Touch Football Australia
National Junior Development Framework
Section One - Introduction

The Touch Football Australia (TFA) National Junior Development Framework has been created by TFA to ensure that all young Australians are provided with the opportunity to develop and enhance their lives through the sport of Touch Football.

The purpose of this document is to provide a national structure to align the junior programs in each of the states and to bring the playing level of juniors across Australia, up to an equal standard. The framework will assist affiliated touch associations, volunteers and schools in the development of junior affiliates, competitions, pathways, programs and related activities.

The TFA Junior Development Framework has a number of objectives that aim to ensure positive, enjoyable and safe experiences are provided to children in the sport of Touch Football. Those objectives include the following:

- Provide enjoyable experiences for all children so as to encourage lifelong participation.
- Provide supportive environments for participation through the development of skills and good sporting behaviour.
- Provide the safest possible environment for participation and active involvement in the sport of Touch Football and related activities.
- Provide equal opportunities for children regardless of their gender, race, ability, cultural background, religion, geographic location or age.
- Encourage and actively cater for the development of talented children.
- Encourage, cater for and provide pathways for children to develop skills in refereeing, coaching, selecting, managing and administration.
- Provide a consistent and coordinated approach to all Touch Football programs in both the school and the community.

While all care has been taken in the preparation of this publication, Touch Football Australia accepts that errors, omissions or inaccuracies may occur. This publication is of a general nature only and should be used in conjunction with related policies, such as the Member Protection Policy. It is not intended to be relied upon, nor as a substitute for, professional advice.
Important

The following points should be considered at all times:

1. Touch Football Australia is the national sporting organisation and all affiliated clubs/associations are insured under the National Insurance Scheme.

2. It is essential that you comply with all relevant laws, by-laws and regulations. You and your affiliate must take all due and reasonable precautions to prevent or mitigate losses. Failure to do so may prejudice your rights and entitlements under our insurance policy. Please do not hesitate to contact Touch Football Australia should any assistance be required.

3. The preparation of this document is in no way a commitment from Touch Football Australia to provide funds or make any other contribution now or in the future.

4. Touch Football Australia policies and procedures are living documents which reflect progress in administrative requirements and industry standards. As such, to maintain currency, policy and procedures are periodically reviewed and updated. It is important readers ensure they are reading and using the most up to date version. To confirm the current version, please contact Touch Football Australia at www.austouch.com.au.

5. Touch Football Australia also welcomes suggestions or improvements to our policies and procedures.

Version Control Register

Material Title: Touch Football Australia National Junior Development Framework
Material Type: Manual
Material Developed by (Author): Adam Raptis - Participation Manager
Workplace for Use: TFA National Office, State Associations, Regions, Affiliates and Members

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Acknowledgements

Touch Football Australia would like to thank the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) for their support and consultation in the development of this framework.

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Elements of the Touch Football Australia National Junior Development Framework have been reproduced from the Australian Touch Association Junior Policy.

Age Qualification, Definitions and Terminology

For age level, the ages indicated are to be taken as at 31st December of that year.

- **Juniors** under 20 years
- **Youth** 13 to 20 years
- **Children** 5 to 12 years

The following are a list of terms utilised throughout this document.

- **Affiliate** A local entity that conducts and/or administers Touch Football competitions and which is a member of Touch Football Australia
- **ASC** Australian Sports Commission
- **TFA** Touch Football Australia
Framework Development

Junior sport moves, evolves and grows as quickly as children, and as such, TFA will continue to update this document with the most relevant information, policies and procedures.

TFA values the thoughts and views of our members and stakeholders; if you have any feedback or would like to contribute to the development of this document, please contact Touch Football Australia.

Contacts

Touch Football Australia and the sport’s associated state bodies have staff who are dedicated to the development of our youngest participants and future stars of the sport, as well as the growth of Touch Football throughout the country.

For more information or to discuss junior development in your state, town, affiliate or club; please contact your closest development staff member.

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TFA Resources and Equipment

Touch Football Australia produces a wide range of coaching resources, clothing for players and officials, and game equipment which are available for affiliates, members and the general public to purchase via the ‘Online Shop’ on the website.

Our Online Shop is an effective and efficient service that is provided to our members to view and purchase merchandise. View the merchandise catalogue, order form or a range of sponsor catalogues, by visiting austouch.com.au and locating the Online Shop tab at the top of the page.