



THE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

EVENT CONDITIONS

Version 2 – 08/12/2025



Important Dates

Date	Item	Potential Sanction
Monday, 24 November 2025	Referee Expressions of Interest opens	
Thursday, 27 November 2025	Indicative team nominations open	
Wednesday, 10 December 2025	Referee Expressions of Interest closes	May miss out on the selection process to attend the event
Wednesday, 17 December 2025	Indicative team nominations due	
	Uniform design submissions due	Indicative team nominations may not be accepted
Wednesday, 21 January 2026	Final team nominations due	\$200 late withdrawal fee
	Tent usage form due	
Wednesday, 28 January 2026	Players and officials' online registrations open	
	Final date for players to be advised of their selection	
Wednesday, 4 February 2026	Final date for players' acceptance	
	Referee withdrawal deadline	Future selection implications
Wednesday, 18 February 2026	Last day for player loan requests	
Wednesday, 25 February 2026	Final day for players and officials to complete their online registration	\$40 late registration fee charged
	Final team and officials list due	Not included in the event magazine
	Player shirt numbers due	
Monday, 2 March 2026	Player shirt numbers due in MySideline	May incur a \$100 fine per team
Tuesday, 3 March 2026	Tour leader meetings	
Wednesday – Saturday, 4 – 7 March 2025	The Championships 2026	

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ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS	
Tournament Venue and Dates	
	The Championships 2026 will be played at C.ex Coffs International Stadium from Wednesday, March 4th to Saturday, March 7th (4 days). Address C.ex Coffs International Stadium Stadium Drive Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450
Entry Fees & Registration	
	All players must register via individual registration through MySideline. \$110.00 per player for All Abilities divisions. \$125.00 per player for all other divisions. \$155.00 per player for international players. The TFA National Membership Fee will apply to those who are not active national members for the 25/26 reporting period. It is a requirement when registering via MySideline to provide accurate information on the number of bed nights and spectators accompanying each player. This data is collected solely for event reporting purposes and will only be shared with funding partners for reporting requirements. It will not be used for marketing or promotional purposes or provided to any other third party.
Team Eligibility	
	Teams eligible to participate in The Championships 2026: - Teams representing approved TFA State & Territory entities. - Teams representing QTF and NSWTA regional entities. - Teams representing Region or State-approved Affiliates. - Teams representing the Australian Defence Force. - Teams representing associations from other nations, by TFA invitation only, which are affiliated with the Federation of International Touch (FIT). - Any other team approved by TFA. Affiliate Teams Affiliate teams may compete with endorsement from their relevant Region or State, which must not be unreasonably withheld. All Abilities teams can represent their Region, State, or Affiliate without requiring an endorsement. International Teams International teams must be endorsed by their respective national body and are permitted to accrue points and contest finals in any division unless determined otherwise by TFA.

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Player Eligibility

All participants competing at The Championships must be a financial member of TFA with no outstanding debts, or in the case of international teams, a financial member of their National Touch Organisation (NTO).

All players must have played in a minimum of five (5) games:

- in the one team;
- in the one division;
- in the one competition (minimum 7-week competition plus finals)
- in the same season (Season 1 or 2, 2025)*
- with an Affiliate within the boundaries of the entity the player wishes to play for.

*Dispensation may be granted for participants who competed in a Season 1 2025 competition of fewer than 7-weeks plus finals.

Participation in Affiliated Events, such as knockouts, tournaments, or events held over one or more consecutive days, does not count towards qualification.

Eligibility can only be gained based on one (1) round per week.

Female players can only participate in female and mixed divisions, and male players can only participate in male and mixed divisions.

Players can only participate in one (1) team.

It is the responsibility of each entity to ensure that all players and officials are affiliated and financial members of TFA.

If a player is subject to any unresolved judicial matter, the player is deemed ineligible to participate in the event, unless otherwise approved by TFA.

Proof of identity documentation, including a birth certificate, a current passport or a current driver's license, may be required to prove eligibility.

Players in the Opens and 20s divisions must play a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of round games to be eligible for finals. Players in all other divisions must play a minimum of one (1) game to be eligible for finals.

