



Touch Football Tasmania School Series 2022

29 August – 20 September



2022 TASMANIAN TOUCH FOOTBALL SCHOOL SERIES



Rules and Guidelines

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CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Competition Dates

The 2022 School Series is open to all high and primary schools in Tasmania. The series will now involve divisions in grade 5/6, grade 7/8 and grade 9/10, and rounds in Devonport, Launceston and Hobart followed by a finals day for high schools in Launceston. This series was originally postponed due to ongoing restrictions within schools due to the C-19 pandemic.

August 29	School Series North West Primary Schools (Devonport)
August 30	School Series North West Secondary Schools (Devonport)
September 1	School Series Northern Secondary Schools (Launceston) Group 1
September 2	School Series Northern Secondary Schools (Launceston) Group 2
September 5	School Series Northern Primary Schools (Launceston)
September 8	School Series Southern Primary Schools (Hobart)
September 9	Series Southern Secondary Schools (Hobart)
September 20	Series Final (Launceston)

There will be a **Final Series held on Tuesday 20th September in Launceston**, where the top four teams from each high school division in the state compete to determine the state winners.

The Championships are open for all school students in the following divisions:

- Grade 5/6 Girls
- Grade 5/6 Boys
- Grade 7/8 Girls
- Grade 7/8 Boys
- Grade 9/10 Girls
- Grade 9/10 Boys

Games will start from 9.30am and will conclude by 2.30pm.

Due to the increasing number of teams competing in the Northern secondary schools, TFT will split the Northern schools into two groups; these groups are listed below. Schools are free to contact des.fogarty@touchfootball.com.au at TFT to negotiate a different day, prior to 25th February. New participating schools are requested to contact TFT prior to registering to ensure balance in the groups, and adequate playing time for all participants.

Nomination Closing Dates

Nominations for teams in competitions must be made by close of business **Monday March 14th, 2022** or when the event is at full capacity.

Payment and Registration Forms

[Team Registration form](#)

Please register your team via this link <https://profile.mysideline.com.au/register/compsearch> and search "School Series". The divisions are titled with the division age group, gender and region (NW, North or South).



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Instructions for registering for Finals will be given to participating schools during the regional rounds.

On the day of the event, we will ask the teacher in charge to provide a list of names and player numbers to tournament control **BEFORE THE FIRST GAME**. All players on these lists will be covered by insurance.

Schools will be sent an invoice to complete the payment process.

Competition Fees

The tournament fee for the 2022 Schools State Championships is \$110 (inc GST) per team.

Player Eligibility

Players must attend the school to be eligible and players must only play in **one team per day** of competition.

Ages

Divisions are divided up into Grade 5/6, 7/8 and 9/10. It is permitted for a Grade 7/8 student to play in the 9/10 competition, however 9/10 players are ineligible to play in the 7/8 competition. Grade 5/6 players may play in the 7/8 division, however will not be permitted to play in 9/10.

Insurance

Player Insurance will be provided for all eligible participants providing each team has provided a list of player names prior to commencement of the tournament.

Photography Permission

By participating in this event Touch Football Tasmania may use any photos or videos taken at the event for promotional activities including on TFA social media, websites and marketing material. If you do not give consent for this to occur please contact the TFT Office, and provide the details of affected players with the team lists on the day of competition.

COMPETITION RULES

Playing Rules

The TFA 8th Edition Playing Rules of Touch Football Australia (TFA) will apply. Rules can be found online at <https://tfa-cms.nrl.digital/media/4424/tfa-8th-edition-rulebook-a5-v6.pdf>

Team Size

Teams shall consist of 12 players maximum, with on field members to be no more than six (6) players maximum. Teams must have a minimum of 4 players to start the game.

Team entries of less than 7 players will not be accepted under any circumstances; it is recommended that teams contain at least 8-12 players.

Uniform

The uniform shall be as per the rules stipulated for all TFA competitions. In particular:

- Screw in boots are **NOT** permitted. Normal blade style boots are fine.
- Nails should be trimmed or taped.
- No jewellery/earrings/piercings. Ensure removed or taped (please check taping with referee).
- All players' shirts should include numbers. Temporarily taped numbers are not acceptable.



