

# SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA TOUCH FOOTBALL

## RULES AND GUIDELINES

### SECTION A:

<b>1.0</b>	<b>COMPETITION RULES</b> .....	<b>Page 2</b>
1.1	Playing Rules	
1.2	Divisions	
1.3	Team Size	
1.4	Ages	
1.5	Judiciary Committee	
1.6	Uniform	
1.7	Protests	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>COMPETITION STRUCTURE</b> .....	<b>Page 3</b>
2.1	Program/Draw	
2.2	Competition Format	
2.3	Duration of Games	
2.4	Competition Points	
2.5	Final Series	
2.6	Drawn Games	
2.7	Changes to Finals Format	
2.8	Sin Bin	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT</b> .....	<b>Page 5</b>
3.1	Venue	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>EVENT OFFICIALS</b> .....	<b>Page 5</b>
4.1	Referees/Officials	

### SECTION B:

<b>5.0</b>	<b>ELITE PLAYER PROGRAM</b> .....	<b>Page 5</b>
5.1	Internationals/Tours	
5.2	Player Recognition	
5.3	Selection Policy	
5.4	Talent Identification	
5.5	Selection of National Team Officials	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>SELECTION POLICY</b> .....	<b>Page 6</b>
6.1	School Sport Australia Touch – Selection Policy	
6.2	Post Selection Policy	
6.3	Injuries Prior to Departure	
6.4	Player Selection Criteria	
6.5	Eligibility and Other Issues	

### SECTION C:

<b>7.0</b>	<b>TROPHIES, AWARDS</b> .....	<b>Page 8</b>
7.1	Presentations – Trophies	

### SECTION D:

<b>8.0</b>	<b>EVENT ORGANISATION</b> .....	<b>Page 8</b>
8.1	Roster	
8.2	Accommodation	
8.3	Documentation	
8.4	Management Meetings	
8.5	Injury Prevention and Treatment	
8.6	Opening Ceremony	
8.7	Excursions/Social Activities	

### SECTION E:

<b>9.0</b>	<b>SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA TOUCH AWARDS</b> .....	<b>Page 10</b>
9.1	SSAT Life Members	
9.2	SSA Service Award Recipients	

# SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA TOUCH FOOTBALL

## RULES AND GUIDELINES

**Note:** These Rules and Guidelines are to be read in conjunction with the 'School Sport Australia General Policies'.

### SECTION A:

#### 1.0 COMPETITION RULES

##### 1.1 Playing Rules

Both the playing and tournament rules of Touch Football Australia, current at the time of the Event, will apply unless otherwise stated.

##### 1.2 Divisions

The divisions of an Event shall include:

Boys 15 & Under  
Girls 15 & Under  
Boys 12 & Under  
Girls 12 & Under

##### 1.3 Team Size

###### **15 Years & Under Division:**

Teams shall consist of 14 players maximum and one junior official, with on field members to be no more than six (6) players maximum.

In the event of a PSG teams shall consist of up to 16 players maximum and one junior official, with on field members to be no more than six (6) players maximum.

###### **12 Years & Under Division:**

Teams shall consist of 14 players maximum and one junior official, with on field members to be no more than six (6) players maximum.

##### 1.4 Ages

###### **15 Years & Under Division:**

a) The ages are to be calculated as Under 16 as at 31 December in the year of competition.

###### **12 Years & Under Division:**

d) The ages are to be calculated as 12 years and under as at 31 December in the year of competition.

e) Participants must be in at least their tenth year (turn ten years during the year of competition), in order to compete in the Event.

f) South Australia, Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory will be entitled to have up to three (3) players who turn 13 years of age in the year of competition.

##### 1.5 Judiciary Committee

The Event Secretary/Convener, the National Secretary and one other invited official will form the Judiciary Committee. A decision will be made upon submissions given by the cautioned player and his/her Coach/Manager, and the Referee's report.

##### 1.6 Uniform

The uniform shall be as per the rules stipulated for all ATA competitions. Girls, however, shall be permitted to wear bicycle type pants or tights provided the team is uniform. (i.e. all the same uniform).

