

Coffs Harbour Touch Association Incorporated By-Laws



Senior Competition Rules

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By-Law 1 – Rules of Play, Teams and Officials

- a) Coffs Harbour Touch Association (CHTA) will conduct their competitions under the current Touch Football Australia (TFA) Rules, 8th Edition & Amendments. Subsequent sub-sections specify supplementary competition by-laws and procedures to be applied by CHTA.
- b) All teams and individuals participating in any CHTA competitions agree to be bound by TFA and CHTA rules and procedures.
- c) CHTA Executive Committee has appointed a Competition Manager to administer our local competitions, to run the actual game day operations and to ensure all local competitions are conducted in adherence to CHTA's By-Laws.
 - i. Senior Competitions - Kendall Devine
 - ii. Junior Competitions- Carla Snow
- d) All teams MUST have a nominated Team Contact who is over the age of 18. The Team Contact is responsible for team registration, player registration, and all matters relating to abiding by the provision of these by-laws.
- e) All teams must use the official CHTA supplied match balls in all games throughout the competition.
- f) The CHTA Executive Committee reserves the right to alter any local rules it deems fit.

By-Law 2 – Competition Structure, Rounds and Finals

- a) CHTA conducts the following Competitions:
 - i. Womens Senior Competition (Monday nights)
 - ii. Mens Senior Competition (Monday nights)
 - iii. Mixed Senior Competitions (Thursday Nights) Summer only
 - iv. Junior Competitions (Monday afternoons) Summer only
- b) All competitions are played at the Sawtell and Toormina Sports and Recreation Club & Rex Hardaker Oval, Toormina.
- c) Matches in all senior divisions will be 45 minutes in duration, consisting of two (2) twenty (20) minute halves and a five (5) minute halftime break. There will be a five (5) minute break between the finish and start of senior matches held on Monday. This may need to be reviewed in the event of substantial wet weather wash outs.
- d) Fixtures, Results and Ladders will be available on the CHTA website coffsharbour.nswtouch.com.au
- e) The number of competition rounds shall be determined by the number of weeks of the competition and catch-up matches will only be held at the discretion of the CHTA Executive Committee. However, there are normally fourteen (12) rounds for Senior Summer competitions plus two (2) weeks for finals and two (2) weeks for trials. Any rounds cancelled due to the weather are not replayed except for Semis Finals and Grand Finals.
- f) A minimum of four (4) teams is required to constitute a division/grade/pool competition. Where a grade contains four (4) or less nominated teams by the close of nominations, CHTA may choose to combine that grade with the closest grade of a similar age/ability. CHTA will determine the format for finals for the combined grade, with the priority on holding a separate finals series for both individual grades.
- g) Where a division contains more than 10 teams then that division may be further divided into grades. Teams will be allocated into grades at the discretion of the Committee.
- h) CHTA reserves the right to move teams within grades/pools. Any points accumulated by a team prior to the move will be carried into the new grade/pool.
- i) All divisions/grades/pools will play a two (2) week finals series with the

teams finishing positions first (1st) to fourth (4th) playing off for the Premiership as follows:

Week 1 - Semi Finals Game A - 1 v 4; Game B - 2 v 3

Week 2 - Grand Final Winner of Game A v Winner of Game B

- j) A player must have played a minimum of five (5) matches for a team to qualify to play in that team for the finals series.
- k) Only teams who qualify for Semi Finals and the Grand Final will play on Semi Final night and Grand Final scheduled events, respectively.
- l) A player must have played a minimum of five (5) matches for a team in that particular division, grade and pool to qualify to play in that team for the finals series. If you feel you have extenuating circumstances (such as a return from injury) this may be taken into consideration. Please contact the respective Competition Manager via coffsharbourtouch@gmail.com who will then forward your case on to the CHTA Executive Committee.
- m) 'Byes', 'Wash Outs' and 'Forfeits For' can also count as matches played provided that the player has played at least one match for that team immediately prior to the 'Bye', 'Wash-Out' or 'Forfeit' occurring.
- n) Suspensions do not count as matches played for finals eligibility purposes.
- o) Allocation of matches will be at the discretion of the CHTA Executive Committee.
- p) The CHTA Executive Committee reserves the right to alter match durations and time slots as required.
- q) Full Junior Competiton By-laws can be found in a separate document

