

**ORANGE THUNDER TOUCH FOOTBALL**  
**MINI & JUNIOR SOCIAL TOUCH – CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**  
**SUMMER COMPETITION – TERM 1 OF 2024**

## **MINI & JUNIOR SPRING COMPETITION – HOW TO REGISTER**

All team and player registrations are completed online via MySideline. All information about our mini and junior 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/minis-juniors](http://www.orangetouch.com.au/minis-juniors).

The team delegate (contact) must first complete the team registration. When the team delegate registers the team, please ensure all mini teams (U7-U10) are registered into the mini competition and

all junior teams (U12-U16) are registered into the junior competition.

At the conclusion of team registration, the team delegate can add email addresses for players (or parents of 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](mailto: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 mini player registrations will be \$50.00 per player. All junior player registrations will be \$60.00 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.

(Any player who did not play in Term 4 2023 or a register in a rep competition will also be required to pay \$22 Insurance on their first registration of the financial year).

## **IMPORTANT REGISTRATION DATES**

The important registration dates for our Spring Competition (Term 4 of 2023) for minis and juniors include:

- Team and player registrations open Monday 27 November 2023
- Team registrations close Sunday 14 January 2024
- Player registrations close Monday 22 January 2024

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](mailto: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.

## **MINI & JUNIOR SPRING COMPETITION – COMPETITION DATES & DIVISIONS**

All competition games will be played at Waratahs Sports Ground (Telopea Way, Orange). Our Summer Competition for all mini divisions will consist of 9 rounds with no Grand Final.

Our Summer Competition for all junior divisions will consist of 8 rounds plus a Grand Final (1st v 2nd after round games completed).

Please see below full list of Spring Competition dates.

### **DATE MINIS U7-U10 JUNIORS U12-U16**

Wednesday 7 February 2024 Round 1 Round 1

Wednesday 14 February 2024 Round 2 Round 2

Wednesday 21 February 2024 Round 3 Round 3

Wednesday 28 February 2024 Round 4 Round 4

Wednesday 6 March 2024 Round 5 Round 5

Wednesday 13 March 2024 Round 6 Round 6

Wednesday 20 March 2024 Round 7 Round 7

Wednesday 27 March 2024 Round 8 Round 8

Wednesday 3 March 2024 Round 9 GF

All players are only permitted to play for a maximum of 1 mini team and 1 junior team per night – Eg. a player would be permitted to play in an U9 team and an U12 team, however a player would not be permitted to play in an U12 team and an U14 team.

Orange Thunder Touch Football are offering the following divisions for our Summer Competition during

Term 1 of 2024.

- MINI COMPETITIONS – play 5-a-side on a half-size field
  - o U7 – players born 2017 to 2019
  - o U8 – players born 2016 to 2018
  - o U9 – players born 2015 to 2017
  - o U10 – players born 2014 to 2016
- JUNIOR COMPETITIONS – play 6-a-side on a full-size field
  - o U12 – players born 2012 to 2014
  - o U14 – players born 2010 to 2012
  - o U16 – players born 2008 to 2010

All mini teams can have a maximum of 9 players registered, with all junior teams permitted to have a maximum of 12 players registered.

Should any team wish to register into the age division above that of their oldest player – eg. an U12 team wishing to play in the U14 division, please contact our club by email [orangethundertouch@yahoo.com](mailto:orangethundertouch@yahoo.com) with this request.

We welcome kids of all ages, gender, skill level and playing experience to come and enjoy playing touch

in our mini and junior 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. Note that only junior teams require playing numbers, mini teams do not require playing numbers.

- 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 (junior teams only). 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](mailto:orangethundertouch@yahoo.com) prior to the player participating with their new playing number. No junior 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.

### **COMPETITION GAMES**

All competition games will be conducted as 'touch down turnaround' with matches lasting for 20 minutes in duration, with no half time break. All U6-U9 mini competition games will be 5 a side, with all mini games played on a mini (half-size) field. All junior competition games will be 6 a side played on

full-size field.

### **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

There are no scores recorded and no competition points for all mini competitions.

## **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.

For all mini competitions, the referee will take a clipboard to the field, where the team delegate will tell the referee to tick off all the players who are playing in that match.

For all junior competitions, the referee will take a clipboard to the field, where the team delegate will tell the referee to tick off all the players who are playing in that match as well as ensure all player numbers are listed.

For all junior competitions, 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.

## **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](mailto: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](http://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.

## **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](http://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](mailto: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.

### **GRAND FINAL QUALIFICATION**

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 a Grand Final.

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.

### **GRAND FINAL (Junior competitions only)**

The Grand Final for all junior competitions will be determined by 1st place vs 2nd place following the completion of the final round of games.

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 mini and junior 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](mailto:orangethundertouch@yahoo.com). Or alternatively visit our club website [www.orangetouch.com.au](http://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.