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Behaviour

It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that players behave themselves on and off the field during the competition. Any reports to the contrary, which are proven to be correct, may result in the player/team being disqualified from the competition. The team representative on the day will be held responsible for any misbehaviour.

For all players, coaches, referees, officials and spectator/parents the TFA Codes of Conduct will be enforced, which can be found online at www.touchfootball.com.au. Any participant or official found to be displaying behaviour in breach of the TFA Codes of Conduct or the 8th Edition Rules will be subject to the TFA Disciplinary Regulations.

Player Dismissal for Misconduct/Infringement of Rules

As per the TFA 8th Edition Playing Rules, the player send-off rule will be in place. Note that a claimed touch results in the offending player being sent to the sin bin.

Players who infringe the Rules of Touch are liable to penalty or other appropriate action according to the seriousness of the infringement. Penalties are to be awarded in accordance with applicable rules.

Suspensions

In the event of a player being sent from the field for the remainder of the game, an automatic two match suspension will apply unless the Hearings Officer considers further action warranted.

Any player who is sent to the sin bin more than once in any one game will also receive an automatic two match suspension.

Any player who receives three separate sin bins in three separate games, will be cited to appear before the Disciplinary Tribunal to show reason as to why he/she should not be given a suspension. The suspension will commence at the completion of the game when the third sin bin was given.

The suspension applies to the next two matches the team participates in, at any TFA controlled event or competition. It does not include byes or if the player belongs to a team that forfeits in a match. Games forfeited to the suspended players' team will count.

Protests

Any protests must be lodged in writing with either the Tournament Director or to an official designated by the Tournament Director within ten (10) minutes of completion of the disputed match. The protest is to be lodged and signed by the Team Manager or the nominated representative.

Protests or disputes not concerning specific matches shall also be directed in writing to the Tournament Director for consideration after the tournament. Protests on specific referee decisions will not be accepted.

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).



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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 the wound securely covered, the player must not continue in the game.

COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Program/Draw

The divisions/pools/finals format will be organised based on the number of entries. The completed draw will be distributed to participating schools 1 week before the event.

Competition Format

This competition will use a round robin format in pools, with playoffs and Finals if necessary. These divisions will be organised based on the number of team entries, for example:

- Where only 2 teams are entered, they will play a best of 3 series
- Where 3 teams are entered, teams will play 1 round of a round robin with a final series – Ladder position 1 will progress to a Pool Final. Ladder positions 2 v 3 will play an elimination game, with the winner to progress to the Pool Final
- Where 4 teams are entered, teams will play each other in 1 round robin round with Ladder positions 1 v 2 progressing to the Final
- Where 5 teams are entered, teams will play 1 round of a round robin, with the top 2 teams progressing to a Grand Final
- Where 6 or more teams are entered, a pool system will be devised, teams will play a round robin in their pool and finish with a playoff game across the pools.

Duration of Games

- a. All matches will include 1 x 25 minute (negotiable depending on number of teams entered) period. Teams will change directions following every try scored.
- b. A break of 5 minutes between all games will be scheduled.
- c. Teams must be in attendance at their playing field **two (2) minutes** prior to the commencement of their game. All players should be on-field and ready, one (1) minute prior to start of game.
- d. It is the responsibility of each captain to report to the referees so that the toss of the coin can be affected without loss of time. As above, two (2) minutes prior to commencement of game.
- e. 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.
- f. A team must have four (4) eligible players on the field to start play.

Game Delays and Forfeits

Teams will have three (3) minutes from the starting siren to commence play otherwise a forfeit will be invoked against the team delaying the commencement. If a team forfeits their game time:

- a. The non-offending team will be awarded a 5 - 0 win and three (3) competition points.
- b. The offending team will receive a score of 0 - 5 and no competition points.

The Tournament Director reserves the right to delay the commencement of games in the event that a team would suffer a significant disadvantage. This delay will not exceed 10 minutes from the appointed starting time.



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Any team that forfeits a round game may forfeit the right to play in the final series at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Any team that is delayed in reaching the venue for their first game must notify the Tournament Director as soon as possible so alternative arrangements can be made to facilitate the match.

