

NORTHERN DISTRICTS TOUCH ASSOCIATION, INC.

Terms and Conditions for Summer 2020-2021

Welcome to Northern Districts Touch Association, Inc. We hope you enjoy the season and develop new friendships and skills. We aim to make sure everyone gets the best out of the opportunities offered by a competition where up to 400 people per night get together to play competitive sport in a social environment.

Many of the teams playing this season are regulars at Northern but we also like to see new faces and an evolving competition. Please feel free to make suggestions on ways we can improve any aspect of the competition. Any queries or other matters can be emailed to the administrator at admin@ndtouch.com

To help the club operate efficiently we of course have to apply a set of rules and conditions. Please read the following information carefully and make sure that every member of your team is aware of all of the points mentioned.

Team Registration:

Initial team “nomination” must include **all** information included on the official form and must also be accompanied by payment of at least a \$200 deposit on team fees.

NDTA understand that our initial 3 week grading period does not fit with the MySideline model for permitting team registrations on-line. This is because the first 3 weeks have competitions named:

NDTA Summer 20-21 Mixed
NDTA Summer 20-21 Women
NDTA Summer 20-12 Men

Then on completion of grading, those 3 comps will be split into “Divisions” such as:

NDTA Summer 20-21 Mixed Div 1 to NDTA Summer 20-21 Mixed Div 5
NDTA Summer 20-21 Women Div 1 to NDTA Summer 20-21 Women Div 3
NDTA Summer 20-12 Men Div 1 to NDTA Summer 20-12 Men Div 4

Therefore initial Team nominations will be manually registered to the online system by the NDTA administrator and the team managers will be sent a link that players can use to register themselves online. Then team and players will be copied to the final/correct graded Division comp names.

It’s important that all players register online before playing to be covered by sports injury insurance and to be confirmed as a member of the team.

If new players join the team during the season, the team manager must ensure that their details are registered online as well. New players are expected to be of a similar standard to the rest of the team.

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Team Fees:

The total team fee is \$1,400, with a \$200 deposit to be paid with nomination.

Full fees must be paid by week 3 or the team is unlikely to be allowed to remain in the competition. In this event, any fees paid beyond the \$200 deposit will be refunded. However the initial \$200 will be retained to cover costs of supporting the team for the grading period.

Where a team withdraws prior to Week 3, the team deposit of \$200 will be retained to cover expenses, but any additional fees paid will be refunded.

Referees:

In line with most other clubs, NDTA has a shortage of referees and needs to involve "team referees" to supplement our established referee pool.

All teams are required to nominate two "team referees" one of which may be required to referee one game every third week on a roster system (so possibly total of 4 games per team over the 13 weeks of grading and round games). We do try to minimise the use of team delegate referees but need to be able to cover for a shortage of squad referees from time to time.

The team referee must be a team member or a family member of one of the players in the team. Teams are not to recruit referees from the club's established referee pool, unless they are a family or team member.

The team referee must be a Level 1 (or higher) referee, OR be an experienced player able to ref at Level 1 standard, OR be prepared to attend the Level 1 referee course as soon as possible in the season and also receive some on-field coaching by experienced club refs.. (They are still required to referee the team's rostered games before doing the course and must be able to ref on-field to assist our qualified ref's). More than two people may share the referee duties so long as they are of Level 1 standard but for inexperienced people the intention is that two players will do regular games to gain the required experience and provide backup for each other. The club will pay for the level 1 ref course for members who are willing to commit to doing a few regular games and receive coaching.

No inexperienced team referee will normally be asked to ref a game at a higher level than his/her own team's division, and will always be accompanied by a more senior club referee. Coaching will be made available as much as possible from our senior referees.

Due to Covid restrictions, no shared delegate ref shirts or bibs will be supplied so delegates are requested to bring their own coloured tee-shirt or polo of a colour that is unlikely to be mistaken for a team shirt. No shared whistles will be available either but one new whistle will be supplied free of charge to each team.

Failure to supply a referee as rostered without prior notice and approval or subsequent clearance from the club administrator may result in the team losing competition ladder points and repeated failure to supply a referee is likely to result in the team being excluded from the competition for following seasons.

Player Registration:

All players are required to register individually using the "online system" promoted by Touch Football Australia.

GRADING:

The first 3 games of the season will be used to grade all teams into divisions.

On the registration form you are requested to indicate which division you think would best suit the standard of your team but final placement into a division will depend on the decisions of the grading committee.

It is preferred that all players in a team are of roughly the same level of experience and skill. This is to discourage very experienced or skilled players from playing in the lower divisions and carrying a team to victory on the strength of an individual player, which is not in the spirit of the game.

Therefore it is in your interest to play your "normal team" during grading so that you don't end up in too hard or too easy a division. Using temporary fill-ins may result in the team being graded incorrectly. **If a team doesn't seem to be playing to their potential during grading they may be graded higher than their nominated division.**

GIRLS SCORE TWO - MIXED COMP:

For Division 5 only, girl's touchdowns score 2 points while guy's touchdowns score 1 point. This is designed to encourage the guys to use their girls more in general play in the lower divisions. Note that girls score 2 points only if they are actively involved in the play and a guy could not have easily scored a touchdown before passing to a girl. **It is NOT the intention that fast guys break through and bolt to the score line then wait for a girl to run up to put the ball down for the extra point.** This is a club rule only.

FINALS ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for finals, players must be officially registered (see above) for that team and have played at least 3 games of the "10 competition rounds". Make sure all players are recorded on the weekly team-sheet as this may be used for a game count if required.

