



RULES OF COMPETITION & BY-LAWS

Location: Adelaide University Waite campus playing fields, corner Fullarton Rd and Claremont Ave

Competition Dates: Oct 30 2014 – Feb 26 2015

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Rules of Competition

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Purpose

- i. The aim of these Competition Rules and By-Laws is to provide all stakeholders with a clear and concise framework under which competitions are conducted by Adelaide University Touch Association.

2.0 Application of Competition Rules and By-Laws

- i. Games will be played and refereed under the official Touch Football Australia (TFA) 7th Edition Playing Rules.
- ii. Alterations to the official TFA 7th Edition Playing Rules, to suit Adelaide University Touch Association competitions, are specified in these Competition Rules and By-Laws, and the attached Appendices.
- iii. Where there is a difference between the official TFA 7th Edition Playing Rules and these Adelaide University Touch Association Competition Rules and By-Laws, unless stated in this document the Adelaide University Touch Association Competition Rules and By-Laws will apply.
- iv. Any rule change will be communicated to Officials and Participants in a timely manner prior to implementation.

SECTION 2: COMPETITION STRUCTURE

1.0 General Information

- i. These Regulations shall apply to all **Waite Touch Football** fixtures.
- ii. Adelaide University Touch Association competitions shall comprise ~~of~~ four divisions: A/B, C/D, E/F and G/H.

1.1 Competition Format:

- A round robin format will be used for preliminary games.
- The four divisions will be split into eight for semi-finals.
- Where pools are required, cross over semi-finals will be played.

2.0 Finals

- i. After the conclusion of all competition round games, all divisions in the competition will be split into two sub-divisions and each have a finals series.
- ii. Eligibility for finals will be determined with reference to the ranking of each team on the competition points table.

2.1 Finals Format:

- Teams placing the top eight places in any ungraded or graded division after all calculations including any adjustments are completed will take place in the finals series for that division.
- Positions for the finals will be determined by:

Teams with the highest points at the completion of round games

If equal – For and against

If equal – Percentage

If equal – Result of Round Game played

If drawn – Drop Off

- All players playing in the finals series must qualify under Eligibility guidelines as outlined.
- The format will be as follows: Ladder 1 vs Ladder 4, Ladder 2 vs Ladder 3.
- Drop offs will be played for all finals matches where required.

3.0 Determination of Competition points

- i. The competition will be judged on a points system. General competition points are awarded as follows:
 - a. Win 3 points
 - b. Bye 2 points
 - c. Loss 1 point
 - d. Draw 2 points
 - e. Loss by Forfeit (notice) 0 points
 - f. Loss by Forfeit (no notice) -4 points
 - g. Win by Forfeit 3 points

SECTION 3: COMMENCEMENT OF THE COMPETITION

1.0 Nominations

- ii. Teams must be nominated using the Nomination Form <https://reg.sportingpulse.com/v6/regoform.cgi?formID=42881> provided by Adelaide University Touch Association and all information requested on this form must be supplied by the due date.
- iii. Late nominations will only be accepted at the discretion of the Competition Coordinator, and will be dependent on teams already nominated.

2.0 Fees

- i. Each team nominated for the competition must pay the appropriate team fees. They are as follows:
 - a. Senior Team Fee \$1070.00
 - b. Senior Team Fee with Referee \$970.00
 - c. Junior Team Fee \$750.00
- ii. Teams must complete online registration via direct deposit to the AUTC bank account. Payments by individuals within teams will not be accepted, the team may pay a maximum of 2 payments: a deposit of \$300 and the balance in total.
- iii. It is the responsibility of each Affiliate/team to pay their fees.

- iv. All Team Fees must be paid by 13 November 2014 to Adelaide University Touch Association to BSB 305 122 (Bank West) Account # 0391160 by no later than Close of Business (COB) 13 November 2014. Failure to pay fees by the due date may result in the team being removed from competition.
- v. All players within the 'unfinancial' team will be regarded as being 'unfinancial and uninsured' until all fees are paid. As a result of being classified as an 'unfinancial player' they are ineligible to compete in any TFA affiliated competition until all outstanding debts are paid.

