

**2023-2024 General**

**Conditions of Entry and Competition Rules**

*Mudgee Touch Association Incorporated would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional*

*Custodians of the Land in which Mudgee Touch Association Inc. conducts their business on. Mudgee Touch Association Inc. would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Wiradjuri Nation and extend that respect to other Indigenous*

*Australians who are members of Mudgee Touch Association Inc.*

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| **SECTION 1: CONTACT INFORMATION**  |
| **1.1**  | **Executive committee**  |
| President Vice-president Secretary Treasurer  | Erin PeriniJen O’Brien Lauren MortonAndrew Laurie  | mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com   |
| **1.2**  | **General committee**  |
| Registrar Coaching Director Referee Director Rep. coordinator Junior coordinator Recorder Publicity Officer Hearings Officer Canteen Officer First Aid Officer Equipment Officer Committee Assistant Committee Assistant Committee Assistant  | Karen Quinn Roy Prasad Jamie GallenErin Perini Adam Perini Haley Roberts Amanda ComincioliLauren MortonSimone Rawlinson Adam Comincioli Michelle WilsonJustin GossageJordi RobertsonElaine Nash | mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com mudgeetouch@outlook.com   |
| **1.3**  | **Communication**  |
|  | **Mudgee Touch Association’s preferred method of communication is via email.** |  |
| Email: mudgeetouch@outlook.com Website: mudgee.nswtouch.com.au Postal address: PO Box 493, Mudgee, NSW, 2850  |
| **1.4**  | **Social Media**  |
| Mudgee Touch Football Association | @MudgeeTouch | @mudgee\_touch\_football   |

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| **SECTION 2: IMPORTANT DATES**  |
| **2.1**  | Dates to be advised for the 2023-24 season. Men’s and Women’s Competitions will commence on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. Mixed Competition will commence on Thursday, October 13, 2022 Under 6s, Under 8s, Under 10s, Under 12s boys and girls competitions will commence on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.  |
| **2.2**  | **Senior competition** Tuesday men and women competitions – 6.30pm\* and 7.00pm\* Thursday mixed competitions – 6.30pm\*, 7.00pm\*, 7.30pm\***Junior competition** Tuesday junior competitions – 5pm\* \*Playing times are subject to change pending team numbers  |

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| **SECTION 3: COVID-19**  |
|  | *It is imperative that all Mudgee Touch Association’s members adhere to the club’s Covid-* |  |
| *19 policy and any Public Health Orders issued by the NSW and Australian governments.* |  |
| *For more information, please visit the following websites.* |   |
| **3.1.1**  | **Mudgee Touch Association Covid-19 policy**  |
| mudgee.nswtouch.com.au/2020/07/covid-19-plan/  |
| **3.1.2**  | **NSW Touch Association Covid-19 information**  |
| www.nswtouch.com.au/covid19/  |
| **3.1.3**  | **NSW Government Covid-19 information**  |
| [www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19](http://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19)  |
| **3.1.4**  | **Power to alter the competition**  |
| Mudgee Touch Association reserves the right to change, alter or adjust the General Conditions and any specific conditions of the competition at any time due to any COVID-19 intervention or changes to Public Health Orders that effect the running of any competition. This is to both ensure we remain compliant with NSW Health regulations and the safety and wellbeing of all our members, participants, and the wider community.  |



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| **SECTION 4: REGISTRATION**  |
| **4.1**  | **Team Registration**  |
| **4.1.1**  | All team registrations must be completed via Survey Monkey.  |
| **4.1.2**  | To register a team into the senior competition, please visit the Mudgee Touch website – mudgee.nswtouch.com.au  |
| **4.2**  | **Team Contact**  |
|  | All teams must nominate two people to act as their Team Contacts. Mudgee Touch Association regularly corresponds with Team Contacts throughout the season to provide any competition updates and/or changes to times, games, fields etc. Team Contacts must supply their mobile number and an active email address. Mudgee Touch’s preferred method communication is via email.  |
| **4.3**  | **Playing Fees**  |
| **4.3.1**  | All fees are payable by individuals and are to be paid online via the My Sideline website.  |
| **4.3.2**  | All fees are payable by the 2nd round of the competition.  |
| **4.3.3**  | Any player who has not paid their full fees by the **second round** of the competition will see their team forfeit their match. Teams will continue to forfeit their matches if they play un-financial players. If a team forfeits more than three times, then they will be excluded from the competition. No refunds will be paid if a team is excluded.  |
| **4.3.4**  | Players who have outstanding debts with the club from past seasons will be prevented from playing until full payment is made or written arrangements are in place.  |
| **4.3.5**  | If any player is suffering hardship and requires time to pay fees, she/he may see the committee and set up a written agreement.  |
| **4.3.6**  | NSW Touch Association affiliation and insurance are payable by MTA based on the number of teams. Mid-Western Regional Council fees are paid on individual player numbers. All NSWTA and MWRC fees are to be paid by the club immediately after the **second round of games**. Penalties apply if NSWTA fees are not paid on time and MWRC reserves the right to lock clubs out of grounds until fees are paid.  |
| **4.4**  | **Player Registration**  |
| **4.4.1**  | All team registrations must be completed via My Sideline.  |
| **4.4.2**  | To register in the senior competition as a player, please visit the Mudgee Touch website – mudgee.nswtouch.com.au  |

