



ORANGE THUNDER TOUCH FOOTBALL REPRESENTATIVE TEAM SELECTION POLICY

1. Preamble

1.1. All teams representing Orange Thunder shall be selected according to this policy with the aim of ensuring that team selections are objective, are seen to be fair, as well as ensuring that all aspiring players are given an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and abilities.

1.2. This policy covers selection for all Orange Thunder representative and development teams, as well as any academy squads where trials are required.

1.3. The object of this policy is to select players to represent Orange Thunder in various competitions in which our representative teams can participate.

2. General Provisions

2.1. This policy does not differentiate between players, teams, or clubs.

2.2. This policy may be amended or supplemented by the Orange Thunder Touch Football Executive at its discretion in order to achieve this objective and specifically where matters arise which, in the sole discretion of the Orange Thunder Touch Football Executive, have not been provided for in this policy or where the literal application of this policy would not achieve this objective.

2.3. Individual players must be a registered and a financial player of Orange Thunder Touch Football and have played a minimum amount of games in the local competition to be eligible to represent Orange Thunder at a representative touch level. New players to the club may be selected on the premise that they will satisfy the above prior to representing Orange Thunder.

2.4. All individual players are to wear all official club attire, when required, if selected to represent Orange Thunder.

2.5. A code of conduct form is to be read and followed at all times. If breached, the Orange Thunder Touch Football Executive will deal with any matters deemed necessary.

2.6 Costs involved within the Orange Thunder Representative Season include:

- Representative Player Levy is a fee established by the Orange Thunder Touch Football Committee and covers the costs involved with referee payments, coaching staff remuneration, physiotherapy services, tent hire and an other additional carnival associated costs).
- Playing Uniform: compulsory items being playing shirt/singlet, playing shorts and socks
- Individual Player Carnival Registration's: online registration prior to specific carnivals via MySideline with the fee assigned by the organising affiliate to insurances as well as other costs involved for carnival coordination. May incur an extra fee or prolonged registration process is completed past the closing date.

Players/families requiring financial support to meet the above costs are to contact the Orange Thunder Touch Football Committee in writing by emailing orangethundertouch@yahoo.com to discuss payment options.

3. Coaches and Management Staff Appointments.

- 3.1 Head Coaches, Assistants and Managers wishing to be considered must apply for the appropriate role through the Expression of Interest process.
- 3.2 Coaches and management appointments will be considered by a selection group assigned by the Orange Touch Executive. This group may include the Representative Director, members of the Orange Touch Executive, or other experienced and relevant persons.
- 3.3 All coaching and management staff must hold the required qualifications as deemed sufficient by Touch Football Australia in line with competition Conditions of Entry.
- 3.4 All coaching and management staff must hold a Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) or Working with Children Check (WWCC) where minors are members of squad environments. Any minors assigned to coaching or managing roles do not need to hold this qualification.
- 3.5 Where coaches are selected as Player/Coaches, the appointment of a non-playing assistant coach must be made at a minimum.
- 3.6 Coaches will view, conduct and participate in the player selection process in all fairness and without prejudice.
- 3.7 Where the coach is a parent of a child/ren involved in the selection process, they must remove themselves from all discussions surrounding their child/ren.
- 3.8 Where item 3.7 is initiated, the Representative Director and/or a member of Orange Thunder Touch Football Executive will liaise with other selectors in relation to the athlete selections on the suitability of individuals for selection.

4. Ineligibility for Representative Players

- 4.1. A player will be ineligible to represent Orange Thunder as a representative player if they;
 - Are not a registered player of Orange Thunder Touch Football and/or have not played a minimum amount of 5 games prior to the commencement of representative competitions.
 - Are deemed by Orange Thunder, NSW Touch Association (NSWTA) or Touch Football Australia (TFA) as being un-financial
 - Are currently serving a suspension from any NSWTA or TFA facilitated competition. Any players currently serving a suspension from the Orange Thunder local competition will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by Orange Thunder Touch Football Executive, to determine their eligibility to represent Orange Thunder
 - Breach or fail to observe this policy
 - Fail to adhere to the Orange Thunder Touch Football Code of Conduct and/or NSWTA Code of Conduct
 - Have not attended at least one representative selection trial, or if absent from trial, failed to provide a letter to Orange Thunder with reasons behind their absence at the representative selection trial. All inability to trial letters lodged with be assessed for approval by the Representative Director and members of the Orange Touch Executive.

