



QUEENSLAND TOUCH FOOTBALL

and

**NEW SOUTH WALES TOUCH ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED**

Present the

2018 STATE of ORIGIN

TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS

1. DATE

Competition is scheduled to take place on **FRIDAY 9th and SATURDAY 10th November 2018**.

2. VENUE

The event will be conducted at Dolphins Stadium, Klingner Rd & Ashmole Rd, Redcliffe QLD 4020.

3. ENTRY FEES

All cost will be at each States expense other than those items identified as to be cost shared in the joint budget.

4. TEAM NOMINATION

It is the responsibility of Queensland Touch Football (QTF) and New South Wales Touch Association (NSWTA) to nominate teams in all the chosen divisions.

State of Origin Coaches and Officials Contact Details to be return by **15 September 2018** to:

Greg Denny
Queensland Touch Football
83 Castlemaine St Milton 4064
greg.denny@qldtouch.com.au

Daniel Rushworth
NSW Touch Football
PO 27 BARDWELL PARK, NSW 2207
daniel.rushworth@nswtouch.com.au

5. EMAIL ADDRESS / MOBILE PHONE NUMBER

Each team nominated must submit an e-mail address and mobile phone number for emergency contact. All correspondence will be sent to the relevant state body.

6. MATCH RESULTS

Match results will be updated on the NSWTA www.nswtouch.com.au and the QTF website – www.qldtouch.com.au at the completion of each round.

7. DIVISION CATEGORIES

Please be advised that all divisions make up the STATE OF ORIGIN SERIES. Each State will nominate one team per division.

Men's Open	No age requirement
Women's Open	No age requirement
Mixed Open	No age requirement
Men's 20's	Born 1998 or after
Men's 30's	Born 1988 or before
Men's 35's	Born 1983 or before
Men's 40's	Born 1978 or before
Men's 45's	Born 1973 or before
Men's 50's	Born 1968 or before
Men's 55's	Born 1963 or before
Women's 20's	Born 1998 or after
Women's 30's	Born 1988 or before
Women's 35's	Born 1983 or before
Women's 40's	Born 1978 or before

The minimum age for a player at this tournament is 16 at the time of competition.

8. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TEAMS ENTERED

NSWTA and QTF can only enter one (1) team in each division.

9. REFEREES

The State of Origin Referees Panel will appoint the top 45 referees in Australia to participate in the event. The top 12 referees will form the Opens panel and appointments made from this group for MO, WO and Mixed Open games. All appointments will be recommended and made by the tournament referees panel.

10. TEAM REGISTRATION FORM - All teams are required to complete the Online Registration which must be completed 31 October 2018.

Any late changes must be completed online must be completed no later than 12noon on Friday November 9th, 2018.

11. TOURNAMENT ENQUIRIES

Tournament enquiries maybe made by the Tour Manager/s and directed to the QTA Sponsorship and Projects Manager, Rachael Gibson.

- During working hours on 07 3367 6250
- Mobile 0439 448 058
- Email – Rachael@qldtouch.com.au

12. MANAGERS MEETING

The Compulsory Team Managers Meeting will be held at the Dolphins Stadium, Klingner Rd & Ashmole Rd, Redcliffe QLD 4020 at **3pm on Thursday 8th November 2018**.

13. COMPETITION POINTS

Win - 3 points Loss - 1-point Forfeit - 0 points

All drawn games will go into a drop off. See clause 31 in relation to the drop off procedure.

14. CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

Overall Champions State for STATE OF ORIGIN Series will be decided on the following format:-

- * Number of individual Series won, if equal
- * the State holding the trophy will retain it.

15. PLAYER NUMBERS

Teams may register and use a maximum of fourteen (14) players in the series. Upon protest any team found guilty of either using more than fourteen (14) players or using an unregistered player may be liable to be disqualified, fined or otherwise dealt with.

16. GAME SIGN ON SHEETS

The official team sheet is to be ticked off prior to the commencement of each game, indicating the registered players (maximum 14) participating that game.

Team sheet is to be signed by the manager 15min prior to the commencement of the game.

17. PROOF OF AGE

The Team Manager for all age categories must have readily available proof of age for all players in their team. The following will only be accepted as proof of age: -

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

VALID DRIVER LICENCE

PASSPORT

PROOF OF AGE CARD

Teams using players within their teams without the required proof of age are liable to be disqualified if a protest is lodged and the player concerned cannot verify their age. Also any player, who cannot provide this identification, will be disqualified from further competition.

