



Memo

Date: Thursday, 23 July 2020
To: All NSWTA Affiliates and Members
From: Kylie Hearne- Business Operations Manager
Subject: 2020-21 NSWTA General Conditions of Entry Update

The New South Wales Touch Association (NSWTA) wishes to advise all Affiliates and Members of the following important updates to the released 2020-21 NSWTA General Conditions of Entry.

There have been numerous changes within the Conditions which are explained in full detail below.

Change 1 – Affiliate Responsibilities

Added into Section: 2.2.15: 1 (Page 8)

Any use of NSWTA/TFA logos must first receive written authorisation from the NSWTA and adhere to the clauses outlined in the NSWTA Licencing regulations and or [NSWTA Visual Guidelines](#).

Rationale: To ensure Affiliates and licences supplied undertake to adhere to the NSWTA visual guidelines in the use of NSWTA logo IP.

Change 2 – Player Eligibility

Added into Section: 3.1.1 (Page 11)

COVID-19

Due to the effects of COVID-19 on Season 1 2020 competitions, Affiliates may seek clarification from the NSWTA on the eligibility of impacted players for 2020-21 competitions.

Relevant changes to eligibility due to COVID-19 Impacts on Season 1 2020 competitions will be outlined in the specific Event Conditions of Entry. All considerations will be determined with regard to ensuring players are able to be covered by the national insurance policy.

Rationale: The impact of COVID-19 on Affiliates that run Season 1 competitions only needs to be considered in relation to ensuring both adequate insurance coverage but also the integrity of the competition and the avoidance of persons looking to take unfair advantage of the situation.





Changed in Section: 3.1.2 (Page 11)

National Database has changed from SportsTG to **MySideline**.

***Rationale:** In line with the transition by the national body to the new national database system.*

Added into Section: 3.1.3 (Page 11)

COVID-19

Due to the effects of COVID-19 Affiliates who have run a shortened Season 1 2020 competition may seek clarification from the NSWTA on this clause on impacted players for 2020-21 competitions. Any variance on this clause must be provided in writing to the affected affiliate by the NSWTA.

***Rationale:** The impact of COVID-19 on Affiliates that are able to run shortened Season 1 competitions to have written clarity on eligibility if required.*

Change 3 – Player Points System Determinations

Changed in Section: 3.2.1 (Page 16)

Transfer List

The Players Points Committee has been replaced by **NSWTA in conjunction with the High Performance Unit (HPU)** in the following paragraph.

The Player's Point System and interpretation of such will be determined and monitored by the **NSWTA in conjunction with the High Performance Unit (HPU)**, who in the case of a dispute retains the right to assess any player to any points value which is in the best interest of the NSWTA events.

***Rationale:** The Player Points Committee no longer exists. The HPU has been tasked with this element of the business. The one remaining member of the Player Points Committee will assist the HPU in such determinations under secondment.*

Reworded in Section: 3.3.1 (Page 16)

Transfer List

Is the list of players who wish to change affiliates and whose points value is determined as at June 30 each year. This value will be determined by the highest level achieved in the previous July 1 to June 30 event cycle and will remain the same value for the full event cycle regardless of any higher representative honours.

***Rationale:** This provides a simpler and clearer definition of what the transfer list is.*



Change 4 – Player Points Value

Added into Section: 3.3.10 (Page 19)

Pt 2 – Players that have their highest representative level as either Youth Trans-Tasman or Junior Regional will have points activate the year of representation, not the year after as with all other points allocations **if the event falls before June 30. This also applies to any international match and State of Origin.** This will only apply should such representation take place prior to **June 30** in the year of representation. Further, the Youth Trans-Tasman players be worth 40pts, NYC to be worth 30 points and Junior Regionals be worth 20pts.

Rationale: *This definition has been added to assist with understanding the Clearance Process (request, approval and acceptance).*

Change 5 – Coaches & Manager Eligibility

Added into Section: 3.5.1 (Page 21)

All levels of Accreditation will be only verified via the TFA Accreditation Portal- THE NEST.
N.B. All coaches and referees have until December 8, 2020 to register themselves on the NEST.