Affiliate Teams

Players who wish to play for their affiliate are required to comply with the following:

- Players must trial for their Regional or State teams in the first instance or be endorsed by their Region to trial for an Affiliate team.
- If a player is not selected for their Region or State, they may then trial for an Affiliate team. Players selected in a Regional or State team cannot decline selection to represent an Affiliate.
- Where players are eligible for multiple States or Regions, they will only be required to be endorsed by one of their entities.
- Players must comply with all other eligibility requirements as stated in these Conditions.

Player Acceptance of a Position

Players may choose to play for any team that they are eligible for, and both the Entity and player shall be required to comply with the following:

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	• A player must express interest, either through a formal EOI process or by attending a selection trial, to be selected into a squad or team. • The Entity must offer a position to the player in writing, and the player must accept that position in writing before they are deemed part of that Entity's team. • A player who has accepted a position and subsequently wishes to withdraw to play for another Entity must apply for and be granted a clearance from the original Entity. The original Entity may approve or deny a clearance, which should not be unreasonably withheld. • A player who has been denied a clearance may appeal the decision to TFA by submitting a request for review in writing. TFA, in its sole discretion, may approve or deny the request for release. ADFTA Teams Full-serving members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who are current members of the ADFTA through participation in on-base competitions are eligible to participate in ADFTA teams. The ADFTA committee may be required to provide evidence of player eligibility. Home Grown Status Home Grown status will be recognised for players who have met all eligibility requirements as outlined in these Conditions, and are seeking to represent their Home Region, where they first represented at a National Touch League (NTL)/The Championships. Where there is a dispute between entities over a player's home-grown status, TFA will determine the player's status, this decision shall be final.
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Player Loan System

	To make an application to gain a player through the player loan system, a request must be received in writing via the Player Loan Application Form and in accordance with the below: 1. Entities are required to complete the Player Loan Application Form. 2. All forms should be submitted for approval at least two (2) weeks (18 February) before the commencement of the event. 3. A team may have up to a maximum of four (4) loan players. 4. Entities are to source players within their state (NSW entities from within NSW, QLD entities from within QLD and Alliance States & ADF teams from within Alliance States) before a request can be made for a player from interstate. 5. The player on loan must: a) Meet all eligibility requirements outlined in these Conditions b) Have trialed or made themselves available for their home entity and been unsuccessful in gaining selection, or their home entity has not nominated a team in the division/s they are eligible for c) Have written approval from the releasing entity, which must not be unreasonably withheld d) Not register for the team before the loan is approved 6. TFA is the sole approver of all player loans, including state-based loan systems, and players may only participate if written approval is granted by TFA. Approval will not be unreasonably withheld, and preference will be given to the loaning of players between neighbouring affiliates or entities. 7. State-specific loan systems (i.e. NSW and QLD Player Loan System) can be used following submission and approval by TFA. Applications through state-specific loan systems are to be provided in the approved format and within the deadlines outlined in Item 2.
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	8. Loan players cannot qualify for home-grown status via the Player Loan System, with their loan status expiring at the conclusion of the tournament. Players are not automatically eligible to play for the loan entity in the future. In extenuating circumstances, requests may be accepted outside the indicated timeframes and parameters.
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Divisions