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| **SECTION 5: SENIOR COMPETITION OPERATIONS**  |
| **5.1**  | **Dates of competition**  |
| **5.1.1**  | 10/10/23 – 23/03/23 |
| **5.2**  | **Venue**  |
| **5.2.1**  | All competition games will be played at the Glen Willow touch fields located at the Glen Willow Regional Sports Stadium, Pitts Lane, Mudgee. |
| **5.3**  | **Divisions**  |
| **5.3.1**  | Men’s = Divisions 1, 2, 3. Women’s = Divisions 1, 2. Mixed = Divisions 1, 2, 3.  |
| **5.4**  | **Team contact**  |
| **5.4.1**  | Teams must nominate 2 people who will be the contacts for the team – see Section 4 Registration. Those people must supply a mobile number and an active email address. Mudgee Touch’s preferred method communication is via email.  |
| **5.5**  | **Age and number of players requirements**  |
| **5.5.1**  | All players in the senior competition must be 12 years (minimum) or older. |
| **5.5.2**  | Teams can register a maximum of 16 players. All teams are required to have at least 10 people registered in their team.  |
| **5.6**  | **Game duration**  |
| **5.6.1**  | A match is 30 minutes in duration played in touch down turn around format  |
| **5.6.2**  | If for whatever reason, Mudgee Touch Association has the power to adjust the game duration format.  |
| **5.6.3**  | The committee has the power to alter the draw including changing the times and/or adding extra time slots at their discretion.  |
| **5.7**  | **Playing uniforms**  |
| **5.7.1**  | Players must abide by the uniform policy outlined as per Rule 4 of the TFA 8th Edition Rule Book.  |
| **5.7.2**  | Uniforms are not to predominantly white or pink.  |
| **5.7.3**  | All players must play in the same shirt or top.  |
| **5.7.4**  | All teams must have their playing shirts or tops by round five (5) of the competition.  |
| **5.8**  | **Representative teams**  |
| **5.8.1**  | The inclusion of Mudgee Touch representative teams is at the discretion of the committee. If the committee permits a representative team to play in the senior competition, **sections 5.8.2, 5.8.3 and 5.8.4** will apply.  |
| **5.8.2**  | Representative teams must follow the age requirements as outlined in **Section 5.5.**  |
| **5.8.3**  | Representative teams will not acquire competition points instead the competition points will be awarded to the opposition.  |
| **5.8.4**  | Representative teams will not be permitted to participate in the finals.  |
| **5.9**  | **Points System**  |
| **5.9.1**  | Win/Bye/Washout = 3 points Draw = 2 points Loss = 1 point  |

