

Strategic Sponsors



Official Partner



Date: 08 July 2026
To: Representative, State and National Referees
From: Luke Saldern – Officiating Performance & Pathways Manager
Subject: 2026 DoorDash National Youth Championships - Referee Expression of Interest

Touch Football Australia (TFA) is calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for suitably qualified referees to be considered to attend the 2026 DoorDash National Youth Championships (NYC).

TFA is committed to running the 2026 NYC from Monday 28th September – Thursday, 1st October 2026 at C.ex Coffs International Stadium, Coffs Harbour, New South Wales.

TFA recognises the significant contribution and effort referees make to attend the event and has again subsidised the referee levy for this event.

The NYC event has proven to be a highlight for the Touch Football community, providing a great opportunity for referees to develop and work towards a higher badge level and to be identified for future national programs and international events. The 2026 NYC will host the traditional 18s competition and will continue to include the 16s, 14s and 12s divisions.

This document outlines information for referees interested in participating in the event:

- Event information
- International referees
- EOI criteria
- Under 18s referees
- The Nest
- Tournament EOI process
- Approved tournament referees
- Withdrawals
- Referee contribution
- Accommodation
- Travel arrangements
- On-field uniform
- Off-field uniform
- Contact and future communication
- Key dates summary

We encourage you to read to following information closely.

TFA encourages all referees to interact and support each other in the lead-up and throughout the tournament.



Touch Football Australia
Suite 1/18 Napier Close, Deakin ACT | PO Box 9078, Deakin ACT 2600
Phone: +61 2 6212 2800 | Fax: +61 2 6212 2822
www.touchfootball.com.au | info@touchfootball.com.au

ABN 55 090 088 207



2026 DOORDASH NATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Referee Expression of Interest Information

Items	Information
Event Information	The 2026 NYC will be held from Monday, 28 th September – Thursday, 1 st October 2026 at C.ex Coffs International Stadium, Stadium Dr, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
International Referees	TFA encourages international teams and referees to participate in our national events. We see this as another development opportunity to strengthen the game across the globe. Any international referee wishing to participate in the event, will require endorsement from their respective country's referee director, as well as the Federation of International Touch, and their director of referees.
EOI Criteria	All referees prior to completing their EOI for the event are required to: • Hold a minimum representative badge ◦ Referees must be 14 years or older to officiate at this event. • be active and registered with an affiliated competition; and • be endorsed by their state referee director for NSW & QLD entities or state office for TFA entities; and • be available for the whole duration of the event (Monday-Thursday); and • Be a positive ambassador of the sport, representing TFA and their entity/state organisations, related to their behaviour on and off the field; • Must have completed the ASC Child Safeguarding Course Referees who have not met the above, risk being ineligible to participate at the event.. <u>Note:</u> The NYC is the national event for youth referee development and the pinnacle event in the under 18 referees' pathway; nominations from under 18 referees are encouraged.
Under 18s Referees	NYC is the preferred development pathway for referees aged 18 years and under, however, TFA won't be able to provide supervision for these referees. This will need to be provided by a parent/guardian or the entity they are representing. Referees who intend to participate in the NYC event and will be 18 years and under during the tournament are asked to make themselves known to Luke Saldern via





	luke.saldern@touchfootball.com.au This will allow us to provide further information specific to their involvement in the event, and responsibilities prior to it.
LEARN NRL	All referees completing the EOI for the event are required to have completed the appropriate training for their current badge level in LEARN NRL prior to completing the EOI to referee at the event. Referees who have not completed this risk being ineligible to participate at the event. Please contact education@touchfootball.com.au if you have any issues with LEARN NRL.
Tournament Nomination Process	EOI for the 2026 NYC will be conducted through the following form: 2026 NYC Referee EOI Form Expressions must be lodged by – Monday 10 August 2026. TFA recommends that you have planned your participation at the event. This means that you have contacted your regional or state director of referees and know that you are eligible and endorsed, that you have leave organised with your employer and that you're undertaking suitable treatment of any existing injuries. Please communicate any relevant information for your participation to your regional or state director of referees and TFA, so we understand your situation and we can plan your participation accordingly. Your EOI is subject to acceptance and is <i>not to be taken as an automatic inclusion</i> for the event. Please note; if the required number of referees for the event is less than the number of endorsed EOI, TFA will need to use a selection criterion to reduce the referees EOI to the correct number for the event. Endorsement from your state does not mean you are automatically accepted to the event. Once selected, referees will be emailed their acceptance letter with further information outlining the official registration process.
Approved Tournament Referees	Referees whose EOI is selected will be emailed a Tournament Acceptance Pack on approx. Wednesday, 12th August 2026. This pack must be completed and returned by Wednesday, 26 August 2026. The tournament acceptance pack will include: • Successful referee letter





