



Competition Standards

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EFFECTIVE
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1 Introduction

1.1. Aim

- 1 These Standards describe the typical arrangements for senior competitions at Southern Touch (ST) for members and staff.
- 2 The purpose of these Standards are to provide for:
 - minimum administration
 - consistent application
 - adherence to the TFA Codes of Conduct
 - ST's vision and mission (as shown in the ST Strategic Plan).
- 3 These Standards have been developed with assistance from ST members and their support is graciously acknowledged.

1.2. The Basics

- 4 These Standards apply to Southern Touch (ST) touch football events for senior teams, unless otherwise stipulated by ST.
- 5 Games are conducted in accordance with the current Touch Football Australia (TFA) playing rules and are aligned with other relevant TFA policies e.g. privacy, anti-doping etc.
- 6 These ST Competition Standards are subservient to the ST Constitution.
- 7 These Standards entirely supersede the 'ST By-Laws' document (Sept 2012) and take precedence over any related matter noted in the 'ST Policy & Procedures' document (Feb 2013).

2 Terms and Meanings

- 8 The terms shown in Schedule 1 have important meaning for ST competitions.
- 9 They are additional to, and should not duplicate or conflict with terms included in other relevant documents e.g. the TFA 7th Edition Playing Rules or the ST Constitution. Where conflict occurs, the provisions of the more senior document will prevail.

3 About ST Competitions

3.1. ST Products & Timings

- 10 ST routinely conducts the following competitions:
- Southern Touch League (STL): ST's event for open age group players (Summer and Winter seasons).
 - Events for junior players: Format varies between seasons and years. Details are shown in competition-specific information.
- 11 STL Summer seasons are usually conducted October-March and Winter seasons are usually played April - August. These periods can be affected by planned activities of councils and by agreement with co-tenants where they exist.
- 12 Season dates are set by the ST Board at least one season in advance, usually on advice from the General Manager.
- 13 Schedule 2 shows the components of ST's routine events (Summer and Winter seasons).
- 14 Schedule 3 shows usual competition timings, noting that these may be altered at ST's discretion and/or as required.
- 15 ST aims to avoid scheduling games on Public Holidays however this may be necessary from time to time so as to schedule the agreed number of games in the season.

3.2. Game Times & Durations

- 16 Game times are determined by ST, in line with council requirements for light usage. They are generally consistent with the current TFA 7th Edition Playing Rules e.g. 20 minute 'halves'.

3.3. ST Fees

- 17 ST sets fees to recover the costs of its operations for example ground fees, lighting, referees, insurance, awards, affiliation, technical courses (i.e. referee courses), etc.
- 18 These fees are set based on the expectation that teams which register will participate in the rostered competition, so teams who withdraw from the competition after being included in the roster may be liable for the full team fee (i.e. the registration fee and the usual competition fee).
- 19 Team invoices are available on request to ST (email preferred).
- 20 Any outstanding/unpaid fees must be paid before the team or its continuing players can register for subsequent ST events.
- 21 ST may refer cases of outstanding debt to an external debt collector, in which case a further 50% of the amount owing may be added to cover additional administration costs.

- 22 Schedule 4 shows the types of fees and payment methods for its touch football seasonal competitions. Current fees are shown on the ST website or in competition information.

3.4. Refunds

- 23 If a team withdraws their nomination less than fourteen (14) calendar days before scheduled games commence, they will forfeit the registration fee but any paid competition fees will be refunded.
- 24 ST usually pays refunds by cheque or EFT to the Team Delegate. A team seeking an electronic payment needs to supply the request and the bank account details to ST in writing (email preferred). ST is not responsible for correcting payment errors when the supplied bank account details are inaccurate.
- 25 While ST aims to provide refunds promptly, they can take up to four (4) weeks to process.

4 Team Nominations

4.1. General

- 26 ST events are conducted on the basis of team nominations. At ST's discretion, teams with less than ten (10) eligible team members may be rejected. Additionally, teams may have a maximum of sixteen (16) players registered at any one time. Team Delegates need to liaise with competition staff to ensure any permanent changes to player registrations are administered correctly so that accurate team lists are recorded (See the section on 'Game Cards' for more information).
- 27 Teams may be nominated by independent entities, clubs (incorporated or unincorporated), or Touch Football Tasmania (TFT) affiliates.
- 28 Where ST nominates a team, it must be for the specific development of non-club players. It can only be comprised of non-club players and coached by someone ratified by the Southern Touch Board of Directors. Team names must promote a professional and positive image for ST and the team (in both written form and phonetically). Team names considered by ST as duplicates, inappropriate or offensive will not be accepted. If a proposed team name is refused by ST, the Team Delegate will be advised and the team will need to choose another name. Should a new name not be chosen, the default team name will be the Team Delegate's surname.
- 29 Team nominations are subject to grading by ST at any time. Based on information available at the time, ST may enter a team into a different division than it nominated for. ST will typically discuss the situation with the relevant Team Delegates. ST maintains Standards for grading and re-grading - see that section for more information.
- 30 When registering teams, ST requires information to assist with communications and grading. This can include player names, any teams previously played in and any previous team names. The information required is set out in the competition information provided by ST for each new event.
- 31 ST may reject nominations of any team. This is usually associated with previous failures to pay team fees on time and/or concerns related to code of conduct or safety.
- 32 ST may also place conditions on the nomination of any team. Nominations will not be finalised until the conditions are shown to be agreed by both ST and the Team Delegate (in writing, email preferred).

4.2. How ST Communicates with Teams

- 33 ST provides competition information for its members that typically include a summary of these Standards, instructions for registrations (team and player), team fees structure and the TFA Codes of Conduct.
- 34 ST provides competition information primarily by electronic updates and aims to provide it in a timely, consistent and user friendly manner. Other methods of

communication may include printed written information and/or verbal announcements.

4.3. Nomination Standards for Clubs

- 35 ST encourages clubs to be incorporated bodies and maintains an incentives program for which is designed to recognise the variety of roles that are important for effective club administration, as well as participation.
- 36 Clubs register as an Associate Affiliate to ST by providing ST with:
- AGM minutes
 - Proof of incorporation and Insurance
 - A list of their committee members/main organisers names, club executive positions and contact details (email and mobile preferred)
 - Club uniform i.e. club colours and designs.