Rationale: *All coaches and referees previously were to have this completed by June 30. The NSWTA has worked with TFA to have this extension to ensure all accredited Coaches and Referees log their details into the NEST before this new deadline. No extensions will be provided.*

Change 6 – Referee Eligibility

Added into Section: 3.6.7 (Page 22)

This fee is used in the following manner. \$400 is provided to the Affiliate that provided the replacement referee. \$400 is held by NSWTA to be used by the Affiliate who has the short fall to develop referees at their Affiliate in a manner approved by NSWTA.

Rationale: *To provide clarity on how the TDP funds are allocated and to dispel the view that the money is just collected by the NSTWA and not used.*

If accommodation is provided for the referee, the Affiliate may be liable for financial cost of the accommodation following the late withdrawal of the referee subject to circumstance.

Rationale: *Increasingly the NSWTA has had to provide payment for accommodation due to referees withdrawing late and not being replaced and/or where referees were nominated by Affiliates and don't turn up. It then has transpired that the Affiliate had not even asked the said referee to attend on their behalf.*



Added into Section: 3.6.9 (Page 22)

Referee Pool

From time to time affiliates may loan a referee to another affiliate via the Referee Pool so that an Affiliate can fulfil the event quota. In line with the player pool regulations Affiliates may **only request up to three (3) referees**.

In this case, the referee(s) that have been loaned to another affiliate can be recalled at any stage to their original affiliate should they fall below the required referee quota.

***Rationale:** A number of affiliates are not developing referees and are then looking on occasion to take 6 or more referees from the referee pool. This is putting stress on both the referee pool and also adding financial stress to those affiliates in meeting the TDP. Limiting the number to 3 referees brings it in line with the same amount of players teams are allowed to take from the player pool.*

Change 7 – Uniform Quality

Added into Section: 4.1.1 (Page 22)

All Affiliates playing uniforms are to be correctly numbered, be of the same design and artwork and must be correctly worn for all games of competition. Approved Touch Football shoes must be worn in accordance with **Rule 4** of the TFA rulebook. **N.B.** Uniform designs that clash with the Referee Uniform will **NOT be** allowed (to avoid confusion with the Referee).

***Rationale:** Rule 4 is the new correct reference in the 8th Edition Rule Book. With the transition by TFA to a hot pink and black referee uniform the need for reference to predominantly white has been removed.*

COVID-19

Due to the impact of COVID-19, the wearing of sports gloves during play is permitted.

***Rationale:** Part of the COVID Safety Plan, social responsibility and adherence to Public Health Orders to ensure we play our part in putting in place measures to aid in controlling the pandemic.*

Change 8 – Uniform Compliance

Added into Section: 4.1.2 (Page 22)

COVID-19

Due to the effects of COVID-19 on Approved Licenced Suppliers, Affiliates may seek clarification from the Events Team on the timelines for meeting the representative uniform requirements. Relevant changes to this Clause due to COVID-19 impacts on Approved Licenced Suppliers will be outlined in the specific Event Conditions of Entry.

***Rationale:** This is taking a commonsense approach during the impact of COVID-19 particularly with 2020 Vawdon Cup and 2020 Country Championships.*



Change 9 – Working With Children Check

Added into Section: 5.1.1 (Page 25)

All Affiliates are to adopt the NSWTA Youth Coach Guidelines.

***Rationale:** NSWTA Youth Coach Guidelines are implemented to aid in providing a child safe environment. All affiliates are to ensure that their Youth and Junior division Coaches agree and abide by the guidelines.*

Change 10 – Images

Reworded Section: 6.1.3 (Page 26)

With the rise in use of social media, NSWTA has regulations around the filming and or photography of players and games at events. To protect the privacy and images, anyone filming and photographing games or players will be required to be registered with and be APPROVED by NSWTA to have permission to film. In allowing photography/videography applicants must comply with relevant clauses and conditions set out by the NSWTA around the use of the footage/photos.

Affiliates must make an application to the NSWTA prior to the event for any official photographer/videographer and acknowledge along with the approved applicant that images/film MUST NOT be passed on to a third party unless prior approval is sought and granted.