5. Requirements of Orange Thunder Touch Football in the Selection Process

- 5.1 Orange Touch supports boys and girls teams within all Junior age divisions 10's,12's,14's,16's and 18's as well as male, female or mixed teams within the various Opens, U20 and Senior Divisions, however teams will only be offered for those which have a nominated suitably qualified Coach. In this circumstance, Orange Touch must also be able to meet the referee carnival quota as determined by the respective carnivals Conditions of Entry.
- 5.2. Orange Thunder will provide standardised assessment sheets for all Talent ID (TID) at representative trials.

5.3. Orange Thunder will ensure qualified Touch Football selectors are available at representative trials to conduct team selections. In the absence of enough qualified selectors, Orange Thunder will ensure qualified Touch Football coaches are available to assist selectors.

5.4. Orange Thunder will invite all eligible members of the club to trial for selection.

5.5. Orange Thunder will advertise all representative selection trials via the club website and across all appropriate social media platforms.

5.6. Orange Thunder will provide means for players to express interest in selection prior to the representative selection trial, in order for team selectors and/or representative coaches to perform TID on interested players at local competition games, prior to representative selection trial, where able to do so.

5.7. Orange Thunder will ensure all coaches, selectors and other individuals involved with players under the age of 18 years, have provided Working with Children Check information to the club.

5.8. Orange Thunder will inform player's trialling or their parents/guardians (for players under the age of 18 years) of the estimated costs involved should they gain representative team selection.

5.9. Orange Thunder will inform player's trialling or their parents/guardians (for players under the age of 18 years) of the standards of behaviour and expectations upon players in relation to matters including but not limited to training attendance and payment of representative costs by due dates, as well as the consequences of failing to comply with such expectations.

5.10. Orange Thunder will provide proof of player registration when required.

5.11. Orange Thunder will ensure all player's trialling or their parents/guardians (for players under the age of 18 years) are made aware of this policy.

5.12 Orange Thunder will ensure all representative information is distributed to all players (and parents) who have completed expressions of interest, as well as those who attend representative trials, inclusive of dates of all representative events.

6. Expression of Interest Prior to Trial / Player TID

6.1. Players will be able to express interest in representing Orange Thunder at a date prior to the representative selection trial. Orange Thunder will advertise this expression of interest via the club website and across all appropriate social media platforms.

6.2. A list of players who express interest pre-trial, by the due date, will be given to team selectors, as well as the coaching staff and/or Representative Director, where TID may be undertaken on all listed players during at least one local competition match prior to the representative selection trial, where able to do so.

6.3. Pre-trial expression of interest is not compulsory for players who are wishing to represent Orange Thunder, yet it is encouraged as it allows team selectors, coaching staff and the Representative Director to potentially observe players prior to the representative selection trial.

6.4. No players or parents/guardians (for players under the age of 18 years) may approach individuals who perform TID on players and seek information related to the TID. However should individuals who perform TID engage in discussion with players or parents/guardians about the TID, questions from player or parent/guardian may be asked.

6.5. Orange Thunder will endeavour to make TID a continuous process, as well as to include persons outside those who express interest in representative teams.

7. Team / Squad Selection and Ratification

7.1. Representative teams will be picked following TID and/or representative selection trials have taken place. At all representative selection trials, there will be three individuals assisting in the selection process. These individuals will include the coach and 2 team selectors who are completely independent to the trial. The 2 team selectors will be assigned by the Representative Director and members of Orange Touch Executive. (Should the Club experience difficulty sourcing selector's the minimum number of independent selectors is 1)

7.2. Where possible, the team selectors will be a qualified Touch Football selector. In the instance where there is a lack of qualified selectors available, these selectors will be qualified Touch Football coaches and/or experienced players and will possess excellent knowledge and experience within Touch Football.

7.3. Team coaches are encouraged to have discussions during the trial with team selectors to discuss their ideal team structure (number of players in each position, rotations and desired strengths for players in different positions).

7.4. Representative teams are to be chosen by consensus, not by voting. If the individuals involved in the selection process cannot come to a decision over a particular player(s), the Representative Director may become involved and will assist to work to a decision, by ensuring all policies have been adhered to, check any TID information related to the player(s). Should a decision not be attainable after intervention from the Representative Director, the matter will be passed to the Orange Thunder Touch Football Executive for final decision. In any instance where the Representative Director is already a team selector, the Representative Assistant will be the individual to assist selectors reach a consensus decision.