Competition Points

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

Win	3 points
Draw	2 points
Loss	1 point
Forfeit	0 points

Teams will participate in a round robin with no finals during the event. The top team in each division and one wild card team will be invited to the State Final series to be played on 12th April. Results from the regional round robin games will carry forward to the State Final series. If the State Grand Final is a draw at full time, the Drop-Off rule will apply.

The TFA Playing Rules 8th Edition will apply to all games in the 2022 School Series.

Finals Series

Positions for the Final Series will be determined as follows:

1st	Competition points - if equal, then;
2nd	Highest Touchdown Difference (for score minus against score) - if equal, then;
3rd	Percentages - if equal, then;
4th	Result of Round game - if draw, then;
5th	Drop off.

COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

Facilities

Toilets/Change rooms will be available for females and males.

Tents

It is the responsibility of each school to contact Touch Football Tasmania if they intend to erect a tent. Touch Football Tasmania recommends schools with portable shade use them on the day to follow the sun smart policy.

Medical Assistance/First Aid

A Sports Trainer will be present at the tournament. All players treated for an injury will be recorded on a Touch Football Australia Injury Report Form. All information will be confidential. Forms will be held at the Touch Football Tasmania office.

Concussion Policy

Touch Football Tasmania will adopt the TFA approved Concussion in Sport Policy listed further in the document.



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Equipment

Touch Football Tasmania will provide each field with a Ball. These footballs are to remain at the designated field at the conclusion of each game and remain the property of TFT.

Referees/Officials

Touch Football Tasmania will endeavour to provide referees for the event. However if insufficient referees are available, the event will be self-officiated. Teams are required to provide a Referee for the event to referee a minimum of 2 games if possible. Assistance will also be provided from Touch Football Tasmania.

Presentations

Presentations of the winners of each division will occur at the Final Series on the 30th March in Launceston.

Winning teams will be presented with medals.

Northern Secondary Round Placement

To facilitate the split of the Northern rounds and to ensure the most playing time for the most players, we have seeded schools across the Northern region and divided them into two groups. Schools not listed may register into whichever day suits their needs. The following is the provisional placement for schools for the Northern round of Secondary Schools:

Group 1 (Thursday 1st Sep): Riverside HS, Port Dalrymple, Star of the Sea, St Pats, Kings Meadows HS

Group 2 (Friday 2nd Sep): Launceston Church Grammar, Prospect HS, Cressy DHS, Scottsdale DHS, Queechy HS

Schools wanting to negotiate their placement are requested to contact des.fogarty@touchfootball.com.au or 0438 279 798.

INJURY AND CONCUSSION POLICY

First Aid: A first aid kit will be available at the administration area. Ice is also available for the immediate treatment of injuries. Please note that tape and strapping from the medical kit, will only be made available for the treatment of injuries, and is not to be used for taping over of jewellery or numbers on playing shirts.

Blood: 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 under their own accord, the referee will stop the game and ask the player to leave the field, with normal substitution rules applying. Once the flow of blood has been stemmed, the cut or abrasion cleaned and covered and any blood stained clothing and equipment replaced, the player may return to the field and continue play. If the bleeding cannot be controlled and the wound securely covered, the player must not continue in the game.

Concussion: For any player suffering a concussion during a match, the team coach/manager/contact, together with medical staff assistance, must make an assessment of the players' condition and their ability to continue the game. The following guidelines should be followed in relation to the severity of the concussion, and the players' ability to continue play:

Grad	First Concussion	Second Concussion	Third Concussion
(1) Mild	May return to play if asymptomatic.	Return to play in two (2) weeks, if asymptomatic at that time for one week.	Terminate season. May return to play next season if asymptomatic.
(2) Moderate	May return to play after asymptomatic for one week.	Minimum of one (1) month rest. May return to play if has been asymptomatic for one (1) week; consider terminating season.	Terminate season. May return to play next season if asymptomatic.
(3) Severe	Minimum of one month rest. May return to play if have been asymptomatic for one week.	Terminate season. May return to play next season if asymptomatic.	Terminate season. May return to play next season if asymptomatic.

NOTE: Asymptomatic is defined as showing no signs of or re-occurrences of headaches, dizziness, impaired vision or orientation, concentration or memory during rest or exercise.