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|  | Forfeit before 2pm = 0 points Forfeit after 2pm = Loss of 1 point Team no shows = Loss of 3 points 1st failed Ref duty = 0 points + $50 fine to be paid before taking the field in next round game2nd failed Ref duty = Loss of 3 points  |
| **5.10**  | **Match results**  |
| **5.10.1**  | All match results will be uploaded to Touch Football Australia Competitions page after each round - [https://touchfootball.com.au/Competitions/Association/mudgee-touchassociation-6425](https://touchfootball.com.au/Competitions/Association/mudgee-touch-association-6425) |
| **5.11**  | **Forfeits**  |
| **5.11.1**  | Teams not able to field a team on any playing night are to contact Mudgee Touch via Facebook **AND** email – mudgeetouch@outlook.com by no later than 2pm on game day.  |
| **5.11.2**  | The offending team will receive zero (0) points for forfeiting, while the nonoffending team will receive three (3) points.  |
| **5.11.3**  | Teams forfeiting after 2pm on game day will lose one (1) point.  |
| **5.11.4**  | Teams who fail to show or have the minimum number of player (4) required to play a game will lose three (3) competition points.  |
| **5.11.5**  | Teams who forfeit or are forfeited to, and they are down for Ref duty **MUST COMPLETE** their Ref duty otherwise they will be subjected to “no duty” disciplinary proceedings – refer to **Section 5.18.10**.  |
| **5.11.6**  | Teams will only be allowed three (3) forfeits before showing the committee just cause as to why they should not be excluded from the competition  |
| **5.12**  | **Protests and score disputes**  |
| **5.12.1**  | Referees must check the scorecard and notify both teams of the score at halftime and again at full-time.  |
| **5.12.2**  | Referees must tally up the score and sign the scoresheet at the conclusion of the match, and get a representative from each team to sign the scoresheet too.  |
| **5.12.3**  | If there is a dispute, the team making the dispute should not sign the scoresheet.  |
| **5.12.4**  | Disputes are to be placed in writing and forwarded via email to the Mudgee Touch Association executive committee immediately (within 24 hours of the conclusion of the disputed match).  |
| **5.13**  | **Players signing on**  |
| **5.13.1**  | All players must be registered and financial to the team they intend to play for.  |
| **5.13.2**  | All players must sign next to their name on the scoresheet prior to taking the field.  |
| **5.13.3**  | Registered and financial players whom fail to sign the scoresheet and get injured risk not being covered by insurance.  |
| **5.14**  | **Unregistered players**  |
| **5.14.1**  | Teams playing unregistered players are liable to forfeit any match in which unregistered players have competed.  |
| **5.14.2**  | Unregistered players are players not registered in the Mudgee Touch Association and/or not registered for the team they have played for.  |

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| **5.15**  | **Playing for multiple teams**  |
| **5.15.1**  | At the discretion of the committee.  |
| **5.16**  | **Finals eligibility**  |
| **5.16.1**  | All players must have played a minimum of four (4) games for the specific team in order to be eligible for finals.  |
| **5.16.2**  | If a team is forfeited to, all players in the non-offending team will have that forfeited match count towards their “games played” statistics except if they have been suspended from the competition in accordance with the TFA Disciplinary manual – refer to ***Section 8.***  |
| **5.16.3**  | If a team has a BYE because a team has withdrawn from the division and/or competition, all players in the non-offending team will have that BYE match count towards their “games played” statistics except if they have been suspended from the competition in accordance with the TFA Disciplinary manual – refer to ***Section 8***.  |
| **5.16.4**  | If a player has transferred from one team to another team during the season, their “games played” statistics for their previous team will not carry over to their new team. Their “games played” statistics will reset to zero (0) and must play four (4) games for their new team if they wish to be eligible to play finals for that new team.  |
| **5.17**  | **Finals structure**  |
| Mudgee Touch uses a variety of finals structures for their competitions depending on how many teams are in each division. Mudgee Touch will communicate to its members which finals structure will be used for their divisions midway through the current season.  |
| **5.18**  | **Referee duty**  |
| **5.18.1**  | All teams will be required to referee on club nights.  |
| **5.18.2**  | All teams are to have AT LEAST 2 x Level 1 Referees.  |
| **5.18.3**  | If teams do not have referees as set out in ***Section 5.18.2***, they will be required to have two people willing to referee and attend a Level One Referee Course. Any team who believes they will have a problem with obtaining referees should contact the committee before registering their team.  |
| **5.18.4**  | Referees must wear either a TFA referee shirt and/or uniform; or a vest provided by Mudgee Touch; or their team shirt\* when refereeing. \*If their team shirt colour clashes with one of the teams playing, the referee must change wear a vest and/or an official referee shirt.  |
| **5.18.5**  | All referees must have their own whistles.  |
| **5.18.6**  | There will be ZERO tolerance of any form of referee abuse whether it be physical, verbal, psychological or other forms of abuse. Please refer to ***Section 8 – Discipline; and Section 10 – Mutual Respect Policy.***  |
| **5.18.7**  | Any referees who are abused by a player, coach, team management or spectator must inform the committee ASAP.  |
| **5.18.8**  | Injuries to any player during the match must be recorded on the scoresheet. An Injury Report form will need to be filled out by the Referee after the match.  |
| **5.18.9**  | If a team is unable to fulfill their Referee Duty, they must inform the committee no later than 2pm. The team then needs to find a suitable replacement.  |
| **5.18.10**  | Teams who fail to fulfill their Referee Duty and have not organised a replacement will have the following penalties applied to them: * 1st offence = Written warning and zero (0) competition points for that round’s match.
* 2nd offence = Loss of three (3) competition points.
* 3rd offence = Exclusion from the final series.
* 4th offence = Exclusion from the competition effective immediately.
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| **5.19**  | **Weather policy**  |
| **5.19.1**  | Please refer to ***Section 9 - Weather Policy*** of this manual for a comprehensive list of types of weather disruptions.  |
| **5.19.2**  | If play is to be abandoned prior to the commencement of the round, participants will be notified via social media and/or email no later than 5.30pm on game day.  |
| **5.19.3**  | The decision to play or not will be at the discretion of the committee in conjunction with ***Section 9 – Weather Policy.***  |
| **5.19.4**  | All washed out or abandoned games will be deemed a draw and both teams will receive two competition points except in finals – refer to ***Section 5.19.6***  |
| **5.19.5**  | At the discretion of the committee, games will be suspended and/or abandoned in conjunction with ***Section 9 – Weather Policy.*** The committee has the right to suspend games for as long as they like – there is no minimum or maximum timeframe. If round games are abandoned, then the entire round - regardless if earlier games were completed - will be deemed a wash out.  |
| **5.19.6**  | **Finals –** If finals games are abandoned, this is the procedure:  |
| **5.19.6** **(a)**  | If finals matches are abandoned before the start of the scheduled time, the team who finished higher on the ladder will advance to the next stage unless **Section 5.19.6(e)** applies. |
| **5.19.6** **(b)**  | If finals matches have not reached half-time or less than 50 per cent of the time has elapsed if there are no halves, regardless of the score, the team that finished higher on the ladder will advance to the next stage.  |
| **5.19.6** **(c)**  | If finals matches have reached half-time or more than 50 per cent of the time has elapsed if there are no halves, the team who is in front at the time of the abandonment is declared the winner and will advance to the next stage. |
| **5.19.6** **(d)**  | If finals matches have reached half-time or more than 50 per cent of the time has elapsed if there are no halves, and scores are levelled, the team that finished higher on the ladder will advance to the next stage. |
| **5.19.6** **(e)**  | If grand final matches are abandoned under ***Section 9 – Weather Policy*** before the commencement of the match, the teams will be declared ‘joint winners.’ |