	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Division</th><th>Age Restriction</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Men's Open (MO)</td><td>Born in or before 2010</td></tr> <tr><td>Men's Open B (MOB)</td><td>Born in or before 2010</td></tr> <tr><td>Women's Open (WO)</td><td>Born in or before 2010</td></tr> <tr><td>Women's Open B (WOB)</td><td>Born in or before 2010</td></tr> <tr><td>Mixed Open (XO)</td><td>Born in or before 2010</td></tr> <tr><td>Mixed Open B (XOB)</td><td>Born in or before 2010</td></tr> <tr><td>Men's 20s (M20)</td><td>Born between 1/1/2006 – 31/12/2010</td></tr> <tr><td>Women's 20s (W20)</td><td>Born between 1/1/2006 – 31/12/2010</td></tr> <tr><td>Women's 27s (W27)</td><td>Born in or before 1999</td></tr> <tr><td>Men's 30s (M30)</td><td>Born in or before 1996</td></tr> <tr><td>Senior Mixed (SX)</td><td>Born in or before 1996</td></tr> <tr><td>Women's 35s (W35)</td><td>Born in or before 1991</td></tr> <tr><td>Men's 40s (M40)</td><td>Born in or before 1986</td></tr> <tr><td>Women's 40s (W40)</td><td>Born in or before 1986</td></tr> <tr><td>Master's Mixed (MX)</td><td>Born in or before 1986</td></tr> <tr><td>Men's 45s (M45)</td><td>Born in or before 1981</td></tr> <tr><td>Women's 45s (W45)</td><td>Born in or before 1981</td></tr> <tr><td>Men's 50s (M50)</td><td>Born in or before 1976</td></tr> <tr><td>Women's 50s (W50)</td><td>Born in or before 1976</td></tr> <tr><td>Men's 55s (M55)</td><td>Born in or before 1971</td></tr> <tr><td>Women's 55s (W55)</td><td>Born in or before 1971</td></tr> <tr><td>Men's 60s (M60)</td><td>Born in or before 1966</td></tr> <tr><td>Men's 65s (M65)</td><td>Born in or before 1961</td></tr> <tr><td>All Abilities T1, T2 & T3 (AA)</td><td>Born in or before 2010</td></tr> </tbody> </table> All divisions must have a minimum of four (4) teams to be deemed viable. If sufficient numbers are nominated for the division but teams withdraw following the close of nominations, leaving fewer than four (4) teams scheduled to participate, TFA may modify or combine the division with another to allow its continuation.	Division	Age Restriction	Men's Open (MO)	Born in or before 2010	Men's Open B (MOB)	Born in or before 2010	Women's Open (WO)	Born in or before 2010	Women's Open B (WOB)	Born in or before 2010	Mixed Open (XO)	Born in or before 2010	Mixed Open B (XOB)	Born in or before 2010	Men's 20s (M20)	Born between 1/1/2006 – 31/12/2010	Women's 20s (W20)	Born between 1/1/2006 – 31/12/2010	Women's 27s (W27)	Born in or before 1999	Men's 30s (M30)	Born in or before 1996	Senior Mixed (SX)	Born in or before 1996	Women's 35s (W35)	Born in or before 1991	Men's 40s (M40)	Born in or before 1986	Women's 40s (W40)	Born in or before 1986	Master's Mixed (MX)	Born in or before 1986	Men's 45s (M45)	Born in or before 1981	Women's 45s (W45)	Born in or before 1981	Men's 50s (M50)	Born in or before 1976	Women's 50s (W50)	Born in or before 1976	Men's 55s (M55)	Born in or before 1971	Women's 55s (W55)	Born in or before 1971	Men's 60s (M60)	Born in or before 1966	Men's 65s (M65)	Born in or before 1961	All Abilities T1, T2 & T3 (AA)	Born in or before 2010
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All Abilities Divisions