Age Limit:

Under club rules, all players in our "open" competitions need to be at least 13 years of age, and 13 to 15 year olds need to supply written parental or guardian consent at the start of the season.

Team Coordinator:

The team contact named on the team registration form is the club's first point of contact. If changes occur to the draw, or weather conditions necessitate the cancelling of a fixture, we must be able to contact your team. Please ensure your details are current throughout the season by advising the Administrator of any changes.

Team Sheets:

It's important to for all participating player's in each game names to be recorded on your team sheet BEFORE they take the field each game because if any player goes off with an injury before being recorded on the sheet they may have problems later claiming insurance. Also make sure that team names are recorded correctly and the score is checked at half and full time.

Playing Uniform:

Teams must be dressed in appropriate uniform by week four. This includes all team members wearing similar coloured shirts with numbers at least 15cm in height on the back. After week 4

players without suitable numbers on their shirts will be asked to leave the field unless the team has received clearance from the Administrator due to circumstances beyond their control.

Due to the recent Covid restrictions **no shared bibs** will be available even in the case of two opposing teams having the same colour shirts.

Team shirts should not be similar in colour to the referee shirts so if there is any question over this please speak to the administrator to resolve. Approved touch shoes or gym shoes must be worn. Hard or metal sprigs, studs or protruding cleats are not allowed, and bare feet are not allowed either.

Suitability of footwear is at the discretion of the referee(s).

Fingernails must be short or taped and all jewellery removed.

Playing Rules:

The Touch Football Australia rules of touch will govern the competition at NDTA but in addition some local "club rules" will also be promoted. These will be placed on our website after a current review is completed.

Insurance/Injuries:

If any player is injured in the course of a game please seek assistance from the club's provided "sports trainer". If the injury may be serious, send someone to get the trainer to attend the player at the field. Ask the trainer to complete an "injury report" in case an insurance claim may be required later. (Make sure that the injured player's name has been recorded as playing on the teamsheet.....which should have been done before the game started).

If it's possible that the injured player may wish to make an insurance claim at a later date, he/she needs to contact SportsCover within 30 days of the incident and register their claim - either phone their hotline on 1300 134 956 or email to claims@sportscover.com. More info can be found at www.sportscover.com

Fixtures:

During the 3 "grading weeks" fixtures will be emailed to team managers at least 2 business days prior to the match date and also posted to www.ndtouch.com

Fixtures for the 10 week "competition rounds" will be available from MySideline as soon as possible and also emailed to team managers in advance of the match dates each week.

Once teams are deemed financial, and their grade is finalized, the final draw for the 10 week "competition rounds" will be generated on the MySideline website as soon as possible.

Weekly fixtures **including team delegate referee allocations** will be emailed a few day's advance to the team manager and nominated team referees.

Communication:

To cover our large player base, NDTA will use the web site (www.ndtouch.com) to and emails to communicate with players and team managers.

Forfeits:

If you can't field a team for a fixtured game please advise the administrator ASAP so that the opposition can be informed and hopefully save them a trip for no game.

(A minimum of 4 players, with at least 1 girl for the "mixed" comp, are required to field a team).

Judiciary:

NDTA operates under the standard guidelines provided by TFA/ATA and found in the rulebook. A player can be reported as a result of any serious infringements of the rules, such as referee/player abuse, striking or consistent disregard for the rules of the sport.

You are reminded that touch is a "minimal contact" sport and everyone has a responsibility to avoid heavy or dangerous contact. Referees have been instructed to record player and team names involved in rough play, and if a pattern of repeat offenders emerges, the player and or the team will be penalised. Penalties may include player suspension, team loss of competition points, or a player or team being removed from the competition. Ref's have also been requested to penalise "careless" play that results in heavy contact... even if it was not intentional.

NDTA regards rough play, referee abuse and unsporting behaviour as very serious offences and encourage referees to enforce their authority to the full extent of the rules. The club will not hesitate to impose suspensions or even order players or teams from the competition if warranted. If players can't be mature enough to accept the referee's decision and just play on, "even if the ref is wrong", then they shouldn't be playing touch. This is not to say that ref's are not open to polite enquiry on technical points by the team captain, but dispute over judgement calls will not be entered into, and approaching ref's in an aggressive matter is a serious offence.

Any player sent from the field for the remainder of the game will receive an automatic two (2) match suspension but a Judiciary hearing may be convened and consider further action. Any player who is given a period of time more than once in any one game, will also receive an automatic two (2) match suspension. Any player who received three (3) periods of time over the competition will receive an automatic two (2) match suspension, but a judiciary hearing may be convened and consider further action. A two (2) match suspension is to be served for the following two (2) games in which the team actually plays. Byes do not count as a game played. A team that wins by a forfeit will count, however, a team losing by a forfeit will not count.

Sports Trainer:

A qualified sports trainer is made available on each competition night. While this service is free, the cost of strapping tape is not and may incur a nominal charge for regular users.

Bar:

Due to reconstruction of the clubrooms this winter no clubrooms access at all will be available and a small temporary "Kiosk" facility will be provided by the City of Stirling and we will try to arrange a liquor license for this but there is no guarantee when this may be achievable by.

HELP FOR BEGINNERS

If you have beginners in your team please advise the referees so that they can make some allowance and explain various rules throughout the game. If your whole team is inexperienced and would appreciate some coaching then speak to an official at the clubrooms and the committee will try to organise an experienced player to provide some game-time coaching.

A COVID SAFETY PLAN and RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOLS

will be in place before the season starts
but we are waiting on a TFAWA update for WA Phase 4 restrictions

Any questions to admin@ndtouch.com