4.4. Team Delegates & Team Captains

- 37 Each team is nominated by a Team Delegate who **MUST** be 18 or over and accepts the role of being the primary liaison point between ST and the team members.
- 38 ST provides most information for teams electronically via the website, email, Facebook, and SMS so the Team Delegate's email and mobile phone number is to be included with the team's registration.
- 39 Responsibilities and procedures of Team Delegates are also explained at the Team Delegates information session at the start of each event.
- 40 Team Delegates are responsible for:
- making sure players register before each ST event using the ST on-line registration system, so they have insurance cover (as arranged by TFA)
 - arranging for team fees to be paid in full by the due dates set by ST
 - making arrangements for the team to be correctly attired
 - making sure the team list on the on-line system and Game Cards are accurate throughout the season (may affect player eligibility for finals)
 - passing information between ST and the team members, including all messages related to the roster, playing rules, Codes of Conduct
 - monitoring weather conditions and the ST website for urgent information especially related to rostered games
 - leading by example with regard Code of Conduct.
- 41 The Team Captain's role is to be the team's representative during games. The Team Captain can be the same as the Team Delegate, or different to the Team Delegate. This is at the team's discretion noting that ST forwards all competition information only to the nominated Team Delegate.
- 42 ST holds Team Captains responsible for ensuring that the whole team abides by the Codes of Conduct during games.

43 Where there is no Team Captain, these responsibilities automatically default to the Team Delegate.

4.5. New Players Looking for a Team

44 Individuals who would like to join a team should register their interest through the online registration process as advised in ST Program Information and on the ST website.

45 ST will, wherever possible, assist the individual to connect with clubs or other teams with known vacancies.

46 Clubs/teams seeking extra players are encouraged to advise ST of their player needs (email preferred).

4.6. Insurance

47 Touch Football can be a fast moving and energetic sport. As such, ST members are encouraged to prepare themselves physically for each event (this may include seeking medical advice before registering).

48 TFA maintains access to a national insurance scheme on behalf of its affiliates so current (financial) members may have some medical cover if they sustain injuries participating in ST events or touch training.

49 The procedure for making claims is included in competition information.

5 Player Registration & Eligibility

5.1. Registration

- 50 Players must be registered via the on-line system nominated by ST, for every ST event before they take the field. This applies to regular and casual/'fill-in' players.
- 51 Instructions for using the on-line registration system are available from the ST website. It is also included with competition information and access to the system is provided by ST to support this process.
- The 'fine print' in the terms and conditions of the on-line registration system includes an agreement to abide by the TFA Codes of Conduct. It also provides for photos from ST events to be used to promote ST. Members can request in writing (email preferred) that images of themselves are not published.
- 52 ST uses Game Cards to record actual participation at each game and Team Delegates or another suitably authorised person are responsible for making sure the cards are accurate. Absence of the Team Delegate does not alter this responsibility.
- 53 ST completes random checks on team records (on-line system and Game Cards) for compliance with player eligibility standards throughout each season.
- 54 ST may remove teams from competitions for ongoing registration breaches. In addition, teams may incur the ST Penalty Fee. Awarding the penalty fee is at the discretion of the ST Board.

5.2. Eligibility: Age Related Conditions

- 55 Unless otherwise stated, the qualifying age for an ST event is taken as the age the player will be as of 1 January in the next calendar year.
- 56 Unless otherwise specified players registering for the STL must be at least thirteen (13) years of age i.e. they must turn 13 by 1 January of the next calendar year.
- 57 Guardians/parents of 12 year old players may only seek a dispensation for the purpose of development if the player has been 'talent identified' and/or selected for regional or state representative sides.
- 58 Guardians/parents who have sought dispensation must have received written authorisation from ST before the player takes the field.
- 59 ST may establish age-related divisions within specified competitions. Specifics of the eligibility conditions are described in the relevant competition information.

5.3. Eligibility: Other Provisions

- 60 **Division 1 Provisions (Summer Season/s ONLY):** Any player participating in Men's or Women's Division 1 in the current season may register and play in an additional team in Men's or Women's Division 2 or lower, in accordance with Standard 61.
- 61 **(Summer Season/s ONLY)** STL Men's and Women's teams in Division 2 and lower may register and/or play a combination of First Division and Representative Players (as defined in the *ST Competition Standards*) as long as they do not exceed the following restrictions for any one game:
- Division 2: Up to three First Division/Representative Players
 - Division 3: Up to two First Division/Representative Players
 - Divisions beyond Division 3: Dispensations may be sought and will be considered on a case by case basis.
 -
- Nil First Division/Representative Players are permitted to participate in the lowest division in any competition unless their participation in that division is a direct result of their team being relegated through re-grading in accordance with their performance.
- 62 **(Summer Season/s ONLY)** The makeup of Mixed teams is subject to the following restrictions:
- Division 2: A maximum of three players currently in Division 1 teams
 - Division 3: A maximum of two players currently in a Division 1 teams
- 63 **(Winter Season/s ONLY)** No more than five men's or women's *First Division/Representative Players* from the previous summer season (as defined in the *ST Competition Standards*) may register and/or participate in any one team in either the men's or women's competition/s.
- 64 **(Winter Season/s ONLY)** No more than five *First Division/Representative Players* from the previous summer season (as defined in the *ST Competition Standards*) may register and/or participate for any one mixed competition team, of which no more than three may be male.
- 65 **Player Movement Provisions:** To support development, players in Men's, Women's and Mixed divisions are permitted to participate in a different team in an alternative division instead of their usual team/division, so long as:
- Player movement does not occur during Grading rounds i.e. players are only registered in one team during Weeks 1-4 of the event
 - Team lists are in accordance with Standards 63 & 64 (Summer) or 65 & 66 (Winter)
 - Players are considered ready and able to participate safely in the division; and
 - Players are registered on the team list using the on-line system by 4pm on the day of the game (so names print out on the relevant Game Card).
- 66 Teams are responsible for managing the impact of Player Movement Provisions (Standard 67) on Finals Eligibility.

67 ST reserves the right to refuse player registrations and/or apply penalty points if the intent of these Standards appears to be compromised.

5.4. Equalisation Provisions & Player Transfers

68 Teams that participated in the previous season's Division 1 Grand Final, may not recruit players from other club teams, unless a transfer occurs in accordance with Standard 73.

69 Clubs may not recruit junior players from other clubs for Junior events or divisions, where both clubs have the capacity to field a team for the event or division, unless a transfer occurs in accordance with Standard 73.

70 **Player transfer provisions are typically intended for players in Division 2 and lower.** Players may request a transfer from one team to another, by applying in writing to ST (email preferred). This request may only be made once/event and it must be made in the first half of the event i.e. before more than half the rostered games have been played.

71 Transferring players is a discretionary service offered by ST and requests for Division 1 and Junior players are typically scrutinised more heavily:

- Players seeking transfers between Men's and Women's Division 1 teams must provide ST with a written request that demonstrates there is agreement for the transfer from the club they are wishing to leave;
- Players seeking transfers for players in Junior divisions must provide ST with a written request, which is supported by the relevant club presidents and parent/guardian of the junior player.