By-Law 3 – Team and Player Registrations and Insurance

- a) Teams are to be registered via the CHTA online registration system 'My Sideline' using the link available on the CHTA website prior to the deadline date.
- b) A team's registration will not be accepted unless each team is accompanied with the name of a contact person. These team contacts will be the primary contact for their team. All communications from CHTA for the competition will be via these contacts.
- c) Teams will have to ensure they have 8 individuals registered and paid prior to the start of competition (Round 1) otherwise the team will be declared un-financial. Un-financial teams will not be entered into the draw or be removed from fixtures until outstanding amounts are paid.
- d) No part payments can be made.
- e) The minimum age for participation in the senior competitions is high school age.
- f) CHTA has an early bird registration cut-off date, full payment must be received by midnight on the early bird cut-off date for early bird fees to apply. Any players wishing to pay their registration fees after this deadline date will be required to pay the full registration fee amount. Any players wishing to register late in the season (after more than half the rounds have been played) no more than a 30% discount can be applied by the discretion of the Executive committee.
- g) Players can register and play in only one (1) team per division. Players are not permitted to play for two (2) different teams within the same division/grade/pool i.e. once you register for one team.
- h) All players are also required to register individually via the CHTA online registration system. Individual player registrations are open online via the link on the CHTA website once your team has registered. You will need the team code given to you by your Team Contact.
- i) All players must be registered by the first game (Round 1) of the competition for insurance purposes. Unregistered players will be unable to take the field. Participants are not covered by the Touch Football Australia National Insurance Scheme until they are registered online.

- j) All players in our senior competition must also sign their weekly team sign on sheet prior to the commencement of their game for insurance purposes. The sign on sheets are located near the canteen adjacent to the clubhouse.
- k) Players listed as un-financial with any affiliated bodies (i.e. team, club, association, regional, state, or national) shall not be permitted to play, coach or referee until their account is settled.
- l) If your team needs extra players, please email coffsharbourtouch@gmail.com with your details and CHTA will put you in touch with any players who have contacted us looking for a team.

CHTA is a current affiliate of New South Wales Touch Association (NSWTA) who is in turn affiliated with Touch Football Australia (TFA).

ALL CHTA registered players and officials are covered by Sportscover however players must have registered ONLINE and signed on to be covered.

TFA and CHTA also encourage all players and officials to take out their own Private Health Insurance, Life Insurance and Loss of Income coverage over and above the coverage provided under this Scheme.

By-Law 4 – Playing uniforms and Attire

- a) Each team is to supply their own uniform to their players. All players must wear matching team shirt colours at all times during the competition. All players must wear an identifying number, clearly displayed on the rear of the team shirt. No two players in the same team may wear the same number.
- b) Players not appropriately uniformed will not be allowed to score.
- c) Teams must be in uniform before the commencement of Round 1. Teams not in uniform by Round 1 may incur a penalty. The CHTA Competition Manager is to be notified if there are any delivery problems that will affect teams not being in uniform by the due date.
- d) Shoes with screw-in studs or cleats are not to be worn by any player. Light leather or synthetic boots with soft moulded soles are permitted, provided individual studs are no longer than 13 mm in length; the measurement being taken from the sole of the boot.
- e) All players and/or referees may wear glasses, hats and/or medical supports as long as they have no dangerous parts, and in the case of glasses, they must be secured at the back with a band.
- f) Any fibreglass, plaster-of-Paris, or solid fixtures of a medical nature cannot be worn while playing or refereeing.
- g) Players are not to participate in any match while wearing any items of jewellery (unless taped) which may be considered dangerous.
- h) Long or sharp fingernails must be trimmed or taped.

By-Law 5 – Number and Combination of players

- a) All competitions are allowed a maximum of six (6) players per side on the field at any one time.
- b) The maximum number of players permitted to be registered to a team is sixteen (16).
- c) In all competitions the minimum number of players required to start a game shall be four (4) on the field.
- d) Fewer numbers than four (4) players on the field will result in a forfeit by the offending team.