	The All Abilities Division consists of three Tiers - Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3, and includes two types of players: - A Certified Athlete (CA) – Athlete with a disability - A Non-Certified Athlete (NCA) – Athlete without a disability <u>Tier 1</u> Teams are not permitted to have any NCAs within the squad and will follow the 8th Edition Rules.
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	Tier 2 & 3 Teams are limited to a maximum of two (2) NCAs on the field and a maximum of six (6) NCAs within the squad. The All Abilities divisions will play on 3 days of the tournament (Wednesday 4th – Friday 6th).															
Coach Eligibility																
	All coaches for The Championships 2026 must have a minimum Foundation coach accreditation and are required to be an accredited coach in The Nest before nominating as a coach at the event. All coaches and entity officials must meet the requirements below: <table><tr><th>Course Name</th><th>Opens & 20s Coaches & Support Personnel</th><th>All other Coaches & Support Personnel</th></tr><tr><td>Anti-Doping Fundamentals</td><td>REQUIRED</td><td>REQUIRED</td></tr><tr><td>2026 Annual Update</td><td>REQUIRED</td><td>REQUIRED</td></tr><tr><td>Competition Manipulation and Sports Betting</td><td>REQUIRED</td><td>REQUIRED</td></tr><tr><td>Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport Induction</td><td>REQUIRED</td><td>RECOMMENDED</td></tr></table> Entities nominating unaccredited coaches or coaches and officials who have not met the criteria outlined above and in the Integrity Education Plan in the General Conditions before Wednesday, 28 January 2026, will not have their teams released for registrations until such time that they have satisfied the criteria. If the above criteria are not satisfied before Wednesday, 25 February 2026, the late player registration fee will apply.	Course Name	Opens & 20s Coaches & Support Personnel	All other Coaches & Support Personnel	Anti-Doping Fundamentals	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	2026 Annual Update	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	Competition Manipulation and Sports Betting	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport Induction	REQUIRED	RECOMMENDED
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Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport Induction	REQUIRED	RECOMMENDED														
Team Nomination Process																
	The acceptance of team nominations will be at the discretion of TFA. Tour leaders are required to submit their final team nominations via The Championships website by 5pm AEDT – Wednesday, 21 January 2026. Tour leaders have the implied delegated authority of their representing entity. If any of the above-mentioned documentation, registration or nomination deadlines are not met by the due dates, team nominations may be removed. Entities that withdraw teams after the close of nominations on Wednesday, 21 January 2026, will be invoiced a late withdrawal fee of \$200 per team, which must be paid before the start of the event. Team nominations received after the closing date may be accepted at the discretion of TFA and may incur a late payment of \$100 (GST exclusive).															

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Registration Process	
	Players and officials are required to register online via MySideline. Online registrations will be open from Wednesday, 28 January 2026 only for teams who have satisfied the criteria as outlined in the Integrity Education Plan in the General Conditions. Registrations must be completed by the individual (or their guardian) before 5pm AEDT – Wednesday, 25 February 2026. Players who register after this time will be required to pay <u>the late fee</u>. <u>Open Category (Opens and 20s) and W27, M30 and SX</u> Teams may register a maximum of sixteen (16) players. Only fourteen (14) players can participate in each game. <u>Masters Divisions (W35, M40, W40, MX, M45, W45, M50, W50, M55, W55, M60, M65) and All Abilities</u> Teams may register a maximum of sixteen (16) players. Sixteen (16) players can participate in each game. A team playing an ineligible or unregistered player will forfeit all matches in which that player participated. Teams that have less than 16 players registered may request permission to register additional players (up to a maximum of 16) during the event. TFA may, in its sole discretion, approve or deny the request. No additional registrations will be approved during the final series of matches. Teams with less than ten (10) players registered to the team in MySideline at 5pm AEDT – Wednesday, 25 February 2026, may be withdrawn from the tournament.
Player Refunds	
	Players who have paid their registration fee and withdraw from the event before 9:00am AEDT on Monday, 2 March 2026, due to injury or illness (with a valid medical certificate) or for compassionate reasons will receive a refund. Withdrawals for any other reason will not be eligible for a refund. If the event is postponed, all registration fees will be held by TFA and moved to the new event date. If a player can no longer attend, a full refund will be provided. If the event is cancelled, TFA reserves the right to provide a full, partial or no refund depending on the circumstances. TFA reserves the right to review requests for refunds outside of the above requirements and may choose to provide partial or full refunds depending on the circumstances.
Referee Nominations	
	TFA will invite Expressions of Interest (EOI) from accredited Representative, State, and National Graded referees. Referees will be selected from the EOI pool. Completing an EOI does not guarantee selection and will be subject to the minimum requirements of TFA for the event. TFA will advise successful referees in writing following the close of the EOI period.