18. ELIGIBILITY

A) TEAM

For NSWTA / QTF to be eligible to enter teams in the Tournament they must be financial with TFA and registered in all competitions they conduct.

B) COACHES AND MANAGERS

Coaches and Managers are not eligible to participate and represent the NSWTA / QTF unless they comply with the following: -

i) They must participate and be registered with an affiliated competition of the state they represent, NSWTA or QTF, in the 2018 either Season 1 or Season 2 or 2017 Season 2 should their affiliate not run a Season 1 competition and their 2018 season 2 has not commenced by the date of the 2018 State of Origin.

iii) Coaches must be a minimum level "2"/Talent Coach.

C) PLAYER ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2018 STATE OF ORIGIN

1. Must be a registered and financial player at their chosen NSWTA / QTF Affiliate in the 2018 either Season 1 or Season 2 or 2017 Season 2 should their affiliate not run a Season 1 competition and their 2018 season 2 has not commenced by the date of the 2018 State of Origin.
2. Must be participating player within their chosen NSWTA / QTF Affiliate having played seven (7) domestic competition games in one (1) division in the 2018 either Season 1 or Season 2 or 2017 Season 2 should their affiliate not run a Season 1 competition and their 2018 season 2 has not commenced by the date of the 2018 State of Origin.
3. Any person serving a suspension at a NSWTA / QTF Affiliate at any stage during the conduct of the Competition is ineligible to participate in the State of Origin series during that suspension. Any person found to be participating whilst under suspension will be in contravention of Clause 27 and may be subject to a disciplinary hearing.
4. Must have been selected under the Selection policy of their respective state body.
5. **Must** be eligible for Australian selection as per FIT regulations.
6. Any player who is eligible for each state must declare which state they wish to be considered for prior to NTL. Should that player not be selected they will not be eligible to then participate for the opposing state.

NB. Both states recognises with the current development of Touch Football internationally that the level of player development from those deemed to be developing nations is not equivalent to that in Australia and New Zealand.

Therefore, as agreed to in 2016 and reiterated in 2018 any international representative player from a country deemed to be a Developing Nation (not Australia or New Zealand) by the two states under these conditions, may be selected as long as the following conditions are met:

- They satisfy clause 18(c).1 of these Conditions
- They satisfy clause 18(c).2 of these Conditions
- They satisfy clause 18(c).3 of these Conditions
- They satisfy clause 18(c).4 of these Conditions
- They have be a resident of Australia for a period greater than 12months.

It is noted that consideration was given to the use of the FIT Tier nation system, however given that any national that participates in a World Cup is classified Tier 1, it would not satisfy the intent of this consideration.

D) MEDICAL TEAM

Any Medical personnel must register their qualifications with the respective state (NSWTA /QTF) and have a minimum accreditation to be eligible to work with teams in the Tournament.

19. UNAFFILIATED RULE

Please remind all players that the STATE OF ORIGIN Series is governed by the Unaffiliated Rule, which reads: -

"IF A PLAYER, REFEREE, OFFICIAL ETC. PARTICIPATES IN AN UNAFFILIATED COMPETITION, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ALSO PLAY IN AN AFFILIATED COMPETITION, THEY WILL BE INELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A TFQ, NSWTA OR TFA TOURNAMENT FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE (12) MONTHS".

20. UNIFORMS

All playing uniforms are to include numbered shirts, shorts and socks and must be correct for all games of competition. Approved touch shoes must be worn in accordance with rule 3.3 of the TFA rulebook. Please note that no predominantly white shirts are allowed (to avoid confusion with the Referees).

21. INSURANCE

For players to be covered by the TFA Insurance Scheme they must be registered in a Financial Affiliate for the Current Competition.

22. SUB BOXES

The only people allowed in the Sub Boxes will be the registered players participating in the game, the Coach, Assistant Coach and Manager that are nominated on the Registration Sheet. The Head Coach and any qualified medical staff that has been identified by NSWTA and or QTF prior to the commencement of the game will be allowed in the player box as well a representative of the Tour Management.

Any player found to have left the sub box and becomes involved in a melee, brawl or fight will be dealt with in the following way. If in the referees view a player/s or official/s leaving the sub box engages in **illegal play** that **would** under normal circumstance of general game play warrant being sent off, they should do so. This will incur a minimum four (4) match suspension on top of any further suspension handed down by the judiciary.