By-Law 6 – Byes, Forfeits, and Withdrawals

- a) Teams on a bye will be counted as a match played and normal rules will apply to the players in that team as if the match had been played.
- b) Teams should attend their playing field, five (5) minutes before the commencement of their match. Any team that cannot field a team with at least the minimum number of players after five (5) minutes of the siren going will be required to forfeit (at the opposing team and referees discretion). The score for a forfeited match shall be 5-0 against the forfeiting team.
- c) Should a team need to forfeit, that team **MUST** notify the CHTA Competition Manager via phone by 3:00pm the day of the scheduled match to allow time to notify the opposing team. Failure by the forfeiting team to notify the CHTA Competition Manager by the given time will result in the team having zero (0) points recorded for the forfeit, as well as the loss of an additional three (3) points for failure to notify the CHTA Competition Manager by the due time.
- d) Any team that forfeits three (3) matches without good reason the team representative will be required to meet with the Committee to Show Cause as to why they should remain in the competition. Teams who fail to respond to the Show Cause shall be immediately removed from the competition.
- e) If a team withdraws from the competition after the commencement of competition they will not be eligible for a refund of Registration fees.

By-Law 7 – Provision of Referees

- a) The CHTA Director of Referees, or a delegated representative, will prepare the allocation of referees each week. Referees will be allocated to games based on availability, badge level and experience.
- b) All referees must hold at least a minimum TFA Level 1 Touch Referee qualification or are in the process of attaining their qualifications.
- c) If a referee is allocated a game and there is a forfeit on that game they MUST return to the clubhouse desk to let either the Director of Referees or the Competition Manager know and they will be allocated another game. Failure to do this and assist fellow referees may incur a forfeit of referee payments.
- d) Any referee that cannot attend the match they have been appointed to referee is required to notify the Director of Referees, or their representative, as early as possible after they are aware they cannot fulfill their refereeing commitments. If no notification is received a penalty may apply.
- e) Senior Referee Payments
 - i. \$20 per game
 - ii. \$15 per game if 2 Senior Referees are utilised.
 - iii. \$5 per game for junior referees walking the line.

By-Law 8 – Zero Tolerance Policy re Referees

- a) CHTA supports a zero tolerance to abuse of referees. Such behaviour can lead to players being cited and/or teams losing competition points.
- b) Team contacts may respectfully enquire of the referee, matters of varying interpretation or causes of penalties. Any discussion is to be brief and polite and must not delay play. Other team members should not talk to the referee.
- c) The playing area under the control of the referee extends from the boundaries of the field of play, to an area which covers substitute players. Referees are also not to tolerate abusive behaviour from the sub-box during the game and will deal with it appropriately should it take place. This could involve removing a player from the field of play.
- d) No player is to approach, engage or communicate with the referee following the conclusion of the game.
- e) Any dispute of the score must be raised with the Competition Manager at the conclusion of your game in question or alternatively in writing within 24 hours of the game taking place.
- f) A player, coach, manager or team contact may not agree with the way a referee officiates a game, nor may he/she agree with decisions made, however CHTA does have procedures in place to handle such matters.
- g) 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:
 - i. Arrange to consult, in a calm manner, with our Ground Manager, Referee Director or Administration Manager
 - ii. If necessary, they will organise a meeting with the Referee and CHTA Executive Committee.

By-Law 9 – Team Sheet (Sign On)

- a) Team Contacts must ensure the Team Sheet is completed before the commencement of each game.
- b) If players arrive late for a game it is the Team Contacts responsibility to ensure those players complete the team sheet before they take the field.
- c) Failure to ensure the Team Sheet is properly presented will result in a warning and a deduction of points.