## 1.7 Protests

- (a) Any protests must be lodged with the National Secretary within one (1) hour of completion of the disputed match.
- (b) Protests or disputes not concerning specific matches shall also be directed in writing to the National Secretary.
- (c) On receiving any relevant protests the National Secretary shall set up the relevant committee, as per 1.5 above, to deal with same.

## 2.0 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

### 2.1 Program

- (a) At least two months prior to the commencement of the Event, the Event Secretary/Convener shall submit to States/Territories a tentative program of matches. Early advice should be forwarded to States/Territories of any subsequent amendment to it.
- (b) As early as possible, the Host State/Territory should also advise all competing States/Territories of the ground markings to be utilised during the Events, and any local rules with respect to end zones/dead ball lines, sub-boxes and players' conditions. Diagrammatical representation is preferred.

### 2.2 Competition Format

- (a) U/12s will compete in a round robin comp with finals to decide the winning place.

#### **15 Years & Under Division:**

- (b) The top four (4) qualifiers will advance to the semi-finals of the 'Trophy Series'.
- (c) Teams other than the top four will play off in a 'Plate Series' (i.e. 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, etc).
- (d) The draw should be constructed so that all teams compete on the final day.

- (c) For Secondary participants, the draw should be arranged so that no team is required to play more than three (3) games in any one day.

#### **12 Years & Under Division:**

- (d) For the 12 Years & Under Division participants, no teams are to be scheduled to play more than two (2) full games in any one day.
- (e) Skills Sessions and coaching clinics shall remain as part of the competition format where practical. These should be held at the central venue, and be planned in context with the overall program to ensure adequate rest each day for students.
- (f) The placings for Trophies/Awards will be calculated as per the format for the 15 Years & Under Division.

### 2.3 Duration of Games

All matches will be 2 x 20 minute halves with a half time interval not exceeding five (5) minutes.

### 2.4 Competition Points

For all round robin games, competition points will be awarded on results obtained. The following points will be awarded:

For a Win	3 points
For a Draw	2 points
For a Loss	1 point

## 2.5 Final Series (15 Years & Under Divisions Only)

### Trophy Series:

- (a) The top four teams with the most competition points will contest the semi-finals of the 'Trophy Series'.
- (b) If any teams finish level on points for positions one, two, three or four, placings will be determined by the following criteria in order -
- \* Best difference (Touchdowns for minus Touchdowns against)
  - \* Best percentage (Touchdowns for divided by Touchdowns against) x 100%
  - \* Round robin match result
  - \* Drop off
- (c) If three teams finish level in third position, the team with the 'Best difference', etc., would retain third position, whilst the remaining two teams would play-off for fourth position. In the event where three teams are equal on points for fourth position, a "drop off" system will be applied to determine outright fourth position. The team with the 'Best difference', etc., will be ranked 1<sup>st</sup>. The other two teams will compete in a "drop off" to determine the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranking. The winner of this "drop off" will then play the team ranked 1<sup>st</sup> to determine fourth position.
- (d) The semi-final will consist of first position playing fourth position and second position playing third position. The two teams winning the semi-finals will contest the Final.

### Plate Series:

- (e) The bottom four teams, where applicable, with the most competition points will contest the semi-finals of the 'Plate Series'.
- (f) If any teams finish level on points for positions five, six, seven or eight, placings will be determined by the following criteria in order -
- \* Best difference (Touchdowns for minus Touchdowns against)
  - \* Best percentage (Touchdowns for divided by Touchdowns against) x 100%
  - \* Round robin match result
  - \* Drop off
- (g) If three teams finish level in seventh position, the team with the 'Best difference', etc., would retain seventh position, whilst the remaining two teams would play-off for eighth position. In the event where three teams are equal on points for eighth position, a "drop off" system will be applied to determine outright eighth position. The team with the 'Best difference', etc., will be ranked 1<sup>st</sup>. The other two teams will compete in a "drop off" to determine the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranking. The winner of this "drop off" will then play the team ranked 1<sup>st</sup> to determine eighth position.
- (h) The semi-final will consist of fifth position playing eighth position and sixth position playing seventh position. The two teams winning the semi-finals will contest the Final.
- (i) Following the Plate Semi-Final, the losers of these games play off for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> positions in the 15 years and under division.