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| **SECTION 6: JUNIOR COMPETITION OPERATIONS**  |
| **6.1**  | **Competition dates**  |
| **6.1.1**  | 10th October 2023 – 12th December 2023 |
| **6.2**  | **Venue**  |
| **6.2.1**  | All competition games will be played at the Glen Willow touch fields located at the Glen Willow Regional Sports Stadium, Pitts Lane, Mudgee.  |
| **6.3**  | **Divisions**  |
| **6.3.1**  | Boys Under 5-6 Boys Under 7-8 Boys Under 9-10 Boys Under 11-12  | Girls Under 5-6 Girls Under 7-8 Girls Under 9-10 Girls Under 11-12  |
| **6.4**  | **Team contact**  |
| Teams must nominate two (2) people who will be the contacts for the team – see ***Section 4 - Registration***. Those people must supply a mobile number and an active email address. Mudgee Touch’s preferred method communication is via email.  |
| **6.5**  | **Age requirements**  |
| **6.5.1**  | Players must be turning that age in that specific year (eg: 2023) to play in that age group. Eg: A player must be turning 9 in 2023/2024 in order to play in the 9-10 age groups.  |
| **6.5.2**  | Mudgee Touch Association will allocate players to teams.  |
| **6.6**  | **Game duration**  |
| **6.6.1**  | A match is 25 minutes in duration in a touchdown-turnaround format.  |
| **6.6.2**  | If for whatever reason, Mudgee Touch has the right to change the game duration format.  |
| **6.6.3**  | The committee has the power to alter the draw including changing the times and/or adding extra time slots at their discretion.  |
| **6.7**  | **Playing uniforms**  |
| **6.7.1**  | MTA will provide all players a playing uniform. |
| **6.8**  | **Representative teams**  |
| **6.8.1**  | The inclusion of Mudgee Touch representative teams is at the discretion of the committee. If the committee permits a representative team to play in the junior competition, **sections 6.8.2 and 6.8.3** will apply. |
| **6.8.2**  | Representative teams will not acquire competition points instead the competition points will be awarded to the opposition.  |
| **6.8.3**  | Representative teams will not be permitted to participate in the finals.  |
| **6.9**  | **Points system**  |
| Win/Bye/Washout = 3 points Draw = 2 points Loss = 1 point Forfeit = 0 points  |
| **6.10**  | **Match results**  |
| All match results will be uploaded to Touch Football Australia Competitions page after each round - [https://touchfootball.com.au/Competitions/Association/mudgee-touchassociation-6425](https://touchfootball.com.au/Competitions/Association/mudgee-touch-association-6425)  |