3.0 Team Structure

- i. The structure of each team must comply with the Rule 5 of the TFA 7th Edition Playing Rules, unless these Regulations state otherwise.
- ii. A maximum of 6 players per team may be on the field at any one time.
- iii. No more than 3 male players may be on the field at any one time unless the fourth male is either:
 - a. Over the age of 55, or
 - b. Under the age of 13.No more than 1 male player may be on the field under the above exemption rules at any one time.
- iv. A maximum total number of players that can play for a team during one competition game is 20.

4.0 Grading

- i. Clubs or Individual teams must make every effort to nominate in the correct grade.
- ii. Adelaide University Touch Association reserves the right to formally grade teams in a particular grade prior to the start of the season or during the first 4 weeks of competition.
- iii. However in the interest of fair competition, Adelaide University Touch Association reserves the right to at any point during the season to refuse or alter a team nomination, or to re-grade a team, in consultation with the club or team concerned.

5.0 Team Uniform

- i. Each Team entering the Adelaide University Touch Association is required to wear a uniform. No person, including opposing team captains, a Referee or Ground Controller may waive the requirement for players to comply with the player uniform Regulations set out within these Regulations.

5.1 Playing Shirt:

- Each player taking the field must wear a uniform representative of his/her Team.
- For teams in the A/B and C/D division, playing shirts must bear an exclusive number. For all teams, playing shirts must be of a similar shade and pattern for each player in the team.
- Where a uniform violation is identified, the opposition team will receive 1 touchdown for each non-complying player, up to a maximum of 5 touchdowns.

5.2 Playing Shirt Numbers:

- The number displayed on a players playing shirt will be their team player number.
- A player's team player number must correspond with the team player number printed on the relevant Sign-On Sheet by, or on behalf of, the player and provided to Adelaide University Touch Association.
- Team player numbers must be:
 - a) At least 15 cm in height
 - b) Placed on the rear of the jersey
 - c) In a contrasting colour to the colour of the team playing shirts
 - d) Legible to a Referee
- Shirts that have numbers taped on or drawn on will not be accepted.

5.3 Playing Footwear:

- A player must wear approved sports shoes at all times whilst on the field during a competition game.
- Football boots with screw-in studs are not permitted.
- A Referee may refuse to allow a player to wear the shoes he/she is wearing if the Referee considers the shoes put the safety of players at risk.

6.0 Competition Draw

- i. Competition Management will prepare a schedule of games (fixtures) for each grade and these shall be published here: http://www.foxsportspulse.com/assoc_page.cgi?c=1-553-0-0-0&a=COMPS
- ii. The Competition Coordinator may approve an alteration in the draw where circumstances require.

7.0 Responsibilities

- i. It is the responsibility of the Team and its delegate/team contact to ensure:
 - a. Its players are eligible.
 - b. Its players, officials and associated spectators comply with the Code of Conduct at all times and are aware of the Responsibility Code.
 - c. Its players comply with all uniform requirements.
 - d. Team competition fees are paid in full.
 - e. Its players are aware of the TFA 7th Edition Playing Rules.
 - f. The Sign-On Sheet is signed at the start of the game by all players to comply with National Insurance Scheme.
- ii. Each player is responsible for:
 - a. Ensuring he/she is aware of and complies with the TFA 7th Edition Playing Rules.
 - b. Ensuring they sign their name and correct player number on the Sign-On Sheet for the game.

SECTION 4: PLAYER REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY

1.0 Player Registration

- i. Players must be registered through the Adelaide University Touch Association Online Registration system either by Club or Team delegate. Until a player is registered they are not eligible to play in Adelaide University Touch Association.
- ii. Each team is allowed to register maximum of 20 players.
- iii. A minimum of 9 players must be registered online before the start of competition.
- iv. Once competition has commenced, by Round 3 any new players must be added to the team's online registration prior to them taking the field. This ensures that insurance and legal requirements are met.
- v. A player may not register or play in more than one team within the same division on the same night of competition.
- vi. Unregistered players are not permitted to take part in any scheduled game. Any team that plays an unregistered player will be disqualified.
- vii. 'Fill in players' must be written onto the Sign-On sheet and a signature provided. They are classified as a 'fill in player' if they play 3 games or less total for the season. After playing 4 or more games, the player must become a registered player and pay the full registration fees.