By-Law 10 – Scoring, Competition Points and Ladder Position

- a) Each try scored shall be worth one (1) point for all players.
- b) Each team receives:
 - i. Win/Bye 3 competition points
 - ii. Draw 2 competition points
 - iii. Loss 1 competition point
 - iv. Notified Forfeit 0 competition points (notified CHTA)
 - v. Unnotified Forfeit - 3 competition points (did not make CHTA aware of the forfeit)

By-Law 11 – Match procedure for all Teams and Referees

- a) Prior to the commencement of the game the referees are to determine the Team Contacts.
- b) Referees then check shoes, fingernails and jewellery of all players.
- c) Team Contacts are to bring to the referees' attention any doubts they may have with the validity of the opposition team (e.g. not in uniform, illegal player etc.). Referees are to mark on the back of the scorecard any concerns and after the match bring to the Competition Managers attention.
- d) A coin toss is made (or alternative) in readiness for the match to commence.
- e) At the completion of the match the Team Contacts check each other's team sheet to ensure that they agree with the players marked.
- f) If there is a protest on the match (e.g. score incorrect, etc.) the protesting Team Contact should immediately speak to an official from the Association.

By-Law 12 – Interrupted matches

- a) Should a scheduled match be unable to continue due to injury or any other extenuating circumstance, the following shall be the policy:
 - i. Prior to first half – the match results in a draw
 - ii. After half time - the match score is to stand, as it was when play stopped.
 - iii. In the case of a final series match where a decision is required, if the match is drawn at the time of the stoppage when the final siren sounds a drop-off will occur. Normal drop-off rules will apply.
- b) Where practical, the decision to cancel matches will be made at approximately 4pm on match day and if cancelled be advertised on social media and team contacts emailed.

By-Law 13 – Protests, Reports and Disciplinary Regulations

- a) All protests and disputes are to be lodged with the CHTA Competition Manager immediately after the conclusion of the game in question by the referee/participant/team contact.
- b) All protests and disputes regarding breaches of by-laws are to be in writing, addressed to the CHTA Executive Committee and are to be emailed within 24 hours. Protests regarding by-law violations will be addressed by the CHTA Executive Committee.
- c) Disciplinary incident reports are to be submitted by the referee/participant immediately following the match.
- d) Protests will only be heard regarding breaches of by-laws and no protests will be heard regarding the decision of referees.
- e) A dismissed player will be excluded from future games in accordance with TFA Rules, 8th Edition & at the discretion of the CHTA Executive Committee.

By-Law 14 – Send Offs

- a) Any player sent from the field by the referee for the remainder of the game will receive an automatic two (2) match suspension unless the CHTA Executive Committee considers further action.
- b) Referees may request that a player be removed from the field for the remainder of the game. They have therefore not been sent off and may be replaced. If a player who is asked to leave the field for the remainder of the game refuses to do so, the referee may show due process and SEND the player for the remainder of the game. Any player sent off in this manner will see an automatic two (2) match suspension.
- c) If a player is sin-binned, players are required to stand behind their team's attacking score line until directed by the referee to return to the field.
- d) Any player who receives two "periods of time" during the same game, will also receive an automatic one (1) match suspension.

By-Law 15 – Requests for Special Circumstances

- a) Where there arises any special circumstance that is not already covered by these by-laws then a team may make an application in writing to the CHTA Committee to have their situation considered.
- b) All requests must be submitted by the Team Contact.

By-Law 16 – Extreme Weather Conditions

- a) Touch Football games will not go ahead in the case of heavy rain, hail, lightning, thunderstorms or extreme heat.
- b) In the case of wet weather, CHTA will always adhere to advice from Coffs Coast Council or other state/regulatory body who has the authority to close the fields.
- c) If there is limited air quality and/or pollution, CHTA will source and communicate appropriate health management strategies and warnings for Asthma sufferers.
- d) When lightning is considered to be a possible or actual threat to a Touch Football game CHTA uses the 30/30 Safety Guideline. 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:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. For resumption of play/competition, it is recommended that people wait a minimum of 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning or sound of thunder.

By-Law 17 – Images

- a. All persons accept that, by participating in our competitions, they may be photographed/filmed and that these images may be used by the CHTA for the promotion of our club and sport.

- b. CHTA will not pass any image/s onto a third party unless prior approval is sought. If you do not wish the CHTA to be able to use your image/s or be filmed, you must notify CHTA in writing.