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| **6.11**  | **Forfeits**  |
| **6.11.1**  | Teams not able to field a team on any playing night are to contact Mudgee Touch via Facebook **AND** email – mudgeetouch@outlook.com by no later than 2pm on game day. |
| **6.11.2**  | The offending team will receive zero (0) points for forfeiting, while the nonoffending team will receive three (3) points.  |
| **6.11.3**  | Teams forfeiting after 2pm on game day will lose one (1) point.  |
| **6.11.4**  | Teams who fail to show or have the minimum number of player (4) required to play a game will lose three (3) competition points.  |
| **6.12**  | **Protests and score disputes**  |
| **6.12.1**  | Referees must check the scorecard, tally up the score and notify both teams of the score at full-time. The referee must sign the scoresheet. |
| **6.12.2**  | If there is a dispute, the team making the dispute must place a protest in writing and forwarded via email to the Mudgee Touch Association executive committee immediately (within 24 hours of the conclusion of the disputed match).  |
| **6.13**  | **Signing on**  |
| **6.13.1**  | All players must be registered and financial to the team they intend to play for. |
| **6.13.2**  | All players must sign/initial/tick next to their name on the scoresheet prior to taking the field.  |
| **6.13.3**  | Registered and financial players whom fail to sign the scoresheet and get injured risk not being covered by insurance.  |
| **6.14**  | **Unregistered players**  |
| **6.14.1**  | Teams playing unregistered players are liable to forfeit any match in which unregistered players have competed. |
| **6.15**  | Unregistered players are players not registered in the Mudgee Touch Association and/or not registered for the team they have played for.  |
| **6.16**  | **Finals eligibility**  |
| **6.16.1**  | All players must have played a minimum of three (3) games for the specific team in order to be eligible for finals. This will be recorded as “games played”.  |
| **6.16.2**  | If a team is forfeited to, all players in the non-offending team will have that forfeited match count towards their “games played” statistics.  |
| **6.17**  | **Finals structure**  |
| **6.17.1**  | The top two teams according to the competition ladder will play against each other in the grand final of their respective age groups. All teams will still participate in games on the final day |
| **6.18**  | **Referee duty**  |
| **6.18.1**  | Where possible, Mudgee Touch will provide referees for all junior matches. However, if Mudgee Touch is unable to, junior team coaches may be required to referee their teams’ games. |
| **6.19**  | **Weather Policy**  |
| **6.19.1**  | Please refer to ***Section 9 - Weather Policy*** of this manual for a comprehensive list of types of weather disruptions.  |
| **6.19.2**  | If play is to be abandoned prior to the commencement of the round, participants will be notified via social media and/or email no later than 4pm on game day.  |
| **6.19.3**  | The decision to play or not will be at the discretion of the committee in conjunction with ***Section 9 – Weather Policy.***  |
| **6.19.4**  | All washed out or abandoned games will be deemed a draw and both teams will receive two competition points except in the grand final – refer to ***Section 6.19.6.***  |
| **6.19.5**  | At the discretion of the committee, games will be suspended and/or abandoned in conjunction with ***Section 9 – Weather Policy.*** The committee has the right to suspend games for as long as they like – there is no minimum or maximum timeframe. If round games are abandoned, then the entire round - regardless if earlier games were completed - will be deemed a wash out.  |
| **6.19.6**  | If grand final matches are abandoned under ***Section 9 – Weather Policy*** before the commencement of the match or during the match, teams will be declared ‘joint winners.’  |