## 2.6 Drawn Games

If any finals series game ends in a draw the "drop-off" rule shall apply. Substitutions shall be allowed during this period.

## 2.7 Changes to Finals Format (15 Years & Under Divisions Only)

Where there is not a full representation, in a division, from each State/Territory, then the Finals Series format will be at the discretion of the Host State/Territory, in consultation with the National Secretary and the nominated competing teams in that particular division.

## 2.8 Sin Bin

A Sin Bin will operate in all matches. Players sent to the Sin Bin for a second time during a match may be excluded from further participation in that match. A Judiciary will meet to consider further action.

## 3.0 FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT

### 3.1 Venue

The determination of the venue for each year's Event shall be in accordance with the SSA Event Roster. Where a State or Territory is unable to fulfill the hosting of the Event, then it shall be the duty of the National Secretary, in consultation with the School Sport Australia Roster Committee, to arrange a suitable alternative Host State/Territory.

### 3.2 Ball Type

- a) A Junior Touch Ball will be used for the 12 years division.
- b) A Senior Touch Ball will be used for the 15 years division.

## 4.0 EVENT OFFICIALS

### 4.1 Referees/Officials

It shall be the responsibility of the host State/Territory to ensure that there be adequate qualified referees/officials appointed for the duration of the Events. Where problems are likely to occur the National Secretary should be contacted so that arrangements may be made to utilise referees/officials from interstate or from within the ranks of the competing teams personnel. Non-qualified or non-affiliated personnel are not to officiate at a National Event. It is strongly recommended that States/Territories include suitably qualified senior and/or junior officials as part of their touring party.

The referee coordinator to be a referee coach to provide coaching and possible upgrade of referee qualification of junior refs throughout carnival.

An official should be placed as the student official manager to oversee the well being of the student officials – as opposed to the technical aspects of the ref's coach. This manager will ensure children are fed, drinking, sun safe etc and follow all relevant education policies.

## SECTION B:

## 5.0 ELITE PLAYER PROGRAM

### 5.1 Internationals/Tours

- (a) Where an Australian team is to play an International or embark on a representative Tour, the team shall be selected at the National Events.
- (b) SSAT Australian Representative Teams shall be selected in accordance with official Selection Policy as appears in the Rules and Guidelines.

### 5.2 Player Recognition

Where there is no official international competition, Australian Teams, Merit or otherwise, shall not be named. The six player awards categories, as outlined in 7.1(d), will be the sole form of player recognition.

### 5.3 Selection Policy

Where Australian teams are to be selected, the official SSAT/ATA Selection Policy and Procedures shall be utilised.

### 5.4 Talent Identification

Where practical, the Australian Touch Association Talent Identification Program should be utilised. The National Secretary should ensure that arrangements are made for this program to be conducted effectively at the National Events.

#### 5.5 Selection of National Team Officials

- (a) Where an Australian team is to play an International or embark on a representative Tour, the selection of the National Coach, Managers and Officials shall be done in accordance with School Sport Australia policy and guidelines.
- (b) Once it has been confirmed that an International/Tour is to take place, nominations shall be called from all participating States/Territories.
- (c) Five officials should accompany National Teams on tour, as laid out by SSA Guidelines.  
eg Boys Coach  
Girls Coach  
Boys Manager  
Girls Manager  
General (Teams) Manager
- (d) Provision shall be made for a qualified referee(s)/official(s) to accompany a touring team on International tours.

