

ORANGE THUNDER TOUCH FOOTBALL
MINI & JUNIOR SOCIAL TOUCH – CONDITIONS OF ENTRY
2025/26 SOCIAL TOUCH COMPETITION



MINI & JUNIOR SPRING COMPETITION – HOW TO REGISTER

All team and player registrations are completed online via My Sideline. 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.

The team delegate (contact) must first complete the team registration. When the team delegate registers the team, please ensure all mini teams (U6-U9) are registered into the mini competition and

all junior teams (U11-U15) are registered into the junior competition.



Orange Thunder 2025-26 Junior Competition

City of Orange Touch Association



Orange Thunder 2025-26 Mini Competition

City of Orange Touch Association



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 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 \$85.00 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 \$52.00 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.

PLAYER WITHDRAWAL

Competition entry fees can only be refunded where an athlete cannot begin the competition due to illness or injury and a medical certificate is provided. Any individual wishing to withdraw from a team is eligible for a refund of player registration fees, less any fees incurred via online Registration and an administration fee of \$15.00 inc GST. Banking details will need to be supplied. Refunds, less fees, will be processed within 21 days of being notified of the individual's withdrawal. A request for a refund must be made in writing, stating the reason for the refund request and including any additional documentation to support the claim. Requests can be emailed to orangethundertouch@yahoo.com

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION DATES

The important registration dates for our for minis and junior competitions include:

- Team and player registrations open Thursday 14 August 2025
- Team registrations close Monday 15 September 2025
- Player registrations close Monday 22 September 2025

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.

MINI & JUNIOR SPRING COMPETITION – COMPETITION DATES & DIVISIONS

All competition games will be played at Waratahs Sports Ground (Telopea Way, Orange). Our

Competition for all mini divisions will consist of 10 rounds with no Grand Final.

| ROUND | MINI COMPETITION |
|----------|----------------------------|
| Round 1 | Wednesday 15 October 2025 |
| Round 2 | Wednesday 22 October 2025 |
| Round 3 | Wednesday 29 October 2025 |
| Round 4 | Wednesday 5 November 2025 |
| Round 5 | Wednesday 12 November 2025 |
| Round 6 | Wednesday 19 November 2025 |
| Round 7 | Wednesday 26 November 2025 |
| Round 8 | Wednesday 3 December 2025 |
| Round 9 | Wednesday 10 December 2025 |
| Round 10 | Wednesday 17 December 2025 |

Competition for all junior divisions will consist of 13-round competition played, followed by 2-week SF series and a Grand Final.

Please see below full list of Competition dates.

| ROUND | JUNIOR COMPETITION |
|------------|----------------------------|
| Round 1 | Wednesday 15 October 2025 |
| Round 2 | Wednesday 22 October 2025 |
| Round 3 | Wednesday 29 October 2025 |
| Round 4 | Wednesday 5 November 2025 |
| Round 5 | Wednesday 12 November 2025 |
| Round 6 | Wednesday 19 November 2025 |
| Round 7 | Wednesday 26 November 2025 |
| Round 8 | Wednesday 3 December 2025 |
| Round 9 | Wednesday 10 December 2025 |
| Round 10 | Wednesday 17 December 2025 |
| XMAS BREAK | |
| Round 11 | Wednesday 4 February 2026 |
| Round 12 | Wednesday 11 February 2026 |
| SF 1 | Wednesday 18 February 2026 |
| SF 2 | Wednesday 25 February 2026 |
| GF | Wednesday 4 March 2026 |

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 U11 team, however a player would not be permitted to play in an U11 team and an U13 team.

Orange Thunder Touch Football are offering the following divisions for our 2025/26 Competition

- MINI COMPETITIONS – play 5-a-side on a half-size field
 - o U6 – players born 2018 to 2020
 - o U7 – players born 2017 to 2019
 - o U8 – players born 2016 to 2018
 - o U9 – players born 2015 to 2017
- JUNIOR COMPETITIONS – play 6-a-side on a full-size field
 - o U11 – players born 2013 to 2015
 - o U13 – players born 2011 to 2014
 - o U15 – players born 2009 to 2013

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 U11 team wishing to play in the U13 division, please contact our club by email 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 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.

TEAM DELEGATE

All Junior Teams **MUST** have a delegate that is over the age of 18.

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 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. **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.

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.

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.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Parents and guardians are responsible for the supervision, behaviour and safety of their children at all times. The organisation, coaches and volunteers are not responsible for unsupervised children before, during, or after touch has concluded for the evening.

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. 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.