

ORANGE THUNDER TOUCH FOOTBALL
MIXED, MENS & WOMENS – CONDITIONS OF ENTRY
2023/24 SOCIAL TOUCH COMPETITION






MIXED, MENS & WOMENS SOCIAL COMPETITION – HOW TO REGISTER





All team and player registrations are completed online via MySideline. All information about our social touch football competitions, including instructional guides for registering your team, as well as how players will then register into your team can be viewed at www.orangetouch.com.au/mixed-opens.

The team delegate (contact) must first complete the team registration. When the team delegate registers the team, please ensure your team is registered into the appropriate competition.

Mixed teams

	Orange Thunder 2023-24 Mixed Competition City of Orange Touch Association	▼
	Orange Thunder 2023-24 Mixed O35's City of Orange Touch Association	▼
	Orange Thunder 2023-24 Mixed U18's Competition City of Orange Touch Association	▼

Mens & Womens teams

	Orange Thunder 2023-24 Mens Competition City of Orange Touch Association	▼
	Orange Thunder 2023-24 Womens Competition City of Orange Touch Association	▼
	Orange Thunder 2023-24 O30's Womens Competition City of Orange Touch Association	▼
	Orange Thunder 2023-24 O30's Mens Competition City of Orange Touch Association	▼

At the conclusion of team registration, the team delegate can add email addresses for players in the team, so they will receive an email with a direct link to complete the player registration into the created team.

Please ensure that only appropriate team names are used for teams, where any team names which are inappropriate will be reviewed by the Orange Thunder Executive, and if required, the team delegate will be asked to select a replacement team name which is appropriate for a junior community sporting team.

Any players who are wishing to play but do not have a team to play in, please contact our club by email orangethundertouch@yahoo.com and we can attempt to find you a team, if a team is looking for players. In addition, any teams who are open to accept players into their team are asked to contact us by email also.

REGISTRATION COSTS

All Mixed, Mens and Womens player registrations will be \$95.00 per player.

Please note that the player registration fee is to be paid online when completing the player registration, which must be paid by using either a debit card or credit card. No cash will be accepted for player registration costs.

Active Kids Vouchers may be used for all player registration costs.

Please note that Touch Football Australia (TFA) have introduced a fee of \$22.00 for all players to pay to cover their TFA membership and insurance – this will be a one-off cost annually paid when a player completes their first player registration. After paying this added fee once annually, you will not need to pay it again, regardless of how many social touch competitions you play in.

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION DATES

The important registration dates for our Mixed, Mens & Womens social competition include:

- Team and player registrations open Sunday 13 August 2023
- Team registrations close Friday 29 September 2023
- Player registrations close Monday 2 October 2023

Late player registrations into a team will only be accepted under exceptional circumstances by the Orange Thunder Executive. Late player registration requests (after player registrations close) can be sent to our club by email orangethundertouch@yahoo.com.

Our club reserves the right to refuse team and/or player registrations into any social touch football competition, should it be deemed in the best interest of our club or the competition.

MIXED, MENS & WOMENS SOCIAL COMPETITION – DATES & DIVISIONS

All competition games will be played at Waratahs Sports Ground (Telopea Way, Orange), which will see a 12-round competition played, followed by 2-week SF series and a Grand Final.

Our Mixed Competition will include team nominations from Open-Aged, Under 18s and Over 35s teams – who will play in their own divisions. The introduction of U18s and O35s mixed divisions is to allow our junior and senior aged players the opportunity to play with and against players of a similar age.

Our Mens and Womens Competitions will include team nominations from Open-Aged and Over 30s teams – who will play in their own divisions. The introduction of O30s Mens and Womens divisions is to allow our senior aged players the opportunity to play with and against players of a similar age.

All players are only permitted to play for a maximum of 2 teams per night of competition. Meaning for Mixed on Tuesday Nights, a player can play in only 2 teams out of Mixed Struddys, Mixed Open-Age, Mixed U18 or Mixed O35 competitions. Then on Thursday Nights, a player can play in only 2 teams out of Mens/Womens Struddys, Mens/Womens Open-Age or Mens/Womens O30 competitions.

Please see below full list of Mixed, Mens and Womens social competition dates.