	• MySideline registration • Further event information and updates • Refbook Profile Requirements • Parent/guardian consent form for under 18s (if required).
Withdrawals	We understand circumstances can change between the time of your EOI and the actual event. In consideration of this, any referee needing to withdraw is required to notify TFA and their entity of their reason, and provide relevant supporting documentation prior to Wednesday, 26 August 2026. Relevant documentation includes a doctor's certificate or letter from an employer. Notification must be made in writing to luke.saldern@touchfootball.com.au. Any referee withdrawing from the event, must advise their entity, as they will be required to find a replacement referee for the event.
Referee Contribution	TFA is fully subsidising the referee contribution for the 2026 event. There is no referee levy to attend the 2026 tournament. Referees will still receive the following services and amenities: • Professional development of referee skills by national referee coaches • Referee management services • Medical assistance, first aid supplies and services • Lunch, fruit and hydration station for each day of the competition • Shelter and hire equipment • Referee awards • A pre-tournament meeting – At the Stadium, 5pm on Tuesday 24th September Please note travel, accommodation, transport and other meals are at personal cost – please refer to the sections below for more information.
Accommodation	TFA will not be coordinating group referee accommodation. Referees are responsible for coordinating their own accommodation. We understand that for some this may present a different logistical environment; however, this allows TFA to not charge a referee levy to participate at this event. It is recommended that referees talk with their entity (region/state) directly to discuss any arrangements they may have in place to assist you with attending the event, and/or the process for securing accommodation.





	If the entity (region/state) is not able to assist you, you will need to make your own personal arrangements. Referees under the age of 18, MUST stay with their entity or parent/guardians for the duration of the event. Final accommodation bookings should not be made until you receive the TFA acceptance letter.
Travel Arrangements	Referees must make their own travel arrangements to and from Coffs Harbour, ensuring arrival on Tuesday. Referees will be required to make their own transfers to and from the fields each day or work with their region to make travel arrangements to and from the fields each day. Travel insurance for the event is the responsibility of the individual. We recommend you have adequate travel insurance or home and contents insurance that will cover you if something occurs. Furthermore, TFA encourages individuals not to bring unnecessary valuables to the event, especially the fields, as we cannot ensure their security. Final travel bookings should not be made until you receive the TFA acceptance letter.
On-Field Uniform	Referees must wear the official TFA referee on-field DoorDash branded uniform and have a choice of wearing either the football, tall, or ankle socks. Female referees may also choose to wear either shorts or a skirt. Inferno or New Balance-branded uniform will be accepted, noting that NEW BALANCE BRAND MUST BE WORN ON ALL LIVESTREAM GAMES. The on-field referee uniform consists of a DoorDash branded pink on-field shirt, a DoorDash branded yellow on-field shirt, on-field shorts or skirt, socks and cap. It is highly recommended that you order your uniform in advance of the event, prior to the end of January, as additional on-field items may not be available to purchase at the event. Where a referee does not currently have a yellow on-field shirt, they will be required to purchase one prior to the event. <u>No other on-field clothing items are permitted to be worn at this event</u>
Off-Field Uniform	Referees are to wear the referee off-field polo and any other appropriate casual shorts at the fields between games.





	The referee off-field shorts are not compulsory.
Contact and Future Communication	If you have any further queries or for further information, please contact Luke Saldern: luke.saldern@touchfootball.com.au