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| **SECTION 7: RULES and MISCONDUCT**  |
| **7.1**  | **Rule book**  |
| **7.1.1**  | All Mudgee Touch Association events and competitions will be played under the Touch Football Australia 8th Edition rule book and this General Conditions of Entry and Competition Rules manual. A full copy of the TFA 8th Edition Rules can be located on the Mudgee Touch website - mudgee.nswtouch.com.au/local/  |
| **7.1.2**  | Any other rule or procedure not covered in the TFA 8th Edition rule book and/or General Conditions of Entry and Competition Rules manual, will be at the discretion of the Mudgee Touch Association committee.  |
| **7.2**  | **Misconduct**  |
| **7.2.1**  | Misconduct warranting Penalty, Forced Interchange, Sin Bin or Dismissal includes: * Continuous or regular breaches of the Rules;
* Swearing towards another player, Referee, spectator or other match official;
* Disputing decisions of Referees or other match official(s);
* Using more than the necessary physical force to make a Touch;
* Poor sportsmanship;
* Tripping, striking, or otherwise assaulting another player, Referee, spectator or other match official; or
* Any other action that is contrary to the spirit of the game.
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| **7.3**  | **Forced Interchange (forced substitution)**  |
| **7.3.1**  | Referees can implement a Forced Interchange (formerly forced substitution) if they deem a Sin Bin or a Send Off for an infringement by a player is too harsh. If a player is “forced subbed”, the player is to return to the Interchange Area. The player can return once in the Interchange Area.  |
| **7.4**  | **Sin Bins**  |
| **7.4.1**  | Due to the length of the season a five (5) match window will be in operation for repeated Sin Bin offences. Should a player receive a Sin Bin and not re-offend for the next five (5) matches he/she plays in, the first Sin Bin given will lapse. However, an automatic one (1) match suspension will occur if a player is given two Sin Bins within the five (5) match window.   |
| **7.4.2**  | If a player is suspended because of a Sin Bin offence the player will not be allowed to have any involvement in touch (play, coach, referee) until the one match suspension for the team they are suspended from has been served.   |
| **7.4.3**  | A player who is dismissed for two “Sin Bins” in the one game will be dealt with in the following manner: 1. Should the referee deem that both “Sin Bins” are not of a nature to warrant further suspension, the player, on the second offence will be sent to the end of the field for the remainder of the game, and will receive a one (1) match suspension and **Section 7.4.2** will apply.
2. Should the referee deem the combined incidents serious enough, the player on the second offence will be sent from the field of play. In this instance the player will receive an automatic one (1) match suspension and **Section 7.4.2** will apply.
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| **7.5**  | **Dismissal/Send offs**  |
| **7.5.1**  | Any player sent from the field for the remainder of the game will receive an automatic two (2) match suspension unless further action is required under TFA Disciplinary Regulations manual – refer to **section 8**.  |
| **7.5.2**  | If a player is suspended because of a Sent Off offence the player will not be allowed to have any involvement in touch (play, coach, referee) until the twomatch suspension – or any other form of suspension issued under the Disciplinary Regulations manual - for the team they are suspended from has been served.  |
| **7.6**  | **Drop-off procedure (finals only)**  |
| **7.6.1**  | Mudgee Touch Association will utilise the Drop-off procedure outlined in the TFA 8th Edition rule book - Rule 24. A summary is below: * Each Team commences with four (4) players with teams defending the same end of the field as at the End of Play.
* The Drop-Off commences with a Tap from the centre of the Halfway Line by the Team that did not commence the match with Possession.
* A two (2) minute period of extra time is played.
* Should a Team be leading at the expiration of the two (2) minute period of extra time then that Team will be declared the Winner and Match complete.
* Should neither Team be leading at the expiration of two (2) minutes, a signal is given and the match will pause at the next Touch or Dead Ball. Each Team will then remove a player from the Field of Play.
* The Match will recommence immediately after the players have left the field at the same place where it paused (i.e. the Team retains Possession at the designated number of Touches, or at Change of Possession due to some

Infringement or the sixth Touch) and the Match will continue until a Try is scored. * There is no time off during the Drop-Off and the clock does not stop at the two

(2) minute interval. * Substitution during the Drop-Off is permitted in accordance with normal Interchange Rules.
* Mixed gender teams may have no more than (2) males on the field during the Drop-Off.
* In the case of a male player serving time in the Sin Bin at the commencement of the Drop-Off the offending Team will start with no more than one (1) male on the field.
* Where a male player has been dismissed for the remainder of the match, the offending Team will be permitted to have no more than one (1) male on the field for the duration of the Drop-Off.
* At the commencement of the Drop-Off, if there is a player serving time in the

