising signage.

Please comply with this to avoid being asked to leave the venue for the duration of the game. Failure to comply with venue, tournament, or match officials may result in further action.

## Spectators

As per the TFA Code of Conduct, all spectators must:

- Respect the performances and efforts of all people
- Reject the use of violence (physical or verbal) in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or athletes

At all TFA events, spectators must be a minimum of five (5) metres back from the field of play or behind the designated spectator line.











Please note, as per council rules, no animals are permitted at the venue except service animals. Any service animal must be identifiable, or you must have the appropriate paperwork with you and be willing to present it to staff if needed.

### Communication with Referees

TFA has a zero-tolerance approach to any form of bullying, harassment, discrimination, or abuse towards referees.

Only the team captain can communicate with a referee during a match.

After the conclusion of a match, the team manager or coach can approach the referees to seek clarification on a decision or a particular part of the match, but must do so in a controlled or civil manner.

#### Presentations

All trophies and medallions will be presented to the teams and individuals after their respective final matches or as soon as practical. TFA is committed to adequately recognising all finalists and, therefore, will look to adopt measures that reflect this where time permits.

A Player of the Final award will be presented in all divisions. Male and female awards will be presented in all mixed divisions.

A comprehensive presentation format (including location and timing) will be circulated at the tour leader meeting and available from The Championships website.

## Men's and Women's Opens Awards

The winning team of the Men's Open division will receive the Mark Boland Shield.

The winning team of the Women's Open division will receive the Angela Barr Shield.

Players of the Series will be awarded in both Open divisions and will be named after the first two players inducted into the TFA Hall of Fame – Terry Jacks Medal (Men's Open) and Karen Smith Medal (Women's Open).

Coaches' medallions will also be awarded in both A divisions to the coach whose team wins the Grand finals. The awards will be named after the first two coaches inducted into the TFA Hall of Fame – Peter McNeven Medal (Men's Open) and Peter Bell Medal (Women's Open). For teams with more than one coach, only one coach will be awarded.

There will also be a referee medallion for the best referee of the tournament, as chosen by the referee panel. The award will be named after the first referee inducted into the TFA Hall of Fame – Rick Borg Medal.

## National Team Talent Identification

This event will be used as part of the continuous talent identification process for selecting national squads. Players don't need to nominate for this process; however, all players will be assessed unless they notify TFA that they are unavailable for selection.

Individuals from TFA-affiliated entities who are not eligible to represent Australia but are eligible for other countries are required to notify tournament management.

Any participant with dual eligibility must notify TFA of their preferred country of representation.









It is essential for the selection process that any changes to player numbers or uniform issues are communicated to tournament management promptly.

## **Champion Entity**

The results of each division for each entity will be accumulated, and the entity with the most points will be declared the Champion Entity.

Entities may have points taken off their Champion Entity points total for noncompliance or player misconduct.

If a countback is needed, the countback will be determined in the following manner:

- The entities with the most championships
- If equal, the entity with the most second places, etc.
- If still equal, joint Champion Entities will be awarded.

Entities must compete in at least one (1) division to be eligible to win.

## **POLICIES**

#### **TFA Policies**

It is the responsibility of each entity to ensure that their respective touring parties behave in the manner as detailed in the following:

- TFA Constitution
- The Championships 2026 Conditions of Entry Documents
- National Integrity Framework
- TFA Disciplinary Regulations
- TFA Code of Conduct
- Australian Anti-Doping Policy
- TFA Responsibility Code

All this documentation is available from the TFA website under Policies.

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

- Players/officials will always comply with the reasonable directions, requests and instructions of TFA staff, tour leaders and team management.
- Players/officials will exhibit exemplary conduct, including while travelling to and from the tournament.
- TFA will coordinate the investigation of any reports of a breach of these codes in accordance with the relevant TFA policy.

### **Child Protection**

In some instances, persons under the age of 18 will attend the event. In understanding our expectations around your role and responsibilities, we provide entities with additional legal guardianship information.

All registered participants in Touch Football are bound by the <u>National Integrity Framework (Framework)</u> provisions. The Framework includes a Child Safeguarding policy intended to safeguard our most vulnerable participants. Participation in sport should be safe for all. We are committed to ensuring that people in sport, including children, are treated with









respect and dignity and are protected from bullying, discrimination, harassment or abuse. The Child Safeguarding and Member Protection policies within the framework highlight the important legal and governance responsibilities concerning child safety and member protection.

This communication contains general advice only and does not consider individual objectives, circumstances and/or a legal view. The information in this communication is only to offer some additional information on this area. Individual research and advice should be sought for your circumstances.

Ensure you are informed of any medical concerns, including food allergies, of any child under 18 years in your care at the event. In addition, you'll need to agree on things like sleeping arrangements, the administration of over-the-counter medications, and procedures for contacting the parents in an emergency.