5.5. Dispensations for Eligibility Standards (Grading & Premiership Rounds)

72 ST player eligibility standards are designed to provide safe, competitive and enjoyable playing experiences for the majority of players and support club development. ST also acknowledges that from time to time unique circumstances can and do arise which may warrant additional consideration, and provides for this by maintaining this sub-section.

73 ST expects that Coaches and guardians in particular are familiar with these Standards so ignorance/misunderstanding is not considered grounds for dispensation.

74 Dispensations requests can be submitted to ST as follows:

- in writing (email preferred) explaining the situation and the desired outcome
- for junior/youth player dispensation requests, ST will only consider the request when it is submitted by the player's parent/guardian
- where the junior/youth player is also a club member, the request is either:
 - submitted by the Club president or the club's nominated delegate e.g. the Juniors Coach; and/or
 - clearly indicate that the Club is aware of, and supports, the request.

75 ST will consider dispensation requests where it considers that the circumstances are significantly beyond the influence of the player involved and that granting the request is highly likely to:

- provide a playing environment that is conducive to the emotional, social and physical well-being of the player; and/or
- support other participants to have a safe, competitive and enjoyable playing experience (i.e. be for the benefit of the competition); and/or
- promote club development.

76 In particular for junior/youth players the following matters are considered:

- if the junior/youth player has no other development options available
- if the junior/youth player will be supervised/supported by a senior player (ideally the parent/guardian) for games, including travel to and from games.

77 ST will respond in writing (email preferred) to dispensation requests and aims to close out dispensation requests within two working weeks of receipt.

78 The ST General Manager is responsible for, and authorised to, deal independently with dispensation requests where:

- the intent of the relevant standard/s is clearly linked to the circumstances of the request; and/or
- there is no obvious benefit to the competition; and/or
- there are no significant, mitigating circumstances.

79 At the ST General Managers discretion, he/she may seek assistance from relevant, current Board members to make determinations for dispensation requests.

80 Players/teams are expected to participate within the existing eligibility standards until the dispensation request is finalised.

81 Dispensations granted by ST are usually accompanied by conditions. The dispensation is invalid if the conditions are not accepted.

82 The scope of ST conditions is limited to development of the player, teams, clubs or ST e.g. nominating for ST State Cup sides, refereeing, assisting ST during events etc.

83 ST only considers a dispensation request once and will not accept appeals about them.

5.6. Penalties for Breaches of Registration and Eligibility Standards

84 ST may apply penalties to team results where they are found to be participating with unregistered players or breaching player eligibility standards (including standards for Finals eligibility).

85 Penalty points are at ST's discretion and may be either awarded as for a loss, a forfeit or an un-notified forfeit.

5.7. Eligibility: Players in Finals

86 ST determines player eligibility for the Finals series based on:

- the printed material from the on-line system on the Game Card (not hand-written entries); and
- player participation confirmed by the Team Delegates notes (i.e. name not 'crossed off').

- 87 Handwritten names on Game Cards are not counted for the purposes of Finals eligibility. Unless ST advises otherwise, player names must have been printed from the on-line system onto the Game Cards. For this to occur, players must be registered to their team using the online system by 4pm on the day of their game.
- 88 To be eligible for the Finals series, players must have played at least five (5) games for a team during the season, prior to the first game of the Finals series.
- 89 Team lists for the Finals series remain subject to Standards 63-66, regardless of the number of players who meet Standard 90.
- 90 Subject to Standard 90 and 91, where players have qualified for finals in multiple teams, the following provisions determine which teams they play with for the Finals series:
- a) Division 1 players in Men's and/or Women's competitions are eligible to play in up to two Finals series in the relevant competitions in the highest possible grades
 - Example: A Division 1 Men's or Women's player has qualified for the finals in the relevant competition in Divisions 1, 2 and 3. He or she can play in the Finals Series for Divisions 1 and 2 only.
 - b) Mixed players in all divisions, and Men's or Women's players in Division 2 and lower, are eligible to play in one Finals series/per competition.
NOTE: If a player in Division 2 or lower also qualifies for the Finals series in Division 1, then Standard 92 (a) prevails.
- 91 Where games are cancelled or a team receives a forfeit, the players listed as being registered for the team on the on-line system will be considered to have played that game for Finals series eligibility purposes.
- 92 It is the Team Delegates responsibility to make sure that only eligible players take the field, especially for the Finals series. ST reviews player eligibility for the Finals series and will liaise with Team Delegates to clarify any matters that come to the Association's attention and/or identifies the eligible players (for Referees) in the lead up to the Finals series.
- 93 ST does not accept dispensation requests related to eligibility for the Finals series.

6 Attire

6.1. General

- 94 This section describes attire standards at ST and they are consistent with the current TFA Playing Rules.
- 95 From Round 5, unless otherwise specified, one touchdown will be awarded against each player that does not comply with these Standards. The touchdown penalty/s will be added by the referee to the Game Card for the opposing team's score.
- 96 Attire should be maintained in good repair. In particular, clothing that is obviously stained by blood/bodily fluids will not be permitted to be worn on the field.
- 97 In general terms, attire for games comprises a numbered top (shirt/singlet) and bottoms (shorts, bike pants/leggings or similar); or a bodysuit (one or two pieces) and shoes as described in the 'Safety & Security' section.
- 98 ST reserves the right to reject uniform designs that are considered offensive or inappropriate. This means teams may not take the field wearing the attire rejected by ST and any fees paid to date will not be refunded.
- 99 Appeals for penalties related to attire will not be accepted by ST.
- 100 There are additional standards for attire at ST which are safety-related (glasses, hats, shoes, hoodies, jewellery and nails). See the 'Safety & Security' section for more information.

6.2. Club Colours and Designs

- 101 Clubs register their colours and any club design with their team entries each season.
- 102 ST reserves the right to reject club uniforms where it is deemed that they are the same or very similar to another club's colours/design.
- 103 A club's nominated colours and designs (including similar tones and designs) may not be used by another club, until the original nominating club does not submit team entries for two consecutive calendar years.
- 104 Clubs may change their colours and design between seasons without notice to ST so long as:
- player's attire reflect the new colours and designs in line with ST standards e.g. by Round 5
 - they are not the same as, or very similar to, colours/designs as another club's colours/designs. Should an issue in this regard be identified, the onus for rectifying the matter rests with the club which is deemed by ST to have attempted to adopt an existing club's colours/designs.