7.5. As a guide all players will be selected giving consideration to the following;

- Available to attend all mandatory carnivals
- Speed, agility and evasion
- Ball skills
- Attitude and commitment
- General and touch-specific physical fitness
- Ability to perform under pressure
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to follow direction and game plan
- Ability to demonstrate touch-specific knowledge

7.6. Players in junior representative divisions (U8s to U18s) must trial in the division that is appropriate to their age and they cannot trial for a higher age division than their appropriate age. The only instance where a player will be permitted to be considered for a higher age division is via the Junior Player Eligibility Exemption which is outlined within this policy.

7.7 Players who are unable to attend all mandatory carnivals must be selected as Shadows. A player who is unavailable to attend all carnivals cannot be selected in preference of a player who is available for all carnivals unless an approved Exemption has been sort by the Representative Director and the Orange Thunder Touch Executive prior to trials.

7.8 Players in open-aged, youth league, U20s and/or senior representative divisions, are permitted to trial and be selected in age division/s that are appropriate to the best needs for Orange Thunder Touch Football. Players identified as suitable for participation in an alternative division or age group, in consultation with the Senior Coaching staff, the Representative Director and the Orange Touch Football Executive, may be invited to consider an alternative division or age group to their actual age group or nominated division.

7.9 In instances related to player eligibility and age divisions that arise which require consideration for a possible exemption, that fall outside the terms of this policy, these matters will be assessed on a case- by-case basis by the Representative Director, in collaboration with the Orange Thunder Touch Football Executive.

7.10 It is encouraged that final teams are selected at the conclusion of the representative trials. Should the team selectors be unable to finalise this team by that time, a squad will be permitted to be selected. This squad will be permitted to hold a maximum of one additional training session, with the coaching staff leading this session. All team selectors must be available to attend this training session and they will be the only individuals who will select the final team following this training session.

7.11 A team must have a minimum of 10 Orange Touch eligible players for the Under 10 divisions and all divisions above must have a minimum of 12 players in order for teams to be entered into a carnival.

7.12 Once final teams are selected, these will be need to be ratified and endorsed from firstly the Representative Director, and then the Orange Thunder Touch Football Executive. Following ratification, team members will be made aware of their selection by advertisement of representative team via the club website and appropriate social media platforms.

7.13 Confidentiality of all selected players must be adhered to by ALL members involved within the selection process.

7.14 In order to accept their position players will be required to read, sign and return Orange Touch Football's Code of Conduct and pay the required \$150 deposit upon their Representative Player Levy (Representative Player Levy is a fee established by the Orange Thunder Touch Football Committee and covers the costs involved with referee payments, coaching staff remuneration, physiotherapy services, tent hire and an other additional carnival associated costs).

8. Junior Player Eligibility Exemption

8.1 In the event where Orange Thunder Touch Football does not have sufficient numbers during the initial representative trials, to field a team (main or development) in a particular age division, player/s within that age division will be eligible to participate in a higher age division after the following process is followed:

- Eligible lower age division player/s are identified to the Representative Director (via parents, coaching staff or other officials).
- Representative Director to request approval from Orange Thunder Touch Football Executive for the player/s to be permitted for consideration in the higher age division, stating reason for this request.
- If approval granted, the Representative Director is to liaise with the player/s parent or guardian to seek parental permission for player/s to be considered in the higher age division. Once parental permission granted, the Representative Director is to liaise with the team coaching staff to offer eligible lower age division player/s to their team. Should the coaching staff be happy to consider these players for their team, the player/s will initially be added to the team, with the team becoming a 'squad'.
- The newly formed squad will then conduct no less than 2 and no more than 4 training sessions, before the final team is decided. During these sessions, the coach and 2 independent selectors from the higher age division (from the initial trial) are to be involved in the decisions surrounding the makeup of the final team.

8.2 In the event where an Orange Thunder Touch Football team does not qualify for Junior State Cup Finals, but the higher age division does qualify, player/s within the non-qualifying age division will be eligible to participate in a higher age division after the following process is followed:

- Representative Director to liaise with higher age division coaching staff to identify if they are in need of players to either (a) help the team playing numbers reach the maximum quota – being 12 players for U10s or 14 players for U12s to U18s, or (b) cover for current player identified to be unavailable for

Junior State Cup Finals for reasons including injury or not available due to winter sports clashing with the Junior State Cup Finals date.