If in the referees view a player/s or official/s leaving the sub box engages in **activities** that **would not** under normal circumstance of general game play warrant being sent off, they should:

- o Record the number of the player/s leaving the sub box to become involved in a melee or brawl or fight,
- o Advise the captain that they will report those players to Event Manager
- o File a report at the end of the game noting those players for the Event Manager then to take action against.

The only persons allowed behind the score line are the Head Coach, Coach or Assistant Coach that appears on the official registration sheet. They must remain a minimum of 5 metres from the dead ball line.

Any coaching/management staff at the end of a playing field cannot issue any verbal or physical commands directly to the team they are observing and can only communicate to the team or other coaching/management staff in the interchange area by returning to the interchange area or by use of electronic communication equipment.

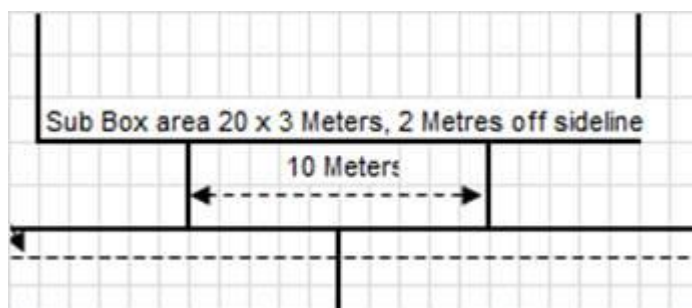
Any person found to be disregarding this tournament rule will be asked to return to the interchange area. Coaches are reminded that they are under the jurisdiction of the

Tournament Conditions and the referee regardless of being either in the interchange area or at the end of the field.

Failure to comply with this will result in individuals being asked to leave the venue for the duration of the game and may result in further action.

Interchange Procedure

Substitute players must remain in their Sub Box Area for the duration of the match. All interchanges must occur through the Interchange Area 10m x 2m before entering the Playing Field.



RULING - A penalty awarded to the non-offending team five (5) metres infield from where the substituted players left the field or where the substituting player entered the field whichever is the greater advantage.

On the taking of an intercept any player who leaves the sub box early to become involved in play will be treated in the following manner. The referee will send the player off for the remainder of the game. (No further suspension will apply on the first offence). If in the referees view that the action of the player leaving the sub box early denied the non-offending team a touchdown, they will award a penalty touch down. If not, the mark for the penalty will be 10m in advance of where the player interfered with play.

23. COACH / REFEREE COMMUNICATION

Coaches and Players are not to approach the Referees who officiate at their games at the conclusion of the game to discuss or question decisions. This can only be done no earlier than 30min after the completion of the game. A member of the Referee Coaching Panel must be approached by TOUR MANAGEMENT in the first instance to co-ordinate a meeting between the relevant parties.

At the conclusion of the game the two managers will confer with the referees to confirm the score.

24. PROTEST / DISPUTES

Protest and Dispute matters will be heard and determined by the Protest and Dispute Committee as appointed by the NSWTA / QTF Joint Committee.

The Protest and Dispute Committee will be chaired by a person nominated by the NSWTA / QTF Joint Committee and will include at least two further members.

Protests and Disputes must be lodged in writing within 20 minutes of the conclusion of the event/game in question to the QTF Competition Manager. The protest can only be lodged and

signed by the Head Coach or Tour Leader. Protest forms can be obtained from tournament control.

The protest will then be investigated by the Protest and Dispute Committee and their decision will be returned, to the Head Coach or Tour Leader.

Any notice to be served on any person to attend a hearing must be served on the Head Coach or Tour Leader and any such service is deemed to be served on all parties or persons under the control of that Head Coach or Tour Leader.

All protest / disputes will be dealt with at the tournament.

25. DISCIPLINE

It is the responsibility of each State to ensure that all their players, officials and teams behave themselves during the competition and up to and including the presentation function. A copy of the Code of Behaviour will be handed out at the managers meeting.

On any written complaint being made to the NSWTA General Manager or QTF Chief Executive Officer of conduct prejudicial to the interests or welfare of the Association, its Administration or the game of Touch on the part of any Member of the Association, the Board of the State involved shall have the power to deal with such complaint and in the exercise of the power hereby conferred may disqualify, suspend, fine or otherwise deal with any person or body they find to have been guilty of such conduct.

26. SUSPENSIONS

Any player sent from the field for the remainder of the game will receive an automatic two-(2) match suspension unless the Judiciary Committee considers that further action is necessary.