Sin Bin and is yet to complete the required time, their Team commences the Drop-Off with one (1) less player on the field than their opposition and continues to play with one (1) player less until the Sin Bin period has been completed. * At the commencement of the Drop-Off, if a Team has had a player dismissed for the remainder of the match that Team continues to play with one (1) player less than the opposition Team for the duration of the Drop-Off. For the avoidance of doubt the non-offending Team will retain a numerical advantage on the Field of Play during the Drop-Off.
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| **SECTION 8: DISCIPLINE**  |
| **8.1**  | **Complaints**  |
| **8.1.1**  | Complaints are to be made in writing and emailed to the Mudgee Touch Association committee no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of the match. |
| **8.1.2**  | Any Player, Official or other Member of Mudgee Touch Association who is the subject of a complaint or report may be dealt with via the TFA Disciplinary Policy and may be required to appear before a Judiciary or Disciplinary Hearing.  |
| **8.2**  | **Disciplinary proceedings**  |
| **8.2.1**  | All discipline communication and correspondence is to go through the Mudgee Touch Association’s Hearings Officer; or if a Hearings Officer position is not fulfilled, the Association’s Secretary.  |
| **8.2.2**  | All discipline matters and judiciary hearings will be handled and heard in accordance with the TFA Disciplinary Regulations.  |
| **8.2.3**  | All players sent from the field for the remainder of the game will be dealt with via the TFA Disciplinary Policy and may be required to appear before a Judiciary or Disciplinary Hearing. |
| **8.2.4**  | Mudgee Touch will try to conduct any disciplinary hearings at the earliest possible convenience.  |

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| **SECTION 9: WEATHER POLICY**  |
| **9.1**  | **Heavy Rain**  |
| Play/Competition should be suspended until hazard clears. If it continues to rain heavily during that time, it is recommended that play/competition be suspended until further notice.  |
| **9.2**  | **Lightning/Thunderstorm(s)**  |
| When lightning is considered to be a possible or actual threat to a Touch Football game the following procedures are applicable: 1. Observe the approaching storm clouds, the first flash of lightning or clap of thunder, no matter how far away should heighten lightning awareness.
2. Method of determining the distance to the storm cell is to measure time elapsed from when lightning flash is observed and when the associated thunder is heard. The distance can be determined by using the following rule:

**Distance (Km) = time from observing flash to hearing thunder (in 3 seconds).** In the absence of specific information from weather radar, a lightning location system, or specialised warning device then the 30/30 Safety Guideline should be used. The 30/30 Rule is a guide to postponement or suspension of play/competition. The accepted “safe” distance from lightning is greater than 10km. This means: 1. That as the time interval between observing the flash and hearing the thunder approaches 30 seconds, all those in exposed areas should be seeking or already inside safe shelters. A storm cell with lightning within 10km constitutes a threat.
2. For resumption of play/competition, it is recommended that people wait a minimum 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning or sound of thunder.
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| **9.3**  | **Hail/Ice on the ground**  |
| Play/ Competition should be suspended immediately until hazard clears. Refer to weather radar for official report and where available, shelter should be offered for players/spectators/officials until cleared.  |
| **9.4**  | **Extreme Heat**  |
| 37.0+ degrees = Play/Competition should be postponed or cancelled. 33.0 – 36.9 degrees = Play/Competition should be interrupted at 10-minute intervals for a minimum period of two (2) minutes during which time rest, drinks/cooling techniques and facilities should be used by all officials and players involved. Each session shall not exceed 60 minutes. 30.0 – 32.9 degrees = Communication of heat stress management strategies/warnings of possible risk.  |
| **9.5**  | **Extreme Cold**  |
| When severe winter weather is forecast, weather reports and traffic conditions within the immediate area should be monitored, if the ground is slippery from frost, snow, rain or mud, or if the temperature drops below 8 degrees, it is at the discretion of the controlling body to determine whether play/competition should be suspended or cancelled until hazard clears.  |
| **9.6**  | **Air quality**  |
| From November 2020, NSW Government has implemented air quality categories (AQC). For more information visit  |
|  | https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/air/understanding-air-qualitydata/air-quality-categories **AQC levels** **NB:** **Sensitive groups** include people with heart or lung condition including asthma; people over the age of 65; infants and children; pregnant women. 1. Enjoy activities

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| **Very Good/Good (green) 0-66 =** |
| **Fair (yellow) 67-99 =** |   |

1. **Sensitive groups:** Reduce outdoor physical activity if

you develop symptoms such as cough or shortness of breath; Follow treatment plan recommended by your doctor. 1. **Poor (Orange) 100-149 =** **Air pollution health alert:**

**Sensitive groups:** Avoid outdoor physical activity if you develop symptoms such as cough or shortness of breath; Follow treatment plan recommended by your doctor. **Everyone else:** Reduce outdoor physical activity if you develop symptoms such as cough or shortness of breath.1. **Very poor (purple) 150-199 =** **Air pollution health alert:**

**Sensitive groups:** Stay indoors as much as possible with windows and doors closed until outdoor air quality is better; Actively monitor symptoms and follow the treatment plan recommended by your doctor. **Everyone else:** Avoid outdoor physical activity if you develop symptoms such as cough or shortness of breath. 1. **Extremely poor/Hazardous (red) 200+ =** **Air pollution health alert:** **Sensitive groups:** Stay indoors with windows and doors closed until outdoor air quality is better and reduce your indoor activity; Actively monitor symptoms and follow the treatment plan recommended by your doctor.