6.3. Player Shirts/Tops

- 105 From Round 5, players in Men's and Women's Division 1 must wear shirts/tops of the same colour and design.
- 106 From Round 5, all players in Mixed teams; and players in Men's and Women's teams in Division 2 and below must wear shirts/tops:
- that are the same colour; and
 - where there are no more than two different designs e.g. one design may be sleeveless tops and one design may be tops with sleeves, with players wearing either design.
- 107 There are colour restrictions for tops at ST. Tops may not be more than 25% white. This is to assist the referees and the opposing team and is mandatory. This means teams may not take the field wearing the attire rejected by ST and any fees paid to date will not be refunded.
- 108 Tops must be numbered on the back. Numbering must be:
- centred
 - consisting of one or two digits only i.e. 1-99 only. NOTE that the number '0' can only be used in the numbers 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80 or 90 and numbers do not need to be sequential
 - displayed in the same colour on all tops
 - permanently fixed to the top (not pinned or taped)
 - be a clear/sharp image at least 160 mm in height; and
 - unique, with no two players on the field wearing the same number.

6.4. Player Shorts/Bottoms

- 109 From Round 5, shorts/bottoms for players in Men's and Women's Division 1 are to be of the same colour.
- 110 From Round 5, players in all Mixed teams and Men's and Women's teams in Division 2 and below are encouraged to wear shorts/bottoms e.g. bike pants/leggings of the same colour. This is not mandatory and non-compliance will not be penalised.

6.5. Undergarments

- 111 From Round 1, undergarments worn by players in Men's and Women's Division 1 are to be:
- worn under playing tops and shorts/bottoms
 - be barely visible (i.e. short thigh length bottoms/short sleeve tops); and
 - any neutral colour (i.e. tan/beige/black).
- 112 From Round 1, undergarments worn by players in all Mixed teams and Men's and Women's teams in Divisions 2 and lower are to be worn under playing tops and shorts/bottoms. They may be any colour (neutral colours preferred i.e. tan/beige/black).

7 Rosters, Grading & Regrading

7.1. Aim

113 ST grades and regrades to:

- provide a competitive game experience
- afford the maximum number of games for all teams (byes are limited)
- minimise disadvantage and maximise advantage for every team, however it is acknowledged that some teams will be unhappy with grading and regrading outcomes.

114 ST reserves the right to regrade at any time through a season. While it aims to limit this to the first half of the season, it may be required due to player movement/team withdrawals.

7.2. Grading & Regrading

115 For grading rounds, draft rosters are provided prior to the season commencing, based on team nominations and with any other information available at the time e.g. player development plans, previous competition results (if applicable) etc.

116 ST utilise an alternate ladder template for grading rounds in all Mixed divisions, also for Men's and Women's divisions 2 and below by awarding only 2 competition points for a win, this aims to reduce any disadvantage to teams who are subject to re-grading.

117 In Summer seasons, Division 1 in Men's and Women's competitions are for teams who nominate specifically to play in that division. The preference to play at this level should be submitted when nominating the team.

118 More generally, Team Delegates are encouraged to submit additional information about their team to ST (email preferred) e.g. composition/playing experience, number of seasons played together, preferred division, main reasons for playing etc.; i.e. any information that may assist ST to grade the team into an appropriate division is welcomed, although Team Delegates should not expect individual responses from ST.

119 The final roster for grading rounds is issued on the ST website and circulated electronically to Team Delegates.

120 Rosters for premiership rounds are circulated the same way once the regrading process has been applied. These rosters are also displayed in the clubhouse.

121 After Round 4, a regrading process is undertaken using the results of Rounds 1-4.

122 The general stages in regrading involve reviewing:

- rank order of teams within divisions at the end of grading rounds
- the number of wins and losses and which teams were played
- 'for and against' scores and which teams were played, and where a bye or forfeit occurred

- the impact of proposed team moves is assessed on the entire division e.g. will all teams have the same number of byes; or will teams play each other the same number of times etc.
 - requests from teams/Clubs (these are considered, but not always accepted).
- 123 While ST aims to work with all teams to derive the best outcome for all parties, ST does not accept appeals related to grading/regrading.
- 124 ST's preferred practice is to establish divisions of 8 teams.
- 125 It is anticipated that regrading outcomes will be supported by all teams out of courtesy/respect for other teams in the competition. Teams that are dissatisfied may lodge a written enquiry with ST (email preferred). ST will endeavour to respond as soon as possible to the Team Delegate.
- 126 Divisional rosters are developed to provide a mix of game times and the most even/equitable spread of games and byes for all teams.
- 127 ST will usually aim to have two or more divisions/competition especially when the competition started with multiple divisions. If all teams are regraded into one division, then a Plate series is normally included in Finals arrangements.

8 Game Results

8.1. Referees

- 128 The on-field/central referee (also called the 'controlling referee') is the sole person with the authority and responsibility to apply the current TFA playing rules and any additional ST Standard related to safety, security and misconduct during games.
- 129 Referees on the side-line are to assist the on-field/central referee on the field, as requested.
- 130 ST maintains specific objectives related to the number of accredited referees for each ST games (refer to the ST Technical Standards for more information).

8.2. Game Cards

- 131 ST Game Cards are regarded as the complete and accurate record of the game including:
- participating players, including any players using the Player Development provisions
 - game referees
 - game results – game score and 'Best & Fairest' nominations (these are for Premiership rounds only, not grading rounds)
 - confirmation by the Team Delegates/Team Captain of the information on the Game Card, shown by their signature
 - any other information specific and relevant to the game e.g. injuries, matters that may require investigation e.g. a referee citing
- 132 Game Cards are usually prepared by ST for each game and are printed electronically using the on-line registration system.
- 133 In the event that ST is unable to provide prepared Game Cards, team sheets will be provided to each Team Delegate to complete. In this instance team sheets are considered to be the same as Game Cards although only names written that are consistent with the on-line record will count for Finals eligibility purposes.
- 134 Referees manage Game Cards during the game and Team Delegates/Team Captains should only hold or mark them following a request from, and in the direct presence of the referee.
- 135 Team Delegates are responsible for making sure the Game Card details are accurate as they relate to the game and their team. Absence of the Team Delegate at the game does not alter this responsibility.
- 136 If a Team Delegate/Team Captain disagrees with the game score recorded and it cannot be resolved with the referee, they should not sign the Game Card and instead lodge an appeal.

- 137 For Finals eligibility requirements, ST encourages all Team Delegates to ensure that the correct player names are being routinely printed on the Game Cards from the on-line system. Hand-written entries are not accepted by ST for Finals eligibility purposes. If Team Delegates note ongoing inaccuracies on the Game Cards, they should first check their team's on-line record (update it as necessary) and then if required, request assistance from ST staff to rectify the issue (written request, email preferred).