Any player who is given a "period of time" more than once in any one (1) game, will receive an automatic one (1) match suspension. A match report from the controlling referees may dictate the appearance before the Judiciary Committee to consider if further action is required.

N.B. A period of time applied to a player for a team offence will not be registered against an individual.

A suspension is to be served on the following game/s in which the team actually plays.

Appeals will be considered on a case by case basis and only with relevant supporting documentation and must be submitted within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the event/game in question to the Tournament Manager.

Any player sent for a period of time, will remain at the end of the field for a minimum of 2 completed sets of possession by both teams prior to being allowed to re-enter the field of play. Coaches and Managers need to be aware that this is the minimum period a player will be off the field; the referee will still determine the length of the time depending on the severity of the offence.

Any infringement that will cause the touch count to restart will simply be a continuation of that set. That is, should a defender knock the ball down or give away a penalty on the third touch this does not constitute that this set has been completed, but rather is extended.

Conversely if an attacking player causes the infringement so that a turnover takes place on the third touch this will constitute a completed set.

N.B: The replacement rule that applies in mixed division when a male player is sent for a “Period of Time”, that team will remain one (1) Male player down until his return. That is Coaches can-not substitute a Female player with a Male player while that Male player remains in the bin for his Period of Time.

27. DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

All players sent from the field for the remainder of the game may be required to appear before a NSWTA / QTF Judiciary.

The Tournament Disciplinary Committee will be appointed by the NSWTA / QTF Joint Committee. It will consist of the two state Chairmen and a third person announced prior to the event

In the case of a player being dismissed from the field of play for the remainder of the game they may be issued with a Notice to Appear outlining details of the Disciplinary Hearing and a copy of the written complaint or report.

Disciplinary Hearings will be conducted on within one (1) hour of the lodgement of the matter.

In the case of a complaint or report being submitted on a player, official or other team and/or State personnel, if deemed necessary by the Judiciary Committee, the QTF Competition Manager will issue a Notice to Appear outlining details of the Disciplinary Hearing and a copy of the written complaint and report will be forwarded to all relevant parties.

28. FORFEITS

All games will start at their scheduled time. Teams must be in attendance at their playing fields five (5) minutes before the commencement of their match.

It is the responsibility of each captain to report to the referee so that the toss of the coin can be affected without loss of time.

If a team is not at the field at the advertised starting time of the game, the attending team can be awarded the winning of the toss.

The offending team will receive a maximum of five (5) minutes from the commencement of the game (siren/whistle) to position the team on the field and be ready to commence play.

If the offending team is not in attendance after the five (5) minutes has expired the game will be deemed a forfeit and the non-offending team will be awarded a 5 - 0 win and three (3) competition points. The offending team will receive a score of 0 - 5 and no competition points. The offending team will be penalised one touchdown after the first minute and one touchdown every minute thereafter up to five (5) minutes, and the time will be kept by Tournament Committee Officials.

29. TOURNAMENT CONTROL

The QTF SOO Event Manager in conjunction with the NSWTA General Manager and QTF Chief Executive Officer will be in charge of all matters relating to the Tournament. Any matters not

covered in these conditions or guidelines will be determined by the above Officials and their decision will be final.

30. TROPHIES

Awards will be presented to: -

- * Medallions for winners
- * Player of the series
- * STATE OF ORIGIN Champions (Shield)
- * Referees (Medallions only)

Please note – Any player sent from the field and receives a suspension will not be eligible for the player of the series.

31. RULES

The tournament will be conducted as per the 7th edition of the TFA Rule Book with the following alterations:

In relation players not moving forward off the line. The referee will warn the team to move forward. If they do not he will penalise. If they again do not move forward, the referee will remove a player from the field to the junction of the sideline and the five-metre line. The player will be able to return to the field of play once his/her team has possession. All participants need to recognize that this is not a “period of time” and will not be recorded on the referee’s card.

The defensive line must commence at the score line and cannot start at the dead ball line.

On the change of possession via an intercept the first touch will be a zero touch.

Drop off Procedure- In the instance where three touchdowns have been scored in three or equivalent sets of six during drop-off, the team that did not tap off will have a right of reply in order to score a touchdown. This right of reply will continue until a team fails to score off a set of six. When a defending team who has had previous possession knocks the ball down, the touch count will re-start rather than the game ending. In this instance, the attacking team has not lost possession and therefore should continue.

In the Mixed Open division there will be a pre-determined order for the drop off. At the recommencement of play teams will commence with five players. The first player to Drop off will be male, leaving two (2) males and two (2) females on the field. The second will be female, leaving two (2) males and one (1) female on the field.