Approved applicants must report to Tournament Control prior to the commencement of the event to be issued with a NSWTA Official photographer vest that must be worn at all times while engaged at the event. Non compliance will result in credentials and permissions immediately removed.

All approved photographers and videographers must provide ALL images to NSWTA.

***Rationale:** To protect privacy of individuals by ensuring only approved and identified persons can photograph/video NSWTA events. Also to provide a level of protection in looking for a child safe environment. To protect the NSWTA Event IP.*

Change 11 – Number of Teams

Reworded Section: 11.2.1 (Page 29)

An Affiliate Must comply with Section 7.

***Rationale:** Previous wording repeats section 7.*

Delete 11.2.2 & 11.2.3

***Rationale:** Both clauses repeat section 7.1.4.*



Change 12 – Match Balls

Added into Section: 11.21.7 (Page 29)

COVID-19

Due to the impact of COVID-19 Affiliates are to ensure that their match ball and warm up balls and equipment are washed and disinfected before and after each game.

***Rationale:** Part of the COVID Safety Plan, social responsibility and adherence to Public Health Orders to ensure we play our part in putting in place measures to aid in controlling the pandemic.*

Change 13 – Tents

Added into Section: 11.14.1 (Page 30)

COVID-19

Due to the impact of COVID-19 and adherence to Public Health Orders at the time of an event- the matter of Affiliates being able to have onsite tents will be advised in the relevant event Conditions of Entry and any COVID-19 addendums advised by the NSWTA.

***Rationale:** Part of the COVID Safety Plan, social responsibility and adherence to Public Health Orders to ensure we play our part in putting in place measures to aid in the controlling the pandemic.*

Added into Section: 11.14.5 (Page 30)

COVID-19

Due to the impact of COVID-19 and adherence to Public Health Orders at the time of an event- the matter of Ice Baths will be advised in the relevant event Conditions of Entry and any COVID-19 addendums advised by the NSWTA.

***Rationale:** Part of the COVID Safety Plan, social responsibility and adherence to Public Health Orders to ensure we play our part in putting in place measures to aid in the controlling the pandemic.*

Added into Section: 11.14.6 (Page 30)

COVID-19

Due to the impact of COVID-19 and adherence to Public Health Orders at the time of an event- the of food health and safety standards and requirements will be advised in the relevant event Conditions of Entry and any COVID-19 addendums advised by the NSWTA.

***Rationale:** Part of the COVID Safety Plan, social responsibility and adherence to Public Health Orders to ensure we play our part in putting in place measures to aid in the controlling the pandemic.*



Change 14 – Medical

Added into Section: 11.23.2 (Page 34)

COVID-19

Due to the impact of COVID-19 and adherence to Public Health Orders at the time of an event- the matter of NSWTA provided medical treatment will be advised in the relevant event Conditions of Entry and any COVID-19 addendums advised by the NSWTA.

***Rationale:** Part of the COVID Safety Plan, social responsibility and adherence to Public Health Orders to ensure we play our part in putting in place measures to aid in controlling the pandemic.*

Change 15 – Air Quality

Added into Section: 11.27.4

In the event that games need to be rescheduled due to air quality, please refer to **Clause 11.27.1**.

The air quality may vary throughout an event due to pollution (such as caused by bushfires) in the region. As such, NSWTA will continue to monitor air quality. All participants including players, referees and spectators need to be aware that we will have measures in place to either alter playing conditions, the draw or to postpone/cancel games should we feel that it is necessary. If conditions at any time are deemed dangerous, due to smoke or fire, the NSWTA will act accordingly.

Participants with chronic health problems, particularly respiratory and cardiac, need to consider the risks of playing in a smoke-filled environment. The NSWTA encourages all players, and their families, to consider the health risks associated with exercising in a smoke-filled environment. If anyone is participating and starts getting symptoms, they should be brought off the field immediately and given medical attention.

