



**ORANGE THUNDER TOUCH FOOTBALL**  
**2021-22 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**  
**(MINIS U6-U9 & JUNIORS U11-U15)**

## **COVID-19 NOTICE**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our club may be required to implement restrictions in order for our social competitions to operate under current public health orders or other mandated guidelines. These restrictions may alter prior to or during the course of the competition, based on the COVID-19 environment at the time.

All teams and players are to ensure they are familiar with and keep up-to-date with any restrictions, as well as ensure all restrictions are strictly adhered to. Should any team and/or players breach restrictions, disciplinary actions may follow.

All current COVID-19 restrictions can be found online at <https://orangetouch.com.au/covid-19/>.

## **HOW TO REGISTER**

All team and player registrations are to be completed online, with the online registration process being available at [www.orangetouch.com.au](http://www.orangetouch.com.au). Our club have created HOW TO GUIDES to assist with team and player registration, which can be found at <https://orangetouch.com.au/playtouch>.

The team contact must first complete the team registration. When the team contact registers the team, please ensure all mini teams are registered under Minis U6-U9 and all junior teams are registered under Juniors U11-U15.

At the conclusion of team registration, the team contact can add email addresses for players in the team, with these players receiving an email with a direct link to complete player registration into the team. All mini teams can have a maximum of 9 players registered, all junior teams can have a maximum of 12 players registered.

Any team names which are inappropriate will be reviewed by the Orange Thunder Touch Football Executive, and if required, teams will be asked to select a replacement team name which is appropriate for a community sporting team.

Please note that the player registration fee is to be paid online when completing the player registration, which must be paid by using a debit or credit card. No cash will be accepted for player registration fees. Our club will be offering an EARLY BIRD discount for all social competition player registrations for minis and juniors.

### **Active Kids Vouchers may be used for all player registrations.**

Important registration dates for the 2021-2022 competitions include:

- Team and player registrations open Monday 26 July 2021
- Early bird player registrations close Sunday 22 August 2021
- Team registrations close Monday 20 September 2021
- Player registrations close prior to Round 5 of competition

Late player registrations into a team will only be accepted under exceptional circumstances, which are to be directed 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 all social competitions, should it be deemed not in the best interest of our competition or the club.

## **COMPETITION GAMES AND DIVISIONS**

All competition games will be played at Waratahs Sports Ground (Telopea Way, Orange). All junior competitions will commence in October 2021 and will finish with Grand Finals in March 2020. All mini competitions play during Term 4 in 2021 – there are no finals for mini competitions.

A full list of competition dates can be viewed at [www.orangetouch.com.au](http://www.orangetouch.com.au).

Players are only permitted to play in a maximum of 1 mini competition and 1 junior competition per night – eg. A player is permitted to play in an Under 9's and Under 11's team, however a player cannot play in an Under 11's and Under 13's team.

Our club are offering the following divisions for our 2020-2021 competition:

- Mini Competitions
  - Under 6's (play 5 a side on mini field) born 2015 or after
  - Under 7's (play 5 a side on mini field) born 2014 or after
  - Under 8's (play 5 a side on mini field) born 2013 or after
  - Under 9's (play 5 a side on mini field) born 2012 or after
- Junior Competitions
  - Under 11's (play 6 a side on full field) born on or between 2010 and 2013
  - Under 13's (play 6 a side on full field) born on or between 2008 and 2011
  - Under 15's (play 6 a side on full field) born on or between 2006 and 2009

Should any team wish to play in a division which is an age above that of their oldest player – eg. An Under 11's team wishing to play in the Under 13's division, please contact our club by email [orangethundertouch@yahoo.com](mailto:orangethundertouch@yahoo.com) with this request, so we can look to facilitate this for you.

We welcome players of all skill levels and playing experience, as our club has competitions tailored to suit elite, intermediate or social players.

#### **TEAM UNIFORMS**

Correct team uniform includes numbered playing shirt/singlet, shorts/tights/pants and shoes. Shoes can either be joggers/runners, touch shoes or football boots with moulded studs. Bare feet, thongs, screw-in or metal studs and work boots 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 incase you need to order more team shirts for additional players.
- Be numbered 1 to 30 and arithmetic in description – no use of roman numerals or other symbols. Note that mini teams do not need numbered playing shirts/singlets.
- Have numbers permanently fixed and printed – no use of tape or texta for playing numbers.
- Have legibly displayed 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 in a position on the shirt/singlet 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. This playing number must remain the same throughout the competition, due to the new sign-on procedure for all social competitions. Should your playing number need to change during the season, please inform our club by email [orangethundertouch@yahoo.com](mailto:orangethundertouch@yahoo.com) prior to playing with the new playing number. No shirts can be exchanged between players 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 rules relating to our competition.

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

## **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 particular 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 particular 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 Touch Football 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 team mate. 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 contact.

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 (8<sup>th</sup> 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:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offence – verbal warning and/or penalty
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offence – automatic forced substitution and penalty
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offence – automatic sin bin and penalty
- 4<sup>th</sup> 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:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offence – automatic sin bin and penalty
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (Junior Competitions ONLY)**

All players must have played (and been signed on by their team contact) in a minimum of 5 competition games in order to qualify for 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 will consist of:

- Game 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> vs 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Game 2 – 3<sup>rd</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup>

Finals Week 2 will consist of:

- Game 3 – Loser Game 1 vs Winner Game 2

Grand Finals will consist of:

- 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 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Playing Rules which will commence immediately after full time.

Please go to our club website [www.orangetouch.com.au](http://www.orangetouch.com.au) to see the schedule of all competition games including finals series and Grand Final games.

#### **SMOKING & CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL**

Our club promotes a smoke free area around the playing fields and asks that nobody smokes within a 10 metre radius of any of our playing fields.

Alcohol may only be consumed within designated licenced areas of the Waratahs Sports Club precinct. 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. Should this direction not be followed, further action may be taken.

Our club encourages all players and supporters to enjoy the social atmosphere of 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.