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Memo

Date	16 November 2026
To	TFA Referees
From	Luke Saldern, Officiating Performance & Pathways Manager, Touch Football Australia
Subject	The Championships, 2027 Referee EOI

Touch Football Australia (TFA) is calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from suitably qualified Representative, State, and National referees to be considered to attend The Championships, 2027 event.

TFA is committed to running The Championships from Thursday, 11 – Sunday, 14 March 2027 at C.ex Coffs International Stadium, Coffs Harbour, New South Wales.

The Championships event has proven to be a highlight for the Touch Football community, providing a great opportunity for professional development through experiencing the highest level of Touch Football in the country. The open and senior tournaments will run concurrently over the four days creating an exciting atmosphere with the best players and officials from across the country in all age divisions.

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

- Event information
- International referees
- EOI criteria
- Under 18s referees
- NRL Learning Management System
- Working With Children Check Policy
- Sport Integrity Australia
- Tournament EOI process
- Approved tournament referee
- Withdrawals
- Referee contribution
- Accommodation
- Travel arrangements
- On-field uniform
- Off-field uniform
- Contact and future communication
- Key dates summary

We encourage you to read the following information closely, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via luke.saldern@touchfootball.com.au or 0413 355 470.

THE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2027.
Referee Expressions of Interest Information

Items	Information
Event Information	The event is intended to be held from Thursday, 11 – Sunday, 14 March 2027, at C.ex Coffs International Stadium, Coffs Harbour, New South Wales.
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. However, please note that international referees will not be considered or permitted to officiate final series matches. Any international referee wishing to participate in the event, will require endorsement from their respective country's referee director.
EOI criteria	All referees prior to completing their EOI for the event are required to: • Hold a Representative, State or National referee badge, as listed and obtained through the My Accreditation platform in the NRL Learning Management System: https://learn.mysideline.com.au/; • Be active and registered with an affiliated competition; and • Be available for the whole duration of the event; and • Be a positive ambassador of the sport, representing TFA and their entity/state organisations through their behaviour on and off the field. Referees who have not met the above, risk being ineligible to participate at the event.
Under 18s Referees	No supervision will be provided to referees under the age of 18 years at the event. Rather than The Championships, the National Youth Championships (NYC) is the preferred development pathway for referees aged 18 years and under. As such, youth referees are encouraged to participate in the NYC. Any referee who is under 18 years of age wishing to attend The Championships will need the supervision of a parent or appointed guardian. If you wish to seek further advice prior to nominating, please contact TFA for further details or your state office.

NRL Learning Management System	All referees completing the EOI for the event are required to have completed the appropriate training for their current badge level in the NRL Learning Management System (https://learn.mysideline.com.au/), 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 the NRL Learning Management System.
Working With Children's Check Policy (WWCC)	In line with TFA's new national Working with Children Check (WWCC) Policy and Guidelines, all adult referees attending the Championships must hold a valid WWCC or the relevant state or territory equivalent. TFA will verify all checks before the Championships to ensure compliance with this requirement. As part of your Expression of Interest (EOI), you will be required to provide the following details to allow TFA to verify your WWCC and accurately record your information: • Full legal name • Date of birth • WWCC number • WWCC expiry date Please ensure all details are accurate and match the information recorded with your relevant state or territory WWCC authority. This requirement reflects TFA's commitment to strengthening child safety and ensuring a safe environment for everyone involved in Touch Football.
Sport Integrity Australia (SIA)	Touch Football Australia (TFA), in partnership with Sport Integrity Australia (SIA), has established mandatory and recommended education requirements to promote the safety, integrity and wellbeing of everyone involved in our sport. All referees attending the Championships are required to have completed the relevant mandatory SIA education courses for their respective badge level prior to the event. Please review the requirements outlined below and ensure you have completed all applicable courses before attending the Championships.

	https://touchfootball.com.au/media/18460/2026-tfa-integrity-education-plan.pdf You can download your SIA training history and forward it to integrity@touchfootball.com.au to confirm your completion of the mandatory education requirements.
Tournament EOI Process	Ideally, in completing this form, you have indicated to TFA your availability to attend the event, and you have leave organised or can organise it asap with your employer, and/or if required, you are undertaking suitable treatment of any existing injuries. **We ask that you only complete the EOI knowing you are available to attend**. The EOI for the 2027 event will be conducted through the following form: **CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE CHAMPIONSHIP EOI FORM** Expressions must be lodged by – **THURSDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2026.** Your EOI is subject to selection from the EOI pool and is *not to be taken as an automatic inclusion* for the event, the number of referees selected from the EOI pool will be subject to the team nomination numbers. *Please note;* if the number of referees required for the event is less than the number of referees who have completed the EOI, TFA will use a selection process to determine which referees will be invited to attend the event. This will include consultation with state bodies to ensure referees who support the sport and are able to perform at the required standards at state, regional and affiliate level are rewarded as priority. Once selected, referees will be emailed their invitation/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 by the 23rd of December 2026. This pack must be completed and returned by **the dates set out in the letter.** The tournament acceptance pack will include: • Successful letter • MySideline registration

	• Further event information and updates • Parent – guardian consent form for under 18's (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 of their reason and provide relevant supporting documentation before **Monday, 1st February 2027.** Relevant documentation includes a doctor's certificate or letter from an employer. Notification must be made in writing to luke.saldern@touchfootball.com.au.
Referee Contribution	TFA is making the following referee contribution for the 2027 event. There is no TFA referee levy to attend the 2027 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 • A pre-tournament meeting • Lunch, fruit and hydration station for each day of the competition • Shelter and hire equipment • Referee awards. 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. 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 by **Wednesday afternoon, 10 March 2027**. Referees will be required to make their own transfers 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. **No other on-field clothing items are permitted to be worn at this event**.
Off-Field Uniform	Referees are to wear the referee off-field polo and any other appropriate black 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

Key Dates Summary	

DATE	ITEM
THUR, 17 December 2026	Online EOIs close
WED, 23 December 2026	Referee advised of acceptance
MON, 1 February 2027	Withdrawal deadline
MON, 1 February 2027	Referee acceptance pack due
WED, 10 March 2027	Referee pre-event meeting
THUR, 11 March 2027	2027 Event commences
SUN, 14 March 2027	2027 Event concludes