### 6.0 SELECTION POLICY

#### 6.1 School Sport Australia Touch Football – Selection Policy

- (a) The arena for selection in an SSAT National Team is at the School Sport Australia National Events.
- (b) All players vying for selection in an SSAT National Team MUST participate at the National Events.
- (c) National teams will be named at the conclusion of the National Events.
- (d) The best-performed players must be selected; these players should play in approximately 75% of games their team played.
- (e) Players who suffer an illness or injury during the Events must be taken into consideration when determining the best possible players available for representation in a National Team.
- (f) Touring teams will be based on the players selected in the National Team who are available to tour. The best team will be selected as opposed to the best-performed players subject to their performance.
- (g) The Selectors' Divisional Team Leader, in consultation with the National Team Coach, will decide upon replacement players, for those unavailable to tour.
- (h) Advising the selectors of any player suffering injury or illness during the Events (selection trials) will be the responsibility of the player concerned, through their team management to the selector's coordinator.
- (i) All players should generally be selected in a position as outlined in the Player Selection Criteria.
- (j) Injured or unfit players may be replaced at any time, up to the commencement of the Tournament. It is both the duty of the players and the Coach to notify the Selectors' Coordinator.
- (k) Rating sheets for all affiliates are to be available to all states upon request at the conclusion of the events and accompanied by the Selectors' Team Leader report, on players and discussion topics from the Selector's final team selection meeting.
- (l) If after ratification of the teams, circumstances arise where a player has to be replaced due to a direction by the relevant Executive Officers, the Selectors' Team Leader will then request from the Selectors of that division, a reappraisal of a replacement player.
- (m) The Executive, unless of a confidential nature, should advise the Selector's Coordinator the reason for rejection of a player.

- (n) The selection of the Australian Team will be limited to those players who are of the correct age as designated by the age group of the tournament.

**NOTE:** Players with age dispensation will not be eligible for selection.

## 6.2 Post Selection Policy

- (a) If shadow players are to be selected, they will not be named, but should be selected in positions and ranked accordingly. Such shadow players are not necessarily binding on the Selectors.
- (b) Before a shadow player replaces a selected player, the National Team Coach must be given the option of reshuffling the composition of the team. The player to fill the vacant position will then be chosen by the Selectors' Team Leader in consultation with the National Team Coach.

## 6.3 Injuries Prior to Departure

- (a) All serious injuries, which are sustained after passing the official team fitness test, should be notified to the team management and team doctor for assessment. Although unfortunate for a player to be ruled unfit to tour, it is not fair for the remainder of the team to "carry" an unfit player. Nor does the player need the pressure of having to perform knowing they are unfit.

## 6.4 Player Selection Criteria

- (a) Player selection will be based upon the following:
- (i) Attendance: as stated the player should play in approximately 75% of games their teams played.
  - (ii) Behaviour: on field behaviour will be taken into account in the players' ratings.
- (b) If a player was SENT OFF for the duration of the game by the referee, this player would then NOT be considered for team selection UNLESS the player can demonstrate exceptional circumstances. Such an appeal should be lodged to the Selector's Coordinator in consultation with the SSAT National Secretary.
- (c) If players receive PERIODS OF TIME the players are still eligible, however, their selecting prospects would not be enhanced.
- (d) Such items of on field behaviour that would also reflect a low consideration of performance would be:
- Sledging
  - Phantom touches
  - Swearing
  - Misconduct
- (e) Minimum team player/position composition for National Team shall be as follows:
- 6 x Middles
  - 4 x Links
  - 2 x Wings
  - 1 x Utility

## 6.5 Eligibility and Other Issues

- (a) Selectors will be appointed to divisions by the Selector's Coordinator in consultation with the SSAT National Secretary.
- (b) Selectors will be assigned to a division and NOT be utilised in a roving capacity between various divisions.
- (c) Communication between the Coaches and the Selectors will be encouraged and will aid in the selection process. The communication is to be via the Selectors Coordinator and/or the Selectors' Team Leader and not the individual Selectors. This communication will be at the conclusion of each game or at the convenience of the Selectors' Coordinator of the Team Leaders.

## SECTION C:

### 7.0 TROPHIES, AWARDS

#### 7.1 Presentations – Trophies

##### **15 Years & Under Division:**

- (a) A perpetual shield shall be available to all Champion teams. It shall be the responsibility of current Champion State/Territory to see that the Trophy is with the Host State/Territory in time for presentation to the winner of the succeeding Events.
- (b) School Sport Australia medallions shall be presented to the first, second and third placed teams of the Trophy Series (Third place to be decided by a play off between the losing semi-finalists). (**Note:** Where School Sport Australia medallions are not available, costs to be covered by Event budget.)
- (c) The cost of the Plate Series winners and runners-up medallions/trophies', is to be covered by the Event budget.
- (d) Three player awards categories shall be conducted at a National Event. These are:
  - (i) Player of the Series (one per division)
  - (ii) Player of the Final (one per division)
  - (iii) Encouragement Award (one per division)
- (e) Selection for the above Awards shall be made by the relevant Talent Identification Personnel, in the case of the 'Player of the Series' and the 'Encouragement' Awards. A designated person in each case shall select the 'Players of the Finals'. This person shall be appointed/invited by the National Secretary in consultation with the Event Secretary or Convener.
- (f) Each State or Territory's official team personnel shall determine all other awards.

