Orange Thunder Touch Football

To: Potential Junior Representative Touch Players & Parents

Subject: 2020-2021 Junior Representative Season Information

Tuesday, 1 September 2020

Dear Players & Parents,

Orange Thunder Touch Football would like to welcome you all to the upcoming 2020-2021 junior representative touch football season. We are sure everyone is keen to return to touch football after time away from the sport due to COVID-19.

Our club is extremely excited for the junior representative season ahead and we have been working hard behind the scenes to prepare a wonderful season for all our players – one that will see more opportunities than ever for players to represent Orange Thunder and one that will give all players new and exciting experiences.

In order for all players and parents to be well informed, our club has compiled the attached information, which will outline a variety of areas related to the proposed 2020-2021 junior representative touch season.

Information attached will include player expressions of interest, our junior rep selection trials, team announcements, uniform and proposed tournament schedules, player levy and other costs, fundraising options and COVID-19 information.

Should you have any queries in relation to our 2020-2021 junior representative touch football season, or any other matter, please feel free to contact our club by email orangejuniortouch@yahoo.com.au.

Yours in Touch,

Joel Begnell & Wayne Hill
Representative Directors
Orange Thunder Touch Football

PLAYER & PARENT INFORMATION FOR THE 2020-2021 ORANGE THUNDER TOUCH FOOTBALL JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE TOUCH FOOTBALL SEASON

TEAMS & DIVISIONS AVAILABLE FOR 2020-2021

Please see below all teams Orange Thunder Touch Football are advertising for the upcoming 2020-2021 junior representative touch football season, along with age eligibility:

- Boys and Girls Under 8s – born 2013 or 2014
- Boys and Girls Under 10s – born 2011 or 2012
- Boys and Girls Under 12s – born 2009 or 2010
- Boys and Girls Under 14s – born 2007 or 2008
- Boys and Girls Under 16s – born 2005 or 2006
- Boys and Girls Under 18s – born 2003 or 2004

This season our club will be attempting to field a team in all of the above divisions. Along with this, our club will be attempting to field a development team in all Boys and Girls Under 8s to Under 14s divisions.

This expansion to include more development teams will allow our junior representative pathway to become more inclusive to our junior participants.

PLAYER EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Orange Thunder Touch Football will have an online expression of interest form, for all players to complete who are interested in playing junior representative touch for Orange Thunder. Whilst it is not a mandatory requirement for players wishing to represent Orange Thunder, it is encouraged for players to express interest prior to the trial, as it will allow our club to obtain information about players prior to the selection trial and reduce gathering at the touch shed in obtaining this information at the trial.

All players wishing to express interest to play junior representative touch with Orange Thunder during the 2020-2021 season are encouraged to go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/thunderjr. Our club will directly contact all players (and contact parents) who express interest online prior to the trial with a reminder of the trial dates/times.

Online expressions of interest will close **5pm Sunday 20 September 2020** but as mentioned above completion of this online form is not a mandatory requirement and players are still welcome to simply attend the selection trial. Those who choose to turn up and not pre-express interest, are asked to turn up 15 minutes before the trial start time to ensure our club have got all player information.

SELECTION TRIAL

All Orange Thunder junior representative teams for 2020-2021 will be selected at a single selection trial. Please see below selection trial information for all divisions:

- **Monday 21 September 2020 – at Waratahs Sports Ground**
  - Boys and Girls Under 8s – 4.30pm until 5.40pm
  - Boys and Girls Under 14s – 6.00pm until 7.10pm
- **Tuesday 22 September 2020 – at Waratahs Sports Ground**
  - Boys and Girls Under 10s – 4.30pm until 5.40pm
  - Boys and Girls Under 16s – 6.00pm until 7.10pm
- **Wednesday 23 September 2020 – at Waratahs Sports Ground**
  - Boys and Girls Under 12s – 4.30pm until 5.40pm
  - Boys and Girls Under 18s – 6.00pm until 7.10pm

Each division will have a selection panel of no less than 3 selectors, where possible consisting of selectors not associated with Orange Thunder Touch Football. The selection panel will review all players at the selection trial and assess them against a number of components including but not limited to touch football specific skills/drills and trial game scenarios.