8.3. Points

- 138 Points for grading and premiership rounds are awarded for game results in line with the current TFA playing rules.

- 139 Points are used to determine team eligibility for Finals, with the highest rankings going to the teams with the highest points:

- Win: 3 points (Premiership rounds) – 2 points (Grading rounds)
- Bye: 3 points
- Draw: 2 points
- Loss: 1 point
- Forfeits:
 - Notified: 0 points
 - Un-notified forfeits: 3 point deduction.

NOTE: This penalty is established in accordance with the 'Park Administration' provisions for Rule 4 in the current TFA playing rules.

- Game scores are recorded in line with the sub-section for 'Forfeits'.

8.4. Forfeits

- 140 In accordance with current TFA playing rules (Rule 5), at least four (4) players from each team must take the field within 5 minutes of the game siren sounding, for the game to be started. Teams who do not meet this standard, forfeit the game.
- 141 Team Delegates are to advise ST when they know in advance of the scheduled game that they will be forfeiting. Email advice is preferred to minimise inconvenience for other members and cost for the association.
- 142 Forfeit notifications should be provided at least one business days in advance of the scheduled game, but ST will accept this notification up until two hours prior to the scheduled game start time. This is referred to as a (notified) forfeit.
- 143 Where ST has less than 2 hours notice that a team is forfeiting, this is referred to as an 'un-notified forfeit' and the penalty is a 3 points deduction from the team's total points. This includes the situation where three or less team members are at the ground for the scheduled game time.
- 144 ST accepts that circumstances can arise that may affect the majority of the team simultaneously e.g. accident causing a significant traffic disruption preventing arrival. ST will consider appeals against the penalty being applied when they are lodged in writing by the affected Team Delegate and demonstrate the team was affected by significant mitigating circumstances. ST does not usually consider injuries, illnesses,

confusion about game time or fields, 'everyone just running late' etc. to be significant, mitigating circumstances.

- 145 If a team forfeits three games in a season, they may be removed from the competition. All fees paid to that point in time will also be forfeited to ST and ST may also apply the ST Penalty Fee.
- 146 Points for forfeited games are awarded as follows:
- Notified forfeits:
 - Offending/forfeiting team: 0 points
 - Non-offending team: 3 points (win).
 - Un-notified forfeit:
 - Offending/forfeiting team: 3 point deduction
 - Non-offending team: 3 points (win).
- 147 Game scores for forfeits or un-notified forfeits will be recorded as 6-0, in favour of the 'non-offending' team. If both teams forfeit (notified and/or un-notified), then the game score 0-0 is recorded.

8.5. Cancellations

- 148 A cancelled game is a scheduled game that ST decides will not be played, before the scheduled start time.
- 149 Consideration by ST for cancelling games include but are not limited to:
- council decisions to close grounds for any reason
 - weather (actual and/or forecast): temperatures, rain events (especially extended rain periods), lightning storms
 - air quality e.g. smoke/pollution levels (as advised by Tasmanian Government health agency)
 - other public health considerations (as advised by Tasmanian Government health agency)
 - other public safety considerations (usually advised by Tasmania Police).
- 150 If the temperature is between 31-35 degrees and relative humidity exceeds 50% at 4.30 pm, all games will operate as 4 x 8 minute quarters with 2 min breaks.
- 151 If the temperature exceeds 36 degrees with the relative humidity and 30% or higher at 4.30 pm (as recorded by the Bureau of Meteorology), all games will be cancelled.

NOTES:

- a) Source: Sports Medicine Australia's 'Hot Weather Guidelines
 - b) Decisions related to whether games go ahead may also consider other factors e.g. has there been extended periods of hot weather (people are more likely to be dehydrated)?; smoke/air quality etc.
- 152 If the relevant council closes the ground, ST staff will communicate the council decision to members as soon as possible using the most appropriate and available methods. This usually includes:
- advice on the home page of the ST website

- emails/texts to Team Delegates (Time permitting, Team Delegates may also be telephoned by ST)
- signage on the clubhouse doors
- recorded message on the ST phone line.

- 153 When cancellations are at ST's discretion, and where it is considered to be in the best interests of members, the ST General Manager will usually consult with the Chairman/Competitions Director to confirm the decision and then advise members as soon as possible after the decision is made.
- 154 ST aims to make decisions to cancel games no later than 5:00 pm (1700 hrs) on the day of the scheduled games.
- 155 While working on the 'no news is good news' policy (i.e. assume games will be played as scheduled), members are encouraged to monitor the ST website, especially when weather conditions are likely to cause cancellations.
- 156 It is at ST's discretion whether to re-schedule cancelled games. Regardless of whether games are re-scheduled, the roster will continue to be implemented with the next round to be played as shown.
- 157 Where games are cancelled and not re-scheduled, the affected teams will be awarded two points each ('Draw' points) and game score of 6-6 will be recorded.
- 158 'Draw' points are awarded to affected teams, even if other teams in the same division were able to complete their games for that round.

8.6. Abandoned Games

- 159 An abandoned game is a scheduled game that is underway and ST decides cannot continue, so it is concluded before the scheduled finish time.
- 160 Referees will advise players if the game is to be abandoned.
- 161 If a game is abandoned before the second half of play commences (i.e. any time before the half time break is finished) and not re-scheduled, draw points are awarded and a score of 0-0 is recorded.
- 162 If a game is abandoned after the second half of play starts and it is not re-scheduled, the score at the time the game is abandoned is recorded and points are awarded on that basis.
- 163 It is at ST's discretion whether to re-schedule abandoned games.

8.7. Rescheduled Games

- 164 ST endeavours to re-schedule premiership games (i.e. not grading rounds) when teams have more than 2 games cancelled/abandoned.
- 165 Subject to grounds availability, ST may nominate 'replay' days as part of the season dates (usually one day in each half of the season, before Finals commence).
- 166 ST will advise affected teams of the replay roster, two weeks prior to the replay date.
- 167 Teams are anticipated to play on replay dates when they are included in the competition information at the start of the season.

- 168 Where ST does not nominate replay dates as part of the season dates or the replay dates are overridden by a higher authority e.g. council, arrangements to replay games will be developed in consultation with affected teams. If a team is unable to play then the existing results will stand.
- 169 If ST is unable to re-schedule all cancelled and/or abandoned games, then the games originally set for the earliest point in the roster are re-scheduled e.g. if game in Rounds 5, 6 and 7 are cancelled/abandoned then a replay of Round 5 would be re-scheduled for the first replay date and Round 6 would be re-scheduled for the second re-play date.
- 170 If re-scheduled games are cancelled or abandoned, then the existing results will stand.