##### **12 Years & Under Division:**

- (g) The Awards/Trophies/Friendship Pins for this division shall be carried out as per School Sport Australia Primary – General Exchange Rules.
- (h) School Sport Australia medallions shall be presented to the first, second and third placed teams.

## SECTION D:

### 8.0 EVENT ORGANISATION

#### 8.1 Roster

Events shall be held annually, as per School Sport Australia roster and should be a maximum of nine (9) days, with no more than five (5) school days.

#### 8.2 Accommodation

- (a) It shall be the duty of the State/Territory conducting the Event to arrange sufficient billets for the visiting players, and to make accommodation bookings for the managers on request.
- (b) Applications for billets shall be not later than three weeks prior to the commencement of the Event, and shall be on the prescribed SSA form.
- (c) Billets already arranged cannot be rejected or changed without the consent of the Event Secretary/Convener (or his/her nominee).
- (d) Where it is conjointly agreed by the Manager of the visiting team and the Event Secretary/Convener (or his/her nominee), that a billet is unsatisfactory, other arrangements shall be made. Where no such agreement is reached, the matter shall be referred to a Special Meeting of SSAT (School Sport Australia Touch), for its determination.



- (e) SSAT will take appropriate action against any player infringing the conditions relating to billeting, as set out by the SSA 'Accommodation Policy' and Guidelines.
- (f) Managers of competing teams, shall ensure School Sport Australia 'Accommodation Policy' Guidelines, with respect to 'rules for billets' are made available to players. The Managers are also obliged to make sure that these rules are enforced.

### 8.3 **Documentation**

The following documents must be completed and forwarded to the Host State/Territory:

- (a) Team list showing the surname, given name and school attended.
- (b) Request for billets form showing surname, given name, home address and phone number.

### 8.4 **Management Meetings**

- (a) The Pre-Event meeting of SSAT shall be held prior to the commencement of the Event.
- (b) The meetings shall be chaired by the President/Chairman (or his/her proxy) of the State/Territory which is hosting the Annual Event.
- (c) All matters pertaining to the program, organisation and conduct of the Event, and matters, which are to be amended prior to competition, shall be presented.
- (d) Election of officials for Australian representative teams (playing) shall be conducted as per School Sport Australia Guidelines.

### 8.5 **Injury Prevention and Treatment**

It shall be the responsibility of the Host State/Territory to ensure that adequate professional assistance, as per SSA Guidelines, is made available at all National Events.

### 8.6 **Opening and Closing Ceremonies**

It shall be the responsibility of the host State/Territory to organise Opening and Closing Ceremonies, which, where practicable, includes a March Past of all competing States and Territories.

### 8.7 **Excursions/Social Activities**

These will be included in the format of the Event and conducted under SSA Policies.

## SECTION E:

### 9.0 SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA TOUCH FOOTBALL AWARDS

#### 9.1 School Sport Australia Touch Football – Life Members:

- Anne Pickering (SA - 1996)
- Peter Bell (Qld - 1997)
- Ray Grieshaber (Qld - 1998)

#### 9.2 School Sport Australia Service Award Recipients:

Kerry Norman	QLD	2001
Greg Maynard	WA	2001
Kendall Stirrat	NT	2001
Maree Tomlin	TAS	2005
Ashley Trueman	SA	2005
Garry Clarke	NSW	2005
Steve Tomlin	TAS	2006
Gabe Hodges	ACT	2008
Phil Jones	SA	2008
Mark Hilderbrandt	NSW	2009
Kim Bond	NT	2010
Debbie Quan	WA	2011
Matt Schinkel	SA	2011
Kelly Wetton	WA	2012
Sandra Hughes	ACT	2013
Chris Jones	SA	2013