2.0 Eligibility

- i. **Age restrictions apply to Juniors, Junior Males and Senior Males wishing to play in a female player place. Sign-on requirements apply to all players who wish to play Finals rounds.**

2.1 Junior Eligibility

- Players must not turn 13 years old before February 28, 2015.

2.2 Junior/Senior Male as Female Eligibility

- Players must be older than 55 or younger than 13 before February 28, 2015 to be eligible to make up a female player place on the field.

2.3 Finals Qualifications

- Players must play at least 4 competition round games to qualify for any finals series.
- Adelaide University Touch Association players must 'Sign-On' correctly in accordance with Registrations Regulations of Adelaide University Touch Association.
- If a team receives a forfeit victory at any stage throughout the competition round game period, any players registered at the time of the forfeit will receive a game credited to their game tally.
- If it is found that a player has participated in a finals game and has not been recorded as having played 4 competition round games, the team they played for will forfeit the game and will no longer be eligible to play in the finals series.

3.0 Restricted Players

- i. Players may fill in for another team on up to 2 occasions throughout the season provided that:
 - a. The team they usually play in is in the same or higher division

- b. The team they fill in for has one or fewer substitute players of each sex available.
- ii. Players may register with more than one team during the competition **only** at the discretion of the competition coordinator. Application before the start of the season on 30 October 2014.

SECTION 5: COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

1.0 Substitutions & Interchange (Sub Boxes)

- i. All substitutions must occur as per Rule 5 of the TFA 7th Edition Playing Rules except for use of sub boxes: teams are allowed to sub freely along the length of the available sideline.

2.0 Game Sign-On Sheet/Score Card & Game Results

- i. All players must sign their name onto the Sign-On Sheet, as well as writing their playing number.
- ii. Player names must include a First Name and Surname, and be written legibly.
- iii. If a player's signature or playing number is not on the Sign-On Sheet, they will be deemed to have not played in the game, with no avenue for appeal.
- iv. Teams found guilty of fraudulently signing-on players will have any matches where the fraud occurred recorded as a forfeited loss, with no accrual of games for finals purposes for any players.
- v. Players must have registered online to play.
- vi. Teams that have not had players register online will have their games recorded as a forfeit. If both teams have players that are not registered, the game will be recorded as a double forfeit.
- vii. Each Team Captain must sign the Referee Score Card at the conclusion of the competition game, unless they disagree with the score recorded.
- viii. If a Team Captain disagrees with the score, they must not sign the Referee Score Card and lodge a Protest in accordance with these Regulations within 20 minutes of the conclusion of the game.
- ix. If a Protest is not lodged within 20 minutes of the conclusion of the game, the score that is indicated on the Referee Score Card will stand.

3.0 Game Ball

- i. All teams must use the match ball provided to teams by Adelaide University Touch Association in all games. If one is not provided, it is the responsibility of either participating teams to supply a suitable game ball.

SECTION 6: PLAYING THE GAME

1.0 Rules of the Game

- i. The Adelaide University Touch Association and all competition games will be played, administered and governed by the TFA 7th Edition Playing Rules.

2.0 Timing Regulations/Game Time

- i. Subject to the various Policies, such as the Hot Weather Policy, competition games will ordinarily consist of two 20 minute halves with a 3 minutes half time break.
- ii. The commencement and recommencement of play in competition games will be initiated by the desk sitter.
- iii. The Referee will start and finish the game by the sound of a whistle.
- iv. Any disruption to a game will be managed under the appropriate Policy.