ROUND	ALL MIXED COMPETITIONS
Round 1	Tuesday 10 October 2023
Round 2	Tuesday 17 October 2023
Round 3	Tuesday 24 October 2023
Round 4	Tuesday 31 October 2023
Round 5	Tuesday 7 November 2023
Round 6	Tuesday 14 November 2023
Round 7	Tuesday 21 November 2023
Round 8	Tuesday 28 November 2023
Round 9	Tuesday 5 December 2023
Round 10	Tuesday 12 December 2023
BREAK FOR XMAS & NEW YEARS	
Round 11	Tuesday 30 January 2024
Round 12	Tuesday 6 February 2024
Semis Week 1	Tuesday 13 February 2024
Semis Week 2	Tuesday 20 February 2024
Grand Final	Friday 23 February 2024

ROUND	ALL MENS & WOMENS COMPETITIONS
Round 1	Thursday 12 October 2023
Round 2	Thursday 19 October 2023
Round 3	Thursday 26 October 2023
Round 4	Thursday 2 November 2023
Round 5	Thursday 9 November 2023
Round 6	Thursday 16 November 2023
Round 7	Thursday 23 November 2023
Round 8	Thursday 30 November 2023
Round 9	Thursday 7 December 2023
Round 10	Thursday 14 December 2023
BREAK FOR XMAS & NEW YEARS	
Round 11	Thursday 1 February 2024
Round 12	Thursday 8 February 2024
Semis Week 1	Thursday 22 February 2024
Semis Week 2	Thursday 29 February 2024
Grand Final	Friday 1 March 2024

Orange Thunder Touch Football are offering the following divisions for our 2023/24 Mixed, Mens and Womens social competitions:

- **MIXED COMPETITIONS**
 - Mixed Open-Aged (various divisions) – players born 2011 or before
 - Mixed Under 18s – players born 2005 to 2011
 - Mixed Over 35s – players born 1988 or before

- **MENS & WOMENS COMPETITIONS**
 - Mens Open-Aged (various divisions) – players born 2011 or before
 - Womens Open-Aged (various divisions) – players born 2011 or before
 - Mens Over 30s – players born 1993 or before
 - Womens Over 30s – players born 1993 or before

All teams need to have a minimum of 10 players registered.

Should any U18s, O35s or O30s divisions not have sufficient numbers to be a stand-alone division, these teams will be put into open-aged divisions based upon their player skill level.

We welcome all new and returning players of all ages, gender, skill level and playing experience to come and enjoy playing touch in our social touch competitions.

TEAM UNIFORMS

Correct team uniform includes numbered playing shirt/singlet (junior teams only need numbers), shorts/tights/pants and closed shoes. Shoes can be joggers/runners, touch shoes or football boots with moulded studs. Bare feet, thongs, work boots, screw in or metal studs are not permitted playing shoes.

All playing shirts/singlets must:

- Be of same design and colour – please be mindful of this when ordering your team shirts, as sometimes a simple design is best in case you need to order more shirts for additional players.
- Be numbered between 1 to 50 and arithmetic in description – no use of roman numerals or other symbols.
- Have playing number permanently fixed – no use of tape or texta for playing numbers.
- Have legibly displayed playing numbers on the back of the playing shirt/singlet, with numbers no smaller than 15cm in height, with numbers easily visible with distinctive colours between playing shirt/singlet and playing number, to avoid confusion.
- Have any sponsors displayed on playing shirt/singlet in a position which does not block the clear viewing of the playing number.

All players are required to have their own playing shirt/singlet with a unique playing number for each week they participate. The playing number must remain the same throughout the duration of the competition. Should a players' playing number need to change during the season, please inform our club by email orangethundertouch@yahoo.com prior to the player participating with their new playing number. No teams can swap shirts/singlets during a match.

Our club accepts no responsibility for the cost of re-printing of playing shirts/singlets, should any team not comply with the team uniform information listed above for our competition.

All teams must be fully uniformed prior to taking the field in Round 1 of their competition. Our club will not be able to supply any substitute uniforms to teams who do not have their uniforms sorted by the commencement of the competition. A loss by forfeit will be awarded if any team is not compliant with their uniform by Round 1.

TEAM GRADING

All open-aged teams will be graded and placed into that suits their ability, with grading decided with the best interest of the competition in mind. Our club reserves the right to not accept any teams, who may endanger the competitiveness of the overall competition.