We remind entities that they are responsible for the direct supervision of any player or official who is under the age of 18 years. Any entity should take all steps to protect these persons from all forms of harassment. This includes ensuring that:

- All officials comply with the relevant child protection laws.
- When travelling to, during and from the tournament, all care is taken to supervise minors.

All tour leaders will be responsible for ensuring all touring staff and volunteers involved with under-18s comply with the Working with Children Check laws in their relevant state.

It is the entity's responsibility to collect this information from staff or volunteers, keep it on record and check that the card is valid before they enter New South Wales.

The Sport Integrity Australia Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport Induction is <u>required</u> for all Open and 20s division coaches and support personnel and <u>recommended</u> for all other division coaches and support personnel, players, staff and officials.

### Food Handling

It is important to note that handling food for groups can be a significant risk factor for food poisoning or spoilage. TFA reminds entities that they need to have processes and policies around the individuals who are responsible for these aspects. Please visit <a href="https://www.foodstandards.gov.au">www.foodstandards.gov.au</a> for more information.

## Integrity Education Plan

Touch Football Australia (TFA) has a partnership with Sport Integrity Australia. TFA is bound by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) International Standard of Education (ISE) and is committed to safeguarding our sport from integrity-related threats. In addition to the WADA code, Sport Integrity Australia also manages Safeguarding and Member protection-related matters under the <u>National Integrity Framework</u>.

The key goal of our integrity education plan is to ensure that all members receive education prior to being tested. As such, to satisfy the requirements of the ISE and ensure that we protect the integrity of our sport's members, participants at this event are required or recommended to complete the following education:

Course Name	All Athletes	Opens and 20s Coaches & Support Personnel	All other Coaches & Support Personnel	Medical Personnel
Anti-Doping Fundamentals	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED









2026 Annual Update	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	
Competition				
Manipulation &	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	
Sports Betting				
Safeguarding				
Children & Young	RECOMMENDED	REOUIRED	RECOMMENDED	REQUIRED
People in Sport	RECOMMENDED	REQUIRED	RECOMMENDED	REQUIRED
Induction				
Medical Practitioner				DEOLUDED
Course				REQUIRED

These courses can be accessed via the <u>Sport Integrity Australia e-learning portal</u>, and a copy of your certificate must be uploaded to <u>The Nest</u> against the corresponding course.

TFA encourage all participants to complete SIA's additional courses within their eLearning centre and upload copies into The Nest.

#### Weather

TFA reserves the right to organise affected games in any format that will assist the games to occur in as equal conditions as possible.

TFA will use the Extreme Heat Guidelines, Electrical Storm and Wet Weather Guidelines and Air Quality Guidelines in the case of hot weather, wet weather, storms or poor air quality.

## Match Reschedule

If, due to any 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.

If the game has commenced and does not reach half-time, the following will apply to rescheduled matches:

- 1) 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 to rescheduled matches:

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

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

If the second half has started and the game cannot continue, the following will apply to rescheduled matches:

- 1) The game will recommence with the team that had possession of the ball from the place on the field and at the touch count when the match was abandoned.
- 2) The score will commence at the score recorded at the time the game was abandoned.

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 to half-time will be abandoned, and a 0-0 score will result.
- 2) The result of games that did not continue after half-time will be the score recorded at half-time.
- 3) For games abandoned during the second half, the score recorded at the time of abandonment will be the final result.

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









### Blood Bin

Any player with a bleeding cut or abrasion must leave the field immediately and have the cut or abrasion cleaned and covered. 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 (standard substitution rules apply).

Once the blood flow 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 is securely covered, the player must not continue in the game.

## **Concussion Policy**

The <u>TFA concussion policy</u> will be used at all TFA events.

These guidelines aim to ensure that all players with a suspected concussion receive timely and appropriate advice and care to safely return 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 flags
- Manage return to participation after concussion
- Document/report a concussion
- Communicate information effectively to the athlete regarding concussion, monitoring and return to sport process

The TFA-approved Return to Sport Policy will now align as per **Annexure A**.

# Injury Clearances

When TFA medical examines a participant and advises them they should not participate for a certain amount of time, they will be deemed ineligible to resume play. If the participant does play during that time, the team will be disciplined in accordance with any other ineligibility breach.

## Glass Bottles and Alcohol

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

The venue is a licensed area, and it is illegal under liquor licensing laws for any person to bring alcohol into the venue or to consume alcohol other than that purchased from the venue bar.

#### Parking Areas and Traffic

TFA will communicate all traffic management information in the Managers Pack. Any individual parking in an incorrect spot will be towed or clamped at the owner's expense.

Force Majeure









- A) If TFA is unable to perform, in whole or in part, any obligation under these regulations of a Force Majeure Event, TFA is relieved of that obligation under these regulations to the extent, and for the period it is unable to perform.
- B) TFA has 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.
- a) **FORCE MAJEURE EVENT:** for the purposes 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 duly constituted court of competent jurisdiction; or
  - Any fact, circumstance, matter, or thing beyond the reasonable control of TFA.

# **ANNEXURES**





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