3.0 Referees/Match Officials

- i. The Referee Coordinator will appoint a minimum of 1 Referee for each competition game.
- ii. Where, for whatever reason, appointed referees are not available for a game, each team is required to be able to supply 1 competent referee for either a full game or half a game depending on the circumstances, or until such time as the appointed referee(s) are available.
- iii. An appointed Referee is the sole person who has the power to discipline a player, official or spectator during a game.
- iv. A Referee may discipline a player by:
 - a. A warning.
 - b. A direction to the player to substitute (forced sub).
 - c. A direction to the player to leave the field for a period of time (sin bin).
 - d. A direction to the player to leave the field for the remainder of the competition game (send-off).
- v. A Duty Referee has the same disciplinary powers as that of an appointed Referee.

SECTION 7: WITHDRAWALS, FORFEITS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

1.0 Withdrawals

- i. Where a team is disqualified or withdrawn from competition after final copies of the draw have been completed, all registration fees and bonds received will be retained by Adelaide University Touch Association and a fine may be imposed.

2.0 Delays (Late Starts) & Forfeits

- i. If a Team is not ready to take the field by the time the siren signals the start of the game (assuming the other team is present), the following actions will be taken by the Referee:
 - a. One 1 touchdown is to be awarded for every 2 minutes the team is unable to take the field (minimum of 4 players).

- b. If a team is later than 10 minutes, the game is to be declared a forfeit in favor of the team that is present.
- ii. If a Team receives a forfeit, they will receive 3 competition points (10-0 score line) and have all their registered players receive credits for 'playing' for finals qualification.
- iii. Teams who forfeit games giving notice prior to 2pm on the day of the game will receive no points.
- iv. Teams who forfeit after 2pm on the day of the competition game will lose 4 competition points.
- v. Any team that forfeits without notice on a total of 2 separate occasions may be removed from the competition at the discretion of Adelaide University Touch Association, with no refund of playing fees.

3.0 Game Rescheduled

- i. Where a Team knows they will be unavailable on a particular date(s), they should make this known prior to the draws being made and the Competition Coordinator shall try to make necessary changes to accommodate.
- ii. After the draws have been released, the Competition Coordinator may approve the rescheduling of any games if the reasons are substantial. The Team requesting the change must provide evidence to demonstrate that the game could not otherwise be played by using players from other grades.
- iii. The Rescheduled game(s) may be played prior to the originally scheduled date and must be played prior to the completion of the minor round games for the competition.
- iv. A team may reschedule no more than 2 games per competition.
- v. Once a change has been agreed by both teams and approved by the Competition Coordinator, it cannot be changed. If an agreement cannot be reached on a new game date and time, the game must go ahead as scheduled or the requesting team will forfeit the game.

3.1 Changes to the Draw

- The Competition Coordinator may reschedule any game or make changes to draws due to unforeseen circumstances (for example; changes to venue availability, issues with the venue, draw errors etc.) as necessary.

3.2 Games Rescheduled on Game Day

- As per the Hot Weather and Wet Weather Policies, this may result in an abandoned or rescheduled game.
- No refund of fees is available. The game may be replayed at the discretion of Adelaide University Touch Association.
- If an agreement on when and where the game is to be replayed is not reached between the teams within 7 calendar days, Adelaide University Touch Association shall arbitrate a date, time and venue. A team failing to appear on the appointed occasion will forfeit to the other team.
- If a game is abandoned and has not been replayed prior to the completion of the minor round games, then the game will be declared a draw.

4.0 Disqualifications

- i. A team may be disqualified if:
 - a. The team plays a player from another team in the same grade.
 - b. The team plays an ineligible player.
 - c. The team, or any player within that team, is not financial.
 - d. The team plays an unregistered player.
 - e. The team plays a player using a false name.
 - f. The team, any player or official within that team, or any follower/spectator associated with that team, fails to adhere to the Code of Conduct.

SECTION 8: GENERAL

1.0 Penalty for Non-compliance

- i. Unless otherwise stated, the penalty for non-compliance with these Rules of Competition & By-Laws will be at the discretion of Adelaide University Touch Association.