If after grading, a division does not have adequate team numbers to run a viable competition, our club reserves the right to either combine divisions, adjust the competition to suit the circumstances, or not to run that particular division. If such circumstances occur, the team delegate for all affected teams will be contacted as to the reason/s and possible solution/s available.

Our club reserves the right to promote or relegate teams to another division after the competition commences. Teams that are re-graded will be contacted by the club as to the reason/s for their re-grade. Our club will always keep in mind the best interests of the overall competition when making all decisions related to team grading and/or re-grading.

COMPETITION GAMES

All competition games will be conducted as 'touch down turnaround' with matches lasting for 25 minutes in duration, with no half time break. All games will be played as 6-a-side and within the rules of Touch Football Australia (TFA) 8th Edition Playing Rules.

All games will be played with a minimum of 4 players, and a maximum of 6 players on the field at any given time. For mixed games, a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 3 male players are permitted on the field at any given time.

The first time slot for round games will commence at 5.50pm, with a 15-minute break between time slots. All other time slots will be subject to the number of team nominations and availability of playing fields.

COMPETITION POINTS

All teams will receive the following competition points during the competition:

- 3 points for a win, a win by forfeit or a bye
- 2 points for a draw
- 1 point for a loss
- 0 points for a loss by forfeit

All teams will be eligible to earn 3 bonus competition points, for the following reason:

- Where a team completes all their assigned referee duties throughout the entire competition. These bonus points will be added to the team's total competition points following the final round of competition, prior to the finals series.

SIGNING ON FOR MATCHES

For insurance and judiciary purposes, our club must have a player sign on process for all social competition games. No player is permitted to participate in any game without being signed on.

To sign on for games, simply ensure you sign next to your name and write your playing number next to your name prior to taking the field for each game. Sign on is completed at the touch (red) shed at Waratahs Sports Ground.

Please ensure your correct playing number is listed on the sign on sheet for each match. Should any try scoring numbers appear on the referee scorecard, but not appear as a player signed on, those tries will be removed from the team's total tries scored for the game.

USE OF 'FILL IN' PLAYERS

Teams are permitted to utilise 'fill in' players in the situation where their team has less than 6 players available for a match. Fill in players are only permitted to give a team up to 6 players in total (under no circumstances can fill in players be used to allow a team to have any substitutions).

Fill in players used must fit the following criteria:

- They must be a registered player in another team on that night of competition. Meaning a mixed team can only use a fill in player who is registered into another mixed team, or a mens/womens team can only use a fill in player who is registered into another mens/womens team.

- They must be a registered player in a division which is lower than your team's division. The only exception to this is the lowest division, who can use a fill in player from their division only. Under no circumstances, can a player from a higher division be used as a fill in player.
- The fill in player must sign the sign on sheet, by using a 'X' as their playing number and writing their full name on the sign on sheet.
- The fill in player must wear their normal team shirt/singlet when playing (they cannot wear the shirt/singlet of the team they are filling in for).
- The fill in player must inform the referee that they are a fill in player for the match and ensure the referee marks the score card with a 'X' for any tries they score.

Should any team be found to breach the above process for use of a fill in player, the team will automatically lose the match by forfeit.

TEAM FORFEITS

Should a team be unable to field the minimum of 4 registered players for a particular match, they are asked to inform our club of their need to forfeit as soon as possible. This can be done by email to orangethundertouch@yahoo.com.

Any team that forfeits 3 games in a competition season, will be at risk of exclusion from further social competition games. Each case will be reviewed by the Orange Thunder Executive.

Should a team be unable to field the minimum of 4 registered players from their team at the commencement of a match, that team will be given an additional five minutes from the commencement of the match to have the minimum of four registered players available to play. For each minute that passes without the required registered players, that team will be penalised a touchdown (eg. first minute 0-1, second minute 0-2 and so on) up until the point where (a) the team has four registered players to commence the match, or (b) five minutes has passed and that team will forfeit the match. In this instance, the team captain of the winning must sign the scorecard.

Forfeited matches will result in the non-offending team earning 3 competition points and a score of 5-0, with the offending team earning 0 competition points and a score of 0-5.