8.8. Appeals/Complaints

- 171 Game results that are subject to appeal/complaints will stand until ST addresses the appeal/complaint.

9 Safety & Security

9.1. General

172 Participants can assist with maintaining a safe environment by:

- acting in such a way that limits other participants being unnecessarily exposed to hazards e.g. removing obvious hazards (e.g. broken glass, rubbish), where it is safe to do so
- reporting potential hazards to ST staff immediately and where it is safe to do so, assisting ST staff to deal with the situation.

9.2. Safety During Competition

173 The following Standards are required for the safety of all players , and as such they are non-negotiable.

174 Players are expected to abide by these Standards without prompting or reminding from ST staff or referees.

Where requests are made by ST staff or referees for these Standards, players are to abide by them i.e. the referee's request is final and players are not to take the field until they comply with these Standards.

175 Glasses (prescription/sunglasses) may only be worn during games if the lenses are plastic and the glasses are secured to the player's head.

176 Hats may be worn as long as they do not have any hard protrusions/fittings e.g. no pins, badges attached to them. Hats with soft/non-rigid brims are preferred.

177 Footwear: Sports shoes must be worn during games. This means shoes that fully enclose the feet, can be laced or tensioned so as to fully secure them to the feet, with a sole that provides for grip and support.

178 If ST declares the conditions to be 'wet conditions', only sports shoes designed for grass surfaces may be worn. This includes turf shoes, grass-cat shoes or shoes with moulded sole boots where the moulded studs are between 1-12mm (flat-soled sports shoes, cross-trainers, walking/running shoes or 'sneakers', and shoes with screw-in studs of any length are not permitted).

179 'Hoodies' are not permitted during any ST games.

180 Jewellery: Jewellery is not permitted to be worn during games. If it cannot be removed, it must be taped flat or covered.

181 Fingernails: Fingernails which are deemed to be too long for safety during the game must be covered by gloves or tape. As a guide, when finger nails are in line with, or extend passed the fingertip, they are likely to be deemed to long for safety during games.

9.3. Injury Management

- 182 **First Aid & Ice:** Ice and basic first aid supplies are available at the venue to assist with immediate injury management. This does not include the provision of strapping tape.
- 183 **Injuries:** If a player is injured during a game, the Team Delegate or Captain is required to ask the game referee to record the following details on the Game Card (even if the injury is minor):
- player name (not 'nick' names)
 - injured body part/s
 - approximate time of injury; and
 - first aid action taken.
- 184 Where the injury is an open wound, the player will need to leave the field of play until bleeding is controlled. Blood stained attire may not be worn on the field of play and the player is not to return to the field until bleeding can be shown to have stopped for at least two minutes while the player is running/jogging.
- 185 If required, ST staff will close the bar and office and assist/provide advice for the injured player/s.
- 186 Injured player/s may be able to access the national insurance for TFA members. It provides some assistance for injuries sustained while participating in ST events (games and training during the season). To access this support, players need to do two things within 30 days of the injury occurring:
- complete the ST Injury Report Form (available from ST staff); and
 - register their injury with "Sports Cover" (contact details are on the ST form) and follow the instructions provided by 'Sports Cover'.
- 187 If other non-playing participants are injured, it should be reported to ST staff. ST staff should assist where possible and complete an ST Injury Report form.
- 188 **Ambulance:** Advise ST staff if an ambulance or any other emergency service is needed, or has been called.

9.4. Emergencies During Events

- 189 If the safety of participants appears to be broadly compromised or that appears imminent, the priority is to isolate members from the hazard/threat as quickly as possible by:
- containing it; and/or
 - relocating participants from its vicinity (clubhouse/change rooms/building may be the safest place to shelter); and/or
 - requesting assistance from the emergency services using Triple Zero ('000').
- 190 Unless otherwise agreed/specified, ST staff are responsible for coordinating the initial response. Where ST staff are not present, any other ST official who is able may assume command within the limits of safety and their own training, until relieved by another relevant authority.
- 191 The usual method is to use the siren and loudspeaker systems to alert and instruct participants using simple, outcome-based messages, repeatedly. Example: -

- “Attention, Attention:
- Games have been suspended.
- This is not a drill.
- For your own safety please move immediately to the ...club house, car park/beach side of the clubhouse/Howrah Beach etc.

I repeat, games have been suspended. This is not a drill. For your own safety please move immediately to the ...”.

- 192 If the siren/loudspeaker system is not available, and where it safe to do so, other ST members may be able to assist with communicating the message.
- 193 Ideally an ST official should be deployed to the nominated assembly point to assist with information flow between ST and participants.
- 194 ST members should work cooperatively and/or follow instructions from the relevant authorities e.g. emergency services, council staff so as contribute toward injured participants being assisted and a safe environment being re-instated as soon as possible.

10 Managing the Code of Conduct

10.1. ST's Position & Expectations

- 195 ST's position and expectations regarding the Code of Conduct are consistent with TFAs policies, namely the current version of the Member Protection Policy and Disciplinary Regulations Manual. ST's position is based on the core philosophies of Touch Football being a community minded, family orientated and participation-driven sport.
- 196 This section summarises key elements from the TFA policies, relevant to senior ST events. For details, the relevant policies should be accessed. They are freely available from the TFA website and links to them are maintained on the ST website.
- 197 ST members need to be familiar with, and demonstrate the behaviours outlined in, the TFA Code of Conduct and to ensure they do not engage in misconduct during ST events or ST sanctioned events.
- 198 ST members are also encouraged to familiarise themselves with the free resources available at Play by the Rules (www.playbytherules.net.au) for supporting guidance on their rights and responsibilities as players, administrators, coaches, officials and spectators.
- 199 This is ST's position because it fundamentally believes that:
- managing misconduct is a shared responsibility, starting with each member
 - 'prevention is better than a cure' for all members
 - the lowest level at which a matter can be dealt with is always preferred.

10.2. Applying the Codes of Conduct at ST

- 200 ST requires its members and staff to:
- actively discourage any player, official, spectator/visitor to the grounds, from engaging in misconduct during ST events, when it is safe to do so
 - treat each other with dignity and respect at all times
 - report details of alleged misconduct to ST in an objective and timely manner (written complaint, ST form and email preferred).
- 201 Member agreement to abide by the Codes of Conduct is incorporated into the on-line registration process.
- 202 Referees manage misconduct or potential misconduct by applying the current TFA playing rules during games.
- 203 When any member believes misconduct has occurred they are obliged to make a written complaint promptly after the alleged misconduct occurred, providing specific information so ST is able to investigate it.