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	There is no affiliate/entity quota system. TFA will supply all referees for the event via selections from the EOI process. All referees, before completing their EOI for the event, are required to: • be active and registered with an affiliated competition; and • be available for the whole duration of the event (Wednesday-Saturday); and • are an accredited referee in The Nest Referees who have not met the above requirements will be ineligible to participate in the event. This event is a national badge upgrade tournament. Referees wishing to attempt an upgrade will be asked during the EOI process to indicate their intent to seek an upgrade. If successfully selected to attend the event, TFA will confirm endorsement for an upgrade from the referee's home state. Referees not endorsed by their states will not be eligible for an upgrade.
Tents and Associated Equipment	
	Entities that would like to hire a tent or equipment must submit the Tent Request Form by 5:00pm AEDT on Wednesday, 21 January 2026. TFA will work with local providers to confirm the bookings and issue an invoice before the event. Payment must be received by Wednesday, 4 February 2026, or the order will be cancelled. Any entity that sources an alternate provider to erect a marquee will not be given access at the venue to do so. Any loss of funds caused by this will be the sole responsibility of the entity. TFA will allocate the position of tents. Due to limited space available, entity tents and equipment will be restricted at the venue. Tents will be restricted to <u>one (1)</u> tent per entity, and the size will be limited to suit the number of teams entered: 1-4 teams, no larger than a 6m x 9m tent. 5-9 teams, no larger than a 6m x 12m or 9m x 9m tent. 10-15 teams, no larger than a 12m x 9m or 6m x 18m tent. 16 or more teams, no larger than a 10m x 15m tent. In addition to this, the following needs to be adhered to: - Due to council restrictions, self-catering is not permitted at the venue. This includes outside commercial food, bulk food or catering, or preparing food in team tents. - Due to limited space, ice baths will not be permitted at the venue. - If in place at the time of the event, entities will need to follow the current NSW Public Health Orders The event and tournament needs will take priority with the allocation of infrastructure. All associated equipment is the sole responsibility of the entity hiring the equipment. Entities will be responsible for ensuring the safety and protection of all equipment they bring into the venue. Cool rooms and ice trailers are not permitted on-site. Any other large infrastructure being brought into the venue needs prior permission from TFA.

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	TFA cannot guarantee water or power to the entity tent area. Entities are encouraged to sort out any arrangements, such as water or power access by 4pm AEDT – Tuesday, 3 March 2026. Access to the tent area for entities to set up inside their tents will be from 12pm AEDT – Tuesday, 3 March 2026.
Uniforms	
	To ensure consistency, professionalism, and alignment with Touch Football Australia (TFA) standards, all teams participating in the event must comply with the following uniform requirements: Touch Football Uniform Rules and Guidelines. Key design requirements include: • The relevant state logo must appear on the right chest of the playing top and on the right leg of all bottoms. • The TFA logo must be positioned centrally on the upper back of the playing top, above the playing number. • Team Uniform Consistency ◦ All playing members of a team must wear the same uniform design. ◦ Players may wear a combination of shirts or singlets, and shorts or tights, provided all items align with the approved design. ◦ Any player not in the official uniform will not be permitted to take the field until correctly attired, which includes headwear and accessories. ◦ Referees will monitor and enforce uniform compliance. Proven breaches may result in a caution and/or fine as determined by TFA tournament management. 1. <u>Uniform Design Submission</u> All teams are required to submit their uniform designs to TFA for approval via the The Championship 2026 Uniform Submission TFA will review designs to ensure compliance with all uniform guidelines. In some situations, dispensation may be granted. Scenarios for which dispensation may occur can be found in the Flowchart. Uniform designs must be submitted no later than 5:00pm AEDT on Wednesday, 17 December 2025. 2. <u>Uniform Accessories</u> The updated uniform guidelines also outline requirements for accessories, including compression garments and headwear. All accessories must comply with the rules and will be enforced throughout the tournament. 3. <u>Use of TFA Intellectual Property & Licensed Apparel Providers</u> The use of TFA intellectual property, including logos and design elements, is restricted under the current apparel licensing agreement. The current agreement is valid until 28 February 2025 and includes the following licensed providers: • New Balance • Inferno • Tribal Sport • Steeden • EV2 • ISC