***Rationale:** The impact of poor air quality can affect participation and as such NSWTA implemented the process in the 2019 State Cup to ensure a safe playing environment.*



Change 16 – Drop-Off Procedure

Reworded Section: 12.2 (Page 41)

NSWTA will utilise the following procedure for any drop-off in a NSWTA event unless otherwise specified in the events Conditions of Entry.

The Drop-Off Procedure.

Under the 8th Edition Rules, the new Drop-Off procedure is as follows (rule 24)

See attached addendum for new Drop-Off rules

Deleted- Section 12.2.2

Section 12.2.3 now becomes Section 12.2.2

***Rationale:** As at June 1 all competitions across Australia are using the 8th edition rules.*

Change 17 – Substitution and Interchange Area

Reworded Ruling Section: 12.3.1 (Page 42)

RULING (Rule 17)- A Penalty to the non-offending Team at the point of the Infringement.

***Rationale:** As at June 1 all competitions across Australia are using the 8th edition rules.*

Reworded Section: 12.3.2 (Page 42)

The only personnel allowed in the Interchange area will be the fourteen (14) registered players **plus four (4) team management officials that are nominated on the Registration Sheet**. That is a maximum of **eighteen (18)** people (this includes those players partaking on the field).

Authorisation from NSWTA tournament control must be gained prior to the event for any other person(s) to be in the sub box area (includes extra officials such as a certified medical professional). **Any personnel not complying with the uniform regulation will be requested to leave the sub box by tournament officials.**

***Rationale:** Previously the maximum amount of persons in the Interchange Area. Numerous teams and players have attempted to flaunt this regulation. We will meet affiliates request by adding one more person to the Interchange Area. It will be up to the Affiliate to decide whom the 18 can be as long as they are registered to that team and that affiliate.*



COVID-19

Due to the impact of COVID-19 and adherence to Public Health Orders at the time of an event- the matter of on sub boxes, who can be in and or substitution process will be advised in the relevant event Conditions of Entry and any COVID-19 addendums advised by the NSWTA.

Rationale: *Part of the COVID Safety Plan, social responsibility and adherence to Public Health Orders to ensure we play our part in putting in place measures to aid in controlling the pandemic.*

Change 18 – Sin Bin

Reworded Section: 12.6.5 (Page 44)

In relation to players not moving forward off the line, the referee will warn the team to move forward. If they do not, the referee will penalise the offending team.

Please Refer to 10.13 and 10.14 of the 8th Edition Rules.

Should a team incur three (3) consecutive penalties in their defensive seven (7) metre zone, the referee will remove a player from the field to the junction of the sideline and the seven (7) metre line. The player will be able to return to the field of play once their team has possession. All participants need to recognize that this is not a “sin bin” and will not be recorded on the referee’s card.

Reworded Section: 12.6.6 (Page 44)

Any player sent for a period of time, will remain at the end of the field for 4 completed possessions prior to being allowed to re-enter the field of play.

The on-field Referee is required to indicate the commencement and the end of the Sin Bin time. Any player sent to the Sin Bin must stand in the Sin Bin Area at the opposition’s end of the Field of Play and on the same side as their Interchange Area. Any player sent to the Sin Bin must return to the Interchange Area prior to re-entering the Field of Play. Any action that causes the Touch Count to restart will result in a continuation of that Possession. For the avoidance of doubt, should a defender knock the ball down or give away a Penalty, this does not mean that the Possession has been completed, but rather the Possession continues.

Rationale: *As at June 1 all competitions across Australia are using the 8th edition rules.*



Change 19 – Protests, Disputes and Discipline

Reworded Section: 13.1.5 (Page 45)

NSWTA reminds all parties that the following issues will not be open to appeal and or protest and therefore formally advises all teams that they must be aware of this prior to the commencement of games:

- **The Referee is the sole judge on all match related matters inside the Perimeter for the Duration of a match, has jurisdiction over all players, coaches and officials.**

A team found playing an unregistered player will be disqualified.

***Rationale:** As at June 1 all competitions across Australia are using the 8th edition rules.*

Questions?

For further information or clarification on the [2020/21 General Conditions of Entry](#), please contact NSWTA Competitions Coordinator Ben Williams via ben.williams@nswtouch.com.au.