All teams will be selected in accordance with the Orange Thunder Representative Selection Policy, which can be viewed at https://orangetouch.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Representative-Team-Selection-Policy.pdf.

Any player who is unable to attend the selection trial must complete and lodge an Inability to Trial form. Please see 'Inability to Trial' section below for more information.

INABILITY TO TRIAL

Any player who is unable to attend the selection trial must complete and lodge an Inability to Trial form. Should this form not be completed and lodged to our club, the player will not be considered for selection. For all players needing to complete this form, please go to https://orangetouch.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Representative-Inability-to-Trial-Form.pdf.

The completed Inability to Trial form must be emailed to orangejuniortouch@yahoo.com.au no later than **12pm on the day of the player's selection trial for their division** they wish to be considered for selection in. It is strongly encouraged that all players unable to trial attach all supporting documentation for the reason/s behind their inability to trial.

Any player who does not attend the selection trial and does not lodge an Inability to Trial form before the specific time/date, will not be considered for selection.

TEAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Once final teams are confirmed for all divisions, our club will advertise final teams and coaching staff for divisions on our club website www.orangetouch.com.au as well as across our social media platforms.

It is hoped that team announcements will be made by **Sunday 27 September 2020**.

Please note that shadow players will not be advertised, rather shadow players will be notified by the team coaching staff directly.

PLAYER FEEDBACK FOR UNSUCCESSFUL PLAYERS

All players who are unsuccessful in making the 2020-2021 Orange Thunder junior representative touch football teams will be welcomed to request for player feedback, as a means of obtaining information about their selection trial performance.

Requests for player feedback are to be made to our club by email orangejuniortouch@yahoo.com.au and providing the player's name and division they trialled for. These requests must be lodged to our club before **5pm Sunday 4 October 2020**. No player feedback requests will be accepted after this date.

ORANGE THUNDER UNIFORMS

All players who are selected to represent Orange Thunder will be able to purchase various items of on-field and off-field apparel. Please note that for the 2020-2021 season, there will be a new junior representative playing uniform – please see below design.

Unlike previous years, all junior representative players will be able to pick their own playing number and purchase and keep their playing top. Please note that in instances where two players in the same team want the same playing number, the eldest player will get this number and the younger player will need to select another playing number.

The cost for playing uniform will be included in the player levy for this season.

Along with the above playing uniform, there is a variety of other on-field and off-field apparel available to all players and additional supporter apparel which will be available to all players, parents and supporters this season. A catalogue with these apparel items will be distributed to all players and coaching staff following final team announcements.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Due to the predicted increase in number of Orange Thunder junior representative touch football teams this year, along with our club wishing to seek the best quality events for our teams, there will be a slight change to the tournament schedule compared to previous years.

Please note that the below proposed tournaments schedules are subject to change at any time, should events alter due to COVID-19 or any other reason.

For 2020-2021, the proposed tournament schedule will be as follows for our teams:

- **Boys and Girls Under 8s to Under 14s – main teams**
    - Southern Conference Junior Gala Day – date and venue TBA
    - Sydney Mets Junior Gala Day – date and venue TBA
    - Peter Wilson Memorial Championships – date and venue TBA
    - Junior State Cup Southern Conference – 26 to 28 Feb 2021 at Wagga Wagga

- **Boys and Girls Under 16s to Under 18s – main teams**
    - Southern Conference Junior Gala Day – date and venue TBA
    - Senior State Cup (entered into Under 20s division) – 4 to 6 Dec 2020 at Pt Macquarie
    - Peter Wilson Memorial Championships – date and venue TBA
    - Junior State Cup Southern Conference – 26 to 28 Feb 2021 at Wagga Wagga

- **Boys and Girls Under 8s to Under 14s – development teams**
    - Don Green Western Junior Championships – date and venue TBA
    - Renegades Junior Gala Day – date and venue TBA
    - Parramatta Junior Gala Day or Penrith Junior Gala Day – date and venue TBA
    - Junior State Cup Southern Conference – 26 to 28 Feb 2021 at Wagga Wagga

Our club understands this is a different structure than previous years, however it is an approach our club feels we must take to continue to expand our junior representative touch pathway and be more inclusive to our participants.