- 204 While members should note the significant resource impost that Disciplinary Tribunal hearings generate, they are not discouraged from seeking this recourse.
- 205 ST is obliged and authorised to investigate complaints lodged against ST members and determine an appropriate response.
- 206 Supporting principles of complaint handling (which includes Disciplinary Tribunal matters) includes:
- safety of members first
 - natural justice i.e. procedural fairness
 - discretion/privacy for those involved
 - expediency for determining an outcome
 - clear and timely communication with those directly involved
 - outcomes that support the development of Touch Football and the majority of ST members, over those of any individual.
- 207 Alleged misconduct related to member protection matters may also be reported by ST to Tasmania Police or other relevant authorities.

10.3. Managing Misconduct during Competitions

- 208 ST actively promotes player knowledge of rules of the game using a variety of strategies including but not limited to:
- providing an unambiguous indication of ST's position regarding misconduct and its management, which is directly aligned with TFA policies and these are consistent with principles promoted by the Australian Sports Commission and Sport & Recreation Tasmania (SRT)
 - providing updated competition information to members each season/event, made available in a number of ways including Team Delegates information session
 - making official TFA resources readily available to members e.g. links to the current TFA playing rules on the ST web-site, provision of DVDs
 - maintenance of a broad program to support ST referees and improve the quality of refereeing at ST events e.g. Board position focused on referee development, referee awards, forums, peer support etc.
 - maintaining an open relationship with members to answer queries on a case-by-case basis whenever possible, where they are asked respectfully and provide no disruption to competition operations.
- 209 Players are encouraged to seek clarification of referee rulings during games to enhance their own knowledge of the game.
- 210 These queries should be raised by the Team Captain with the referee respectfully and at a time that does not disrupt the game.
- 211 Referees are expected to answer reasonable queries that are asked respectfully, as soon as possible.
- 212 Once a referee has addressed the query, the same (or very similar) query should not be repeated during the game.

- 213 Players who infringe the playing rules of touch football are usually first penalised by the referee in accordance with the current TFA playing rules, as the referee is the sole person with the authority and responsibility to do so during games.
- 214 At referees/ST discretion, games may be suspended or terminated if alleged breaches of the Codes of Conduct occur, especially where the safety of other members appears compromised. Further, referees may lodge complaints about player/s. This is referred to as 'citing a player/s'.
- 215 A simple summary of usual penalties/actions during games is shown in the Appendices noting:
- if any conflict occurs with the TFA Disciplinary Regulations Manual, the TFA regulations prevail
 - the summary does not necessarily represent a linear or sequential procedure for actions. It is a guide only, as actions for managing misconduct are to clearly demonstrate a 'safety first' approach.

10.4. Forced Substitutions

NOTE: Current TFA playing rules do not include provisions for forced substitution, however it is a practice at ST. If TFA playing rules are amended, then ST will review these Standards accordingly.

- 216 Regardless of whether a team has substitute players available, at the discretion of the referee, a player may be requested to leave the field for an infringement of the current TFA playing rules and/or ST Standards, although this is not typically the first way a referee would penalise a team.
- 217 If requested, the player must leave the field of play for the interchange area. If available a replacement player ('sub') may take the field.
- 218 The referee may also award a 10 metre penalty when a forced substitution is requested.
- 219 The player who was forced to substitute may return to the game after substituting with another player; or, if there was no substitute player, after the next break in play e.g. touch made, dropped ball, change of possession etc.
- 220 A player can only receive one forced substitution request/game. A second request for a forced substitution will at least take the form of being sent from the field for a period of time.
- 221 Written complaints from referees are not usually required following forced substitutions, unless requested by ST staff or current Board members.

10.5. Summary of ST Disciplinary Tribunal Arrangements

- 222 ST establishes Disciplinary Tribunals a case-by-case basis, as needed and in accordance with the TFAs Disciplinary Regulations Manual.
- 223 The aim of the Disciplinary Tribunal is to provide a fair and impartial hearing to ensure the highest ideals of sportsmanship and fair play are adhered to for the benefit of all members.

- 224 The Disciplinary Tribunal is authorised to, and responsible for, requiring any member to appear before it, in order to have access to information that it believes is relevant to the complaint.
- 225 Advice is provided in writing (email preferred) to members of relevant Judiciary Tribunal activities. The TFA Disciplinary Regulations Manual include specifications for when advice is to be sent by affiliates (i.e. ST) and when it is considered to be received by members.
- 226 If a member refuses to appear or repeatedly fails to appear without reasonable cause for the Disciplinary Tribunal, the complaint can be considered in their absence or consideration can be adjourned to another date. Note that a member can:
- appoint a representative if there is no intention to contest charges, or
 - apply in writing (email preferred) to have the Tribunal's considerations adjourned. Reasons are to be included and it is at ST's discretion whether to accept the application.
- 227 Full details of the disciplinary process, including how to appeal a decision is outlined in the Touch Football Australia – Disciplinary Regulations Manual.

10.6. Penalties & Suspension Periods

- 228 Where ST finds that misconduct has occurred, binding penalties/consequences will be imposed to address it.
- 229 Suspension periods are served on the next scheduled games for the roster, noting that rostered byes and any games lost on forfeit/un-notified forfeit do not count for the suspension period.
- 230 Members who are suspended by a Disciplinary Tribunal may not participate in ST events in player or official capacities for the suspension period.
- 231 While ST will address reports/occurrences of misconduct, this does not prevent Tasmania Police or any other authorised body also taking action.

11 Finals

11.1. Player Eligibility

232 Player eligibility for Finals is described in Section 5 'Player Registration & Eligibility'.

11.2. Team Eligibility

233 After the last premiership rounds have been played (i.e. the last round of the roster) and where there are five or more teams in a division, the four teams with the highest points scores in each division qualify for Finals. If a Plate series is also being played, ST will nominate the placings that will qualify teams for the Plate.

234 If at the end of the premiership rounds, any teams have points equal to any of the four highest point scores, then the 'For and Against' percentages of all contending teams for the premiership rounds shall be applied to determine the four qualifying teams. If this method does not differentiate the contending teams by at least 1%, then teams with the greatest number of touchdowns scored 'for' in the premiership rounds shall qualify.

11.3. Finals Format

235 Finals are the games played in a structured elimination format to determine the winning teams of each ST division for the ST event. They consist of:

- Semi-Finals
- Preliminary or Elimination Finals
- Grand Finals.

236 Finals may also include a Plate series.

237 A winning score must be achieved in each game in Finals to award Premiership titles in each division. The TFA 'Drop-Off' procedure is the usual method for determining final scores.