**Everyone:** Stay indoors as much as possible with windows and doors closed until outdoor air quality is better. Action to take * If AQC is **Very poor (purple) or Hazardous (red) = Play/Competition should be postponed or cancelled.**
* If AQC is **Poor (Orange) =** Play/Competition should be interrupted at 10minute intervals (or halfway through if playing no halves) for a minimum period of two (2) minutes during which time rest, drinks and facilities should be used by all officials and players involved. Each session shall not

exceed 60 minutes. Communication of health management strategies/Warnings for Asthma sufferers. * If AQC is **Fair (yellow) =** Communication of health management strategies/Warnings for Asthma sufferers and people with respiratory problems.
 |
| If AQC is  | **Good/Very good (green)** | = Play/Competition goes ahead as normal.  |
| **9.7**  | **Other external circumstances eg: grounds unplayable; dust storm**  |
| It will be up to the discretion of MTA committee as to how what action will be taken.  |

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| **SECTION 10: MUTUAL RESPECT POLICY**  |
| **10.1.1**  | All members be they Referees, Coaches, Players, Committee members and/or spectators have an obligation to be conversant with this the NSW Touch Association’s Mutual Respect Policy and the TFA Code of Conduct.  |
| **10.1.2**  | The Mutual Respect Policy and Code of Conduct can be viewed on the Mudgee Touch Association’s website.  |
| **10.1.3**  | Referees are instructed to no longer engage with the player, coach, manager or official and will walk away from any possible confrontation reporting the same to the Mudgee Touch committee.  |
| **10.1.4**  | The signing of the referee’s card will only take place by the captains/managers of the teams. Should either try to engage the referees in discussion about the game or decisions in the game, the referees will immediately stop those discussions and direct the player/manager to Tournament Control. Any dispute of the score must be raised in writing at Tournament Control.  |
| **10.1.5**  | All need to be advised that Rule 20 - Misconduct will remain in force. Referees have been instructed not to tolerate abusive behaviour from the Interchange Area during the game, and deal with it appropriately should it take place, by removing a player from the field.  |
| **10.1.6**  | A player, coach, manager or official may not agree with the way a referee officiates a game, nor may he/she agree with decisions made, however there are proper procedures and avenues to handle such matters. Approaching referees after the game is not the measure we allow. We do however welcome feedback, reports or consultation under the proper guidelines. Should you have an issue with a performance of a referee you may: 1. Consult, in a calm manner, with the Mudgee Touch Referee Director.
2. Disputes or feedback are to be placed in writing and forwarded to the Tournament Manager at tournament control.
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| **10.1.7**  | Breaches of the Mutual Respect Policy can incur a suspension and will be imposed under the control of the event. Further to this they may find themselves before a judiciary whereby the penalties may be imposed.  |

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| **SECTION 11: INSURANCE**  |
| **11.1**  | For players to be covered by the TFA Insurance Scheme they must be registered with Mudgee Touch Association and registered in the team they are playing for within the current competition.  |
| **11.2**  | Please refer to ***Section 4*** and ***Section 5.13 and 5.14*** for details about the registration process, signing on and unregistered players.  |

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| **SECTION 12: IMAGES and FILMING**  |
| **12.1**  | All persons accept that, by participating in any Mudgee Touch Association endorsed event, they may be photographed/filmed and that these images may be used by Mudgee Touch Association for promotion purposes. |
| **12.2**  | If you do not wish Mudgee Touch Association to be able to use your image/s or be filmed you must notify Mudgee Touch Association in writing.  |
| **12.3**  | Mudgee Touch Association reserves the right to take immediate possession of any video footage taken at a Mudgee Touch Association event that may assist Mudgee Touch Association in investigating any matter of judiciary, discipline or protest. All care of equipment, tape and data cards will be taken and returned to the owner upon determination of the judiciary, disciplinary hearing, or protest.  |
| **12.4**  | With the rise in use of social media, Mudgee Touch Association and all its members and associates are bounded by the NSWTA social media policy. Any breach of the NSWTA social media policy by a Mudgee Touch Association member may see that member face discipline and find themselves before a discipline tribunal or judiciary whereby penalties may be imposed.  |