This structure does open up the opportunity for players (16s and 18s) and our coaches in main teams to assist with coaching of development teams or by refereeing at development events, and vice versa, those involved with development events have the opportunity to assist with refereeing at main team events (junior players could earn money by helping to referee at touch events).

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

All travel and accommodation will be the sole responsibility of the individual to arrange. Orange Thunder Touch Football strongly encourages all individuals to consider accommodation options which have forms of cancellation or refunds available, in the event where an event is cancelled.

The only exception to the above is for Boys and Girls Under 16s and Under 18s teams for the Senior State Cup event. For this event, our club has pre booked a number of rooms at Ingenia Holiday Park, Bonny Hills, which will accommodate all players, coaching staff and interested parents wanting to attend that event. Our club will also be arranging transport by team bus for these teams for the Senior State Cup event.

Please note that Orange Thunder Touch Football will not be responsible for refunding any monies by any individuals for travel and/or accommodation, should any event be cancelled.

PLAYER LEVY & OTHER COSTS

All parents of players are asked to be aware of the financial requirements for players who are involved in the 2020-2021 junior representative touch football teams. Firstly all players will be invoiced for a player levy to be paid, which will be for various club expenses for the junior representative season.

Orange Thunder Touch Football will be providing an attractive player subsidy for all players involved in the 2020-2021 junior representative touch season (equal to approx. 13% of total levy).

In addition, our club has a Fundraising Committee established who will be offering means for players, coaching staff and referees to minimise the costs upon participants during the 2020-2021 season. More information about fundraising opportunities will be distributed to all once final teams are confirmed.

Please note, with the differences in tournaments this season teams will attend, there will be some variance in the player levy and subsidy amounts. Should any tournaments be required to change, due to COVID-19 or other factors, this may alter the player levy from the estimates listed on the next page.

The breakdown of the estimated player levy can be seen below:

- **Boys and Girls Under 8s to Under 14s – main teams**

Referee costs	$75.00
Club official costs	$110.00
Tent & physio costs	$60.80
Playing uniform	$60.00
Orange Thunder player subsidy	-$40.80
Estimated total player levy	$265.00

- **Boys and Girls Under 16s to Under 18s – main teams**

Referee costs	$96.45
Club official costs	$141.40
Tent & physio costs	$68.80
Playing uniform	$60.00
Orange Thunder player subsidy	-$46.65
Estimated total player levy	$320.00

- **Boys and Girls Under 8s to Under 14s – development teams**

Referee costs	$64.30
Club official costs	$94.30
Tent & physio costs	$45.30
Playing uniform	$60.00
Orange Thunder player subsidy	-$33.90
Estimated total player levy	$230.00

Once final teams are advertised, Orange Thunder Touch Football will arrange for invoiced to be sent to all players. These levies can be paid in one payment, or via multiple instalment payments, however all player levy monies must be paid in full no later than **5pm Sunday 29 November 2020**.

Any player who has not paid their player levy by the due date will be at risk of being removed from the junior representative team.

COVID-19

Orange Thunder Touch Football will be operating under a COVID-19 Safety Plan. This plan can be viewed at https://orangetouch.com.au/covid-19/. The plan will contain information including but not limited to training processes, personal health and hygiene, communications, facilities and access to facilities as well as management of unwell participants.

Please be aware that COVID-19 restrictions may be in place during the 2020-2021 season, which may cause training and/or tournaments to be conducted in an altered format than previous years.

Our club is fully committed to providing a safe environment for all participants and adhering to all current public health orders. Should you have any questions in relation to COVID-19 and our upcoming junior representative season, please feel free to email us at orangejuniortouch@yahoo.com.au.

SUPPORT & ENQUIRIES

Once final teams are advertised, our club will communicate to all players and parents of all the support mechanisms we will have in place for the season.

At this time, should you have any questions about Orange Thunder Touch Football and the upcoming 2020-2021 junior representative touch season, please feel free to contact our club by email orangejuniortouch@yahoo.com.au.