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	• S-Trend • Dynasty Sport • Struddys • BLK International • KBS Sportswear Teams must source uniforms from these approved licensees when applying TFA branding. All playing uniforms must include: • a securely fixed numbered shirt or singlet (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 number sequence – 0 (not '00', '01', '02', etc), 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80 and 90. Merchandising The merchandising of The Championships 2026 will be the responsibility of TFA and its Official Apparel Partner, New Balance. All rights relating to the sale and production of merchandise for the event will remain the property of TFA. The selling of merchandise or other products by entities or other parties at the event without TFA's consent will not be tolerated and is a commercial breach. A penalty of up to \$5,000 (GST exclusive) per offence will be applied to any entity or organisation breaching TFA's rights.
Final Team Lists and Playing Shirt Numbers	
	Final team lists with playing shirt numbers are to be submitted in writing via the provided form by 5pm AEDT – Wednesday, 25 February 2026. These provided team lists will be used to cross-reference MySideline registrations, add shirt numbers, and provide tour leaders the opportunity to chase outstanding registrations. <u>Please do not include anyone on these lists who is not attending the event.</u> Failure to submit team details by the due date may result in a team being withdrawn.
Tour Leader Meeting	
	Tour leaders will be required to book a 30 to 60-minute Tour Leader Meeting, pending the number of teams nominated, between 12pm and 4pm AEDT on Tuesday, 3 March 2026. TFA will provide each tour leader with the MySideline squad report for each team, containing details of participants registered online as of 9am AEDT – Tuesday, 3 March 2026. This squad report will become the final registered team list and is to be checked to ensure all participants have registered, and that correct details have been provided, including registered players' names and playing shirt numbers. Tour Leaders must bring a copy of the submitted final team list to use as a cross-referencing tool. Changes to playing shirt numbers are to be legibly handwritten on the squad report. The tour leader must sign off to confirm that all information and documents are correct. The tour leader meeting will be the final opportunity to change the final registered team list.

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	A reminder that players and officials who have not completed the online registration process will not show on the final squad report. Failure to complete online registrations and submit final team details by 6pm AEDT – Tuesday, 3 March 2026, may result in a penalty including removal from the tournament, forfeits, a financial penalty and/or the loss of points. Tour leaders will receive their team footballs and be advised of any changes to the tournament briefing or other important information at this meeting. It is the responsibility of the respective entity that all their participants have submitted all relevant documentation before taking part in the tournament in any capacity. Player Shirt Number Changes Team officials must make TFA aware of player shirt number changes by completing the relevant form at the tournament information area.
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Photography and Filming

	NRL Films and Photos are the official and exclusive photographers and videographers of The Championships 2026, engaged on behalf of TFA. NRL Films and Photos will take action shots at the event, which will be available from TFA's Facebook Page. TFA has sole commercial rights to playing/match images and footage captured at the event. Professional photography and filming are restricted to NRL Films and Photos, Host Council Staff, and authorised TFA personnel only. Entities that wish to record or photograph games must gain prior approval from TFA through the Photography and Filming Request Form by 5pm AEDT Tuesday, 3 March 2026 to receive appropriate accreditation at the event (i.e., media vest). The vest must always be worn on the grounds by the accredited person. Failure to wear the vest may result in accreditation being revoked and/or removal from the grounds. Approved entities, or persons representing an entity, are permitted to publish, make available, share or otherwise any image or gallery of playing/game images or footage captured at the event on websites, social media, print formats or directly to participants for non-commercial purposes. Entities are also permitted to take and share footage for internal coaching and analysis and must gain permission from the opposition team before the match commences. Entities are not permitted to sell any images or footage captured at the event. Sanctions may apply if an entity is found to have breached this clause, i.e., has not received approval. All persons accept that by participating in this event, they may be photographed or filmed by TFA, the broadcaster or host council, and that these images or footage may be used by TFA and its partners, the broadcaster or host council. If you do not wish for your image(s) to be used, individuals must notify TFA in writing to events@touchfootball.com.au.
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Medical Assistance	
	Entities are required to supply their own medical staff. It is the entity's responsibility to ensure that adequate medical staff possessing appropriate qualifications and insurance are appointed to support their teams. Please refer to the TFA Sports Science and Sports Medicine Framework to guide you through the process. Additionally, TFA will ensure suitably trained medical staff are available to assist with all serious injuries. <u>Entities are reminded that the TFA Medical Team do not provide strapping or massages.</u> Contact details of the nominated medical delegate are to be lodged on the officials' team sheet, and tournament management will contact this individual during the event for medical issues involving the respective entity.
Insurance	
	The TFA National Insurance Scheme covers all players who are financial members with TFA. International teams must provide evidence of their insurance coverage, as TFA cannot provide coverage.

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