- In the first instance where there is player availability for either a or b (as listed above), the higher division coaching staff must first utilise any player/s in their age division who are currently active squad members – meaning current squad members who are still training with the team.
- If no active squad members exist, eligible lower age division player/s are identified to the Representative Director (via parents, coaching staff or other officials). Representative Director to request approval from Orange Thunder Touch Football Executive for the player/s to be permitted for consideration in the higher age division, stating reason for this request.
- If approval granted, the Representative Director is to liaise with the player/s parent or guardian to seek parental permission for player/s to be considered in the higher age division. Once parental permission granted, the Representative Director is to liaise with the team coaching staff to offer eligible lower age division player/s to their team.
- In the event where the higher age division might have players unavailable (possible injuries still to be assessed etc), the coaching staff can follow the above process, however after all approvals are granted, lower age division player/s can only be used as 'shadow' players and cannot be used to replace current players who are still available to attend Junior State Cup Finals. These shadow lower age division players may only be utilised should a position in the higher age division team become available (due in injury, unavailability etc).

9. Unable to Attend Selection Trial

9.1 Should any player be unavailable to attend at least one representative selection trial, that player will only be considered if a letter is submitted prior to the date of the last representative selection trial, explaining the extenuating circumstances of their inability to attend.

9.2 Letters must be directed to Orange Thunder Touch Football by email. Any letters submitted on or after the last representative selection trial will not be considered under any circumstance.

9.3 In the case of illness or injury, players will be required to provide a medical certificate to that effect, as evidence of their inability to attend the representative trial.

9.4 In the case of bereavement, travel delays or other extenuating circumstances, a decision will be made by the Representative Director, in collaboration with the Orange Thunder Touch Football Executive, on a case-by-case basis.

10. Shadow Players

10.1 Shadow players can be named in addition to the final team, at the discretion of team selectors. These shadow players may be invited by coaching staff to attend team training sessions. Should coaching staff invite shadow players to attend training sessions, they are to inform the Representative Director of this invitation as well as if any shadow players do attend (to the Director to keep for record).

10.2 In the event of player/s unavailability for any tournament, due to absence, illness or injury, the coaching staff must use shadow players in the first instance, as a substitute for that tournament only. Where there are no shadow players available to use, the coaching staff may add a player to the team, as a substitute for that tournament only.

10.3 Under no circumstances can coaching staff move around team and shadow players tournament to tournament simply due to good/poor playing form.

10.4. In the event where a player/s attitude, discipline are under question, or should a breach of the Code of Conduct have potentially taken place, this matter must be raised by the coaching staff to the Representative Director in the first instance. This matter will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, however this will not

automatically permit coaching staff to remove a player from the team and/or replace them with a shadow (or other) player.

10.5. All use of shadow players and/or other players due to player unavailability must be raised to the Representative Director in the first instance, where player ratification will take place by the Director, in collaboration with the Orange Thunder Touch Football Executive.

11. Uniform

11.1 All Representative players and coaching staff are to wear the Orange Thunder Representative uniforms during carnivals.

11.2 Uniforms will conform with State and National regulations.

11.3 Uniforms are an additional cost to the Player Levy

12. Playing Number Allocation

12.1 Returning representative players may if allowable use their current playing singlet of shirt.

12.2 Where 2 numbers clash in a team, the younger player must purchase a new playing top.

12.3 Where new playing tops are purchased, Orange Touch reserves the right to issue playing numbers as it sees fit to suit appropriate team composition.

12.4 Players who are purchasing new tops will not be asked for a preferred number as it may be dependent upon availability of stock.

13. Selection Enquiries

13.1. All enquiries relating to team selections must be submitted in writing to Orange Thunder Touch Football, which will be answered at the earliest possible time after investigation. The investigation will include talking to the individuals involved in the selection process.

13.2. Under no circumstances, are players or parents/guardians (for players under the age of 18 years) to actively approach the team selectors to make selection enquiries. The only instance where direct discussion can take place, is if a team selectors engages the player or parent/guardian in discussion.

14. Appeals

14.1. Appeals will be heard by Orange Thunder and involve the Representative Director, Representative Assistant and members of the Orange Thunder Touch Football Executive.

14.2. The sole grounds for any appeal are that this policy was not properly followed and/or implemented. There is no right of appeal against a decision made by the selection panel in relation to representative team selections.

14.3. All notices of appeals are to be made in writing to Orange Thunder within 48 hours of final team announcements. All appeals will be responded to at the earliest possible time after investigation.

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