In the event where a match is played, then deemed a forfeit for exceptional circumstances (such as playing an unregistered player), the non-offending team will earn 3 competition points and a score of either (a) 5-0, or (b) the score line at the conclusion of the match, whichever score line provides the better for-and-against for the non-offending team. The offending team will receive 0 competition points and a score of 0-5.

In the event of team forfeits prior to a Grand Final, should at least 12 hours' notice be given to our club by the forfeiting team, our club holds the right to find an alternate opponent for the match to still take place. This opponent can only be a team which had been involved in the finals series. Should an alternate opponent not be found, the Grand Final will be awarded to the non-forfeiting team.

CANCELLATION OF GAMES

For all full competition rounds which are cancelled (no games played) all teams will be awarded a drawn result, with teams receiving 2 competition points. The only exception will be teams who were scheduled to have a bye, with these teams receiving their 3 competition points.

Should a competition round be cancelled during the course of the night, results will be determined as follows:

- If all matches in a division have been completed in full at the time of cancellation, the results will remain as they were from play that evening.
- If at least one match in a division has not been completed in full at the time of cancellation, all results will be deemed null and void, with all teams receiving a drawn result.

In the event of full/partial competition rounds being cancelled, please note they will not be replayed at a later date.

Notification of the status of competition rounds, where there is a possibility of cancellation (due to bad weather etc), will be advertised on our club website www.orangetouch.com.au as well as our club Facebook page. Our club Wet Weather Policy can be viewed on our club website.

Should a match be cancelled due to serious player injury stopping play, the match result will be as it stands at the time of the injury taking place.

Should a match be called off by the referee/club official due to disciplinary reasons, the match result will be reviewed by the Club Judiciary Panel, who will decide on the final match result. Both participating teams will be informed of the final match result once a decision has been made.

TEAM REFEREE DUTY

Throughout the competition, teams will be rostered to complete referee duty, which will require an individual to assist in refereeing a match. This referee duty will in most cases be for the time slot before or after your teams match for that week. Under no circumstances will teams be able to simply turn up at another timeslot of their choice to complete referee duty.

The roster for referee duty will be posted in advance at <https://orangetouch.com.au/referee-duty>

Team are encouraged to use registered players in their team to complete referee duty, or possible have two team members work together to do the referee duty. Should a team not have any players confident to referee a match, they may use another person to complete referee duty on the team's behalf, but we would ask that our usual club referees are not approached to complete duties (as they will have matches assigned to referee already).

Our club holds no responsibility to arrange people to complete referee duties for teams – this is the team's responsibility.

Individuals who are completing referee duty are asked to present to the touch shed no sooner than 10 minutes before the timeslot starts, to collect a score card and match ball. At this time, that person will sign in for their referee duty. After completion of referee duty, please ensure you return the score card and match ball to the touch shed. Please ensure you write your team name (not your name) in the referee section on the score card.

The following penalties will apply for teams who do not complete their referee duty correctly:

- 1st Offence
 - First team delegate will be suspended for the next match and the team will lose 3 competition points. The team must also complete a 'catch up' referee duty.

- 2nd Offence
 - First and second team delegates will be suspended for the next match and the team will lose another 3 competition points. The team must also complete another 'catch up' referee duty.
- 3rd Offence
 - The entire team will forfeit the next match they play and the team will lose another 3 competition points. The team must also complete another 'catch up' referee duty.
- Subsequent Offences
 - Will be reviewed by Orange Thunder Executive.

DISCIPLINE & HOW TO REPORT INCIDENTS

All players are asked to familiarise themselves with the Touch Football Australia Disciplinary Manual, which outlines how all disciplinary matters will be handled, as well as possible punishments for infringements. This manual can be found on our club website www.orangetouch.com.au.

Should any player or spectator witness any form of ill-discipline, it must be immediately reported to the referee and/or club officials at the Touch Shed. Our club will have an incident report on-site which can be completed to report such incidents. Our club can also be notified of any incidents by email orangethundertouch@yahoo.com.

Any player who is issued with a 'forced substitution' must immediately go to the sideline and be substituted by a teammate. That player may return to the field of play following this substitution.