2.0 Complaints, Protests and Appeals

- i. A Team Delegate/Contact may lodge a complaint on behalf of his/her team with the Ground Controller following a competition game, or with Adelaide University Touch Association at any time.
- ii. Complaints must be submitted no later than 48 hours after the alleged conduct occurs.
- iii. Complaints will be investigated by Adelaide University Touch Association in accordance with the TFA Disciplinary Regulations Manual.
- iv. A Team Delegate/Contact may lodge a protest on behalf of his/her team with the Competition Coordinator immediately following a game.
- v. Protests concerning individual refereeing decisions will not be accepted.
- vi. Protests must be lodged within 20 minutes of the conclusion of the game.
- vii. Protests may be lodged in relation to:
 - a. Specific incident/s in a game considered by the Team Delegate to have fundamentally affected the outcome of the game
 - b. Player eligibility
 - c. Player shirts
 - d. Other matters
- viii. An Incomplete Protest Form, or protest deemed frivolous by Adelaide University Touch Association will not be accepted, at its discretion.
- ix. The game result of a competition game in which a protest has been lodged may be upheld, varied or declared void.
- x. A person who has been charged with any misconduct shall have the right of appeal, as per the TFA Disciplinary Regulations.

3.0 Awards/Prizes

- i. Prizes will be awarded to each registered player of the winner and runner-up teams in each grand final match.
- ii. Prizes will be awarded to one male and one female Best and Fairest Player from each minor round division. Best and Fairest Players are determined by votes cast by the Referees during minor rounds. In the case that votes are tied, 2 players of the same sex in the same division will receive a prize.

4.0 Force Majeure

- i. If Adelaide University Touch Association is unable to perform, in whole or in any obligation under these Regulations by reason of a Force Majeure event, Adelaide University Touch Association is relieved of that obligation under these Regulations to the extent, and the period it is unable to perform.
- ii. Adelaide University Touch Association has no obligation to refund any team or individual competition fees paid if it is unable to perform by reason of a Force Majeure event.

By-Laws

All below listed by-laws can be referred to in more detail within the various TFA Policies. Visit www.touchfootball.com.au to download available policies.

INJURIES, HEALTH AND SAFETY:

First Aid and Insurance

St Johns Ambulance attendants will be stationed at the Administration Area. Ice is also available for the immediate treatment of injuries.

Please note that tape and strapping from the Medical Kit will only be made available for the treatment of injuries, and it is not to be made available for any other purpose.

All injuries must be reported to the Competition Coordinator who will then supply an Injury Report Form and advise the proper insurance claim procedures.

The Touch Football Australia and Sportscover remain committed to providing the touch football community with a National Insurance Scheme for all registered members. Whilst the policy provides basic levels of cover for players and others participating in Touch Football, it is not all encompassing and does not seek to replace the need for private health and other insurances.

The TFA National Insurance Scheme webpage and resources are provided so that Players and Affiliate Administrators throughout Australia may have immediate access to the policy benefits and procedures of the insurance program. Please visit www.touchfootball.com.au for policy details.

Blood Rule

Any player with a bleeding cut or abrasion is to leave the field immediately and have the cut or abrasion cleaned and covered. At this time any blood stained clothing must also be either cleaned or replaced before the player can return to the field.

Pregnancy

For recommendations on participation for pregnant players, reference should be made to the separate TFA Member Protection Guidelines.

It is recommended that if a pregnant player wishes to continue to play, they ask their doctor to advise them of the risks associated, and write a letter notifying Competition Administration that they have been advised and agree to continue to play.

Religious or Cultural Attire

The wearing of religious and cultural attire, such as a burqa or hijab, will be allowed with approval from Competition Administration, provided that it can be worn with the team uniform and in such a way so that it is considered safe for all participants.

Drugs and Alcohol

Reference should be made to the separate TFA Drugs and Anti-Doping Policy.

Hot and Wet Weather/Traffic and Parking

Reference should be made to the separate Risk Management Policy and Traffic Management Plan.

REPORTS, TRIBUNALS AND CONDUCT:

Disciplinary Regulations

The TFA Disciplinary Regulations Manual should be referred to for detailed Reporting, Tribunal Hearings and Appeals procedures.

Code of Conduct/Code of Ethics/Responsibility Code

For detailed guidelines of how players, team officials and spectators should act at a Touch Football event, please refer to the Code of Conduct/Code of Ethics and the Responsibility Code.