All other rules around the drop off remained unchanged. This has been accepted by both states.

32. PRESENTATION

There will be two on field presentations inside the Stadium.

At 2:20pm, immediately following the conclusion of the 1:35pm timeslot on Saturday November 10th the winning team for each of the following divisions will gather for their presentation at the bottom of the Western Grandstand of Dolphin stadium..

Men's 20	Women's 20	Men's 30	Women's 30
Men's 35	Women's 40	Men's 40	Men's 50

At 6:00pm immediately following the conclusion of the 5.5pm timeslot on Saturday November 10th the winning team for each of the following divisions will gather for their presentation at the bottom of the Western Grandstand of Dolphin stadium.

Men's Open	Women's Open	Mixed Open
Women's 35	Men's 45's	Men's 55

A joint after function will be held in the Western Grandstand of Dolphin Stadium after presentations are completed.

33. DRAWS AND RESULTS

In all divisions, the two (2) teams will play each other three (3) times. The draw will be available on www.nswtouch.com.au, www.qldtouch.com.au and

34. DURATION OF GAMES

All games will be 2 x 20-minutes with a 5-minute half time. In the event of a draw in any game, the Drop Off system will be used to decide the winner.

35. MEDICAL

Medical personnel will be the responsibility of both NSWTA and QTF for their respective teams.

36. COACHING QUALIFICATIONS

It is compulsory that all coaches in the State of Origin are to possess a minimum Level Two (2) Coaching/Talent Coaching accreditation. Assistant Coaches need only be a Level One (1)/Foundation accreditation.

37. FIELD LAYOUT

A field layout will be distributed at the Tour Managers meeting.

38. WET WEATHER

Any decisions regarding wet weather will be made by the QTF Events Manager in conjunction with the QTF Chief Executive Officer and the NSWTA General Manager.

39. WORKING WITH CHILDREN.

In order for NSWTA to fulfil Legal obligations, it is a requirement that all persons who work with children in NSW (only) teams at this event and under the control of NSWTA to provide:
- Working with Children Check and be verified by the NSWTA.

Queensland volunteers must in similar circumstances be compliant with the Queensland Blue Card Check. This is to ensure that all comply with both NSW and Queensland law in relation to Working with Children.

Any person not screened and passed prior to the tournament by NSWTA/QTF is not permitted to perform work as a volunteer for either organisation at the Event where they will be in contact with Children.

40. BLOOD BIN

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

If the player does not leave the field immediately, the Referee will stop the game and ask the player to leave the field (normal substitution rules apply).

Once the flow of blood has been stemmed, the cut or abrasion cleaned and covered and any blood stained clothing and equipment cleaned or replaced, the player may return to the field and continue play.

If bleeding cannot be controlled and securely covered, the player must not continue in the game.

41. CONCUSSION IN SPORT POLICY

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and Australian Medical Association (AMA) have established a joint Position Statement on Concussion in Sport and have launched concussioninsport.gov.au – an Australian Government funded website providing simple but specific advisory tools for athletes, parents, teachers, coaches and medical practitioners. The TFA approved Concussion in Sport Policy will now align as follows:

Return to Sport Protocol for adults over 18 years of age



Return to Sport Protocol for children 18 years of age and under



How to recognise concussion and what are the symptoms / signs of concussion and further information can be found here <https://concussioninsport.gov.au>

42 DOPING POLICY

The TFA Doping Policy this will be enforced at The State of Origin. The Australian Sports Anti Doping Authority (ASADA) could (in accordance with their policy) random test any participant. Any indiscretions found will incur the penalties as prescribed in the TFA Doping Policy. This information can be obtained from the TFA Website.

43 IMAGES & VIDEO

All persons accept that, by participating in this event, they may be photographed/filmed and that these images may be used by the NSWTA & QTF for promotion of the sport.

The NSWTA & QTF will not pass any image/s onto a third party unless prior approval is sought.

If you do not wish the NSWTA & QTF to be able to use your image/s or be filmed you must notify NSWTA & QTF in writing.

The Event organisers reserve the right to take immediate possession of any video footage taken at the SOO that may assist 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.

The QTF and NSWTA have appointed **Glen Eaton** as the official exclusive photographer for the event. Only digital formats of team photos will be available along with action photos.

The QTF and NSWTA have appointed **Bar TV** to both provide live streaming of the Saturday games of the 2018.