Any player who is issued with a 'sin bin' must immediately go towards the end of the field and stand on the dead ball line of the end their team was attacking towards at the time. This player must remain in a non-participant role whilst serving the sin bin and only return to play when instructed by the referee. During this time, the player's team must participate with one less player.

Any player who is issued with a repeat team infringement 'sin bin' must immediately go to their own defending dead ball line until time when either the opposition scores a try, or when their team gets possession of the ball. This player must remain in a non-participant role whilst serving the sin bin. During this time, the player's team must participate with one less player.

Any player who is sent off for the remainder of the game will incur an automatic period of suspension from all competitions, which will last for the time period equal to the player's team completing an additional 2 games. Any player who is sent off, or cited by an incident report, could face further disciplinary action.

All periods of suspension will be communicated to players and the team delegate.

The referee and/or club official has the control of all players and spectators, both on and off the field of play and has the right to request individuals remove themselves from the surrounds of the playing field. Should this direction not be followed, play could be suspended, and further action may be taken.

All games will be governed by the official playing rules of the Touch Football Australia Rule Book (8th Edition).

DISCIPLINE – ZERO TOLERANCE TO SWEARING & ABUSE OF REFEREES

Our club has a zero tolerance policy towards swearing whilst participating in games as well as swearing and/or abuse of referees and officials. We are a family friendly environment and will not tolerate swearing during any of our games.

Should a player swear at any other player, or at themselves (in frustration or otherwise) during a match, the following will occur:

- 1st offence – verbal warning and/or penalty
- 2nd offence – automatic forced substitution and penalty
- 3rd offence – automatic sin bin and penalty
- 4th offence – automatic send off for the remainder of the game and automatic suspension as per penalty for being sent off.

Should a player swear at and/or abuse a referee or official during a match, the following will occur:

- 1st offence – automatic sin bin and penalty
- 2nd offence – automatic send off for the remainder of the game and automatic suspension as per penalty for being sent off.

In serious cases, the matter could proceed to further disciplinary action.

QUALIFICATION FOR FINALS SERIES

All players must have played (and be signed on for) in a minimum of 5 competition games in order to be eligible to compete in the finals series.

The following will count as a game played:

- Games which you participate in and correctly sign on for
- Games which are fully/partially cancelled, with the exception of teams which have a bye
- Games which your team wins by forfeit.

The following will not count as a game played:

- Games which your team loses by forfeit, regardless of if you signed on
- Games which your team has a bye.

Once a player has participated in 3 games for a particular team, they cannot transfer to another team, unless exceptional circumstances occur. Any player who transfers from one team to another (after approval from our club) will re-start their count of games to qualify for the finals series.

FINALS SERIES

The top 4 teams following the completion of all competition rounds (and after bonus points are implemented) will qualify for the finals series. All division finals series will be played under the 'Page Playoff System', unless otherwise stated.

Finals Week 1

- Game 1 – 1st vs 2nd
- Game 2 – 3rd vs 4th

Finals Week 2

- Game 3 – Loser Game 1 vs Winner Game 2

Grand Final

- Winner Game 1 vs Winner Game 3

All finals series matches which are drawn at full time, will proceed to a 'drop off' as per TFA 8th Edition Playing Rules which will commence immediately after full time.

SMOKING & CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

Our club promotes a smoke free area around the playing fields for our social competitions and asks that nobody smokes at the touch playing fields.

Alcohol may only be consumed within designated licenced areas of the Waratahs Sports Club precinct and can only be consumed by persons 18 years of age or older. Any persons found with alcohol in their possession around playing fields, will be directed to move to these designated licenced areas. Should this direction not be followed, further action may be taken.

Any player suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs whilst playing, are to be identified to the referee and/or club officials immediately. These individuals will be asked to cease their participation in the match and further action may be taken.

Our club encourages supporters to enjoy the social atmosphere of our club and our competition, but keep all alcohol consumption to the licenced areas of the Waratahs Sports Club precinct, where full bar facilities are available.

HOW TO CONTACT OUR CLUB

For further information relating to our Conditions of Entry or any other matters, please contact our club by email orangethundertouch@yahoo.com. Or alternatively visit our club website www.orangetouch.com.au.

Please note, at any time, our Club Committee reserves the right at its discretion, to rule on all matters pertaining to the playing rules, club regulations, safety matters and any other matters overseen by the club.