11.4. Semi-Finals (Top 3 or 4 Teams)

238 Semi-Finals are the first round of scheduled games in the Finals played between the top four ranked sides in each division. Where there are more than four teams in the Division, it consists of two games as follows:

- Major Semi-Final: 1 v 2. The winning team progresses automatically to the Grand Final. The losing team progresses to the Preliminary Final.
- Minor Semi-Final: 3 v 4. The winning team progresses to the Preliminary Final. The losing team is eliminated.

239 Semi-Finals are usually followed by Preliminary Finals, however if both the Semi-Finals are cancelled and/or abandoned with a drawn score/'no result', the Elimination Finals format is usually played instead.

- 240 A drawn score or 'no result' can occur when:
- a Semi-Final game is cancelled; and/or when
 - a Semi-Final game is abandoned before the second half of play commences; and/or when
 - the scores are level at the time in the second half of play that a Semi-Final game is abandoned.
- 241 Where only one Semi-Final game is cancelled and/or abandoned with a drawn score/'no result' then the higher ranked team at the start of the game is declared the winner and proceeds to the Preliminary Final.
- 242 Where there are only four teams in a Division, the Semi-Finals format is at STs discretion and may be as follows:
- Fourth placed team does not contest finals
 - First placed team progresses automatically to the Grand Final
 - Semi-Final: 2 v 3. The winning team progresses to the Grand Final. The losing team is eliminated.

11.5. Semi-Finals (2 Qualifying Teams)

- 243 Semi-Finals are the second round of scheduled Games in the final series. It consists of one Games/division which is played between:
- the losing team from the 1 v 2 Quarter Final Games, and
 - the winning team from the 3 v 4 Quarter Final Games.
- 244 The winning team progresses to the Grand Final. The losing team is eliminated.

11.6. Elimination Finals (May replace Semi-Finals)

- 245 Elimination Finals replace the Semi-Final series when both of those games are cancelled and/or abandoned with a drawn score/'no result'.
- 246 Elimination Finals consist of two games using the original Semi-Final rankings as follows:
- 247 Elimination Finals are played as follows:
- 1 v 4
 - 2 v 3.
- 248 The winning teams progress automatically to the Grand Final. The losing teams are eliminated.
- 249 If either or both of the Elimination Finals are cancelled and/or abandoned with a drawn score/'no result' then the original Semi-Final rankings stand and the top two ranked teams progress automatically to contest the Grand Final.

11.7. Grand Final (Top 2 Teams)

- 250 The Grand Final is the last round of scheduled games in Finals and its outcomes determines the division's premier team for the event/season.

- 251 It consists of one game/division and is played between:
- the winning teams from the 1 v 2 Semi-Final game and the Preliminary Final; OR
 - the winning teams from the Elimination Final; OR
 - the top two ranked teams at the start of Finals, as a result of cancellations and/or abandonments affecting the Semi-Finals and/or the Preliminary Finals.
- 252 The winning team is awarded the Premiership for the division. The losing team is acknowledged as the 'runners-up' (2nd place overall for the division in that season).
- 253 If a Grand Final is cancelled and/or abandoned with a drawn score/'no result', ST's preferred position is to re-schedule the game/s aiming to provide teams with a minimum of 24 hrs notice, unless both teams agree to a lesser period. If the ST Board determines the game/s cannot be re-scheduled, the higher ranked team will be declared the Premiers for that division.

11.8. Plate Series

- 254 A Plate series is an additional Finals series played within a division. It is at ST's discretion as to when to include a Plate series, but it is usually included when a division has 10 or more teams.
- 255 Plate series apply the same standards as Semi-Finals, Preliminary Finals/Elimination Finals and Grand Finals for the four identified teams.
- 256 When introducing a Plate series, ST will nominate the rankings that will qualify teams for the Plate series and they are usually the four teams ranked below the mid-point of the division i.e.:
- 10-11 team division: Teams placed 6th-9th qualify for the Plate series
 - 12-13 team divisions: Teams placed 7th-10th qualify for the Plate series
 - 14-15 team divisions: Teams placed 8th-11th qualify for the Plate series.

12 ST Association Awards

- 257 ST provides for a range of awards related to its events and members.
- 258 At ST's discretion, it may vary the Association Awards, their criteria and/or other characteristics.

13 Force Majeure

- 259 If ST is unable to uphold these Standards, in whole or in any part due to a force majeure event, then ST is relieved of its obligations to the extent, and the period that it is unable to perform.
- 260 ST has no obligation to refund any fees if it is unable to perform due to a force majeure event.

14 Document Administration

14.1. Contact

261 This Standards is maintained by Southern Touch Inc (ST). The current version of this document is available from the ST website. Initial enquiries should be directed to:

E-MAIL: admin@southerntouch.com.au

PHONE: (03) 6244 1130

WEBSITE: www.southerntouch.com.au

POSTAL: PO Box 229 Rosny Park TAS 7018

262 Versions are uncontrolled when printed.

14.2. Review Arrangements

263 This document can be reviewed at any time by the ST Board and must be developed in consultation with the ST General Manager.

264 Changes to these Standards are not effective until they are accepted/approved by the ST Board, as well as issued with advice to current members.

265 This document should be reviewed in its entirety every two years after its last issue date and re-issued.

266 This document should only be issued as a whole document i.e. updates to sections only should not occur and the most recent version entirely supersedes any previous versions.

14.3. Review History

267 The table below shows the development history of this document. It should be updated each time this document is reviewed.

Row	Title	Issue Details	Summary of Content/Material Changes
1	ST Competition Standards	15 September 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• June 2012: Full review of existing ST documents as well as input from other affiliates• Jan-Feb 2013: Updated drafts incorporated all comments provided by the ST Reference Group, considered relevant, although not all comments were accepted and input from Competitions Director 2012-2012 and ST General Manager• June 2013: Draft released for members comment, incorporating ST Board decisions regarding format for senior competitions for 2013-2014.• July-September 2013: Board Approval version incorporating final comments in readiness for Summer 2013-2014.
2	ST Competition	27 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 5 Player Registration & Eligibility

Row	Title	Issue Details	Summary of Content/Material Changes
	Standards	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Section 5.4 'Visiting Player' and 5.5 'Youth Club Player' provisions in the 15.09.13 version, were replaced by 'Player Development' provisions following feedback provided by club representative on 23 Sept 2013. - STD 68 from version 15.09.13, related to player recruitment provisions has been removed, as a result of Board deliberations related to matters raised by club representative on 23 Sept 2013. - Penalties for breaches of STDs related to registration and eligibility (including finals eligibility) were elevated into a new sub-section, for ease of use/reference. In the 15.09.13 version they were included in the first sub-section.
3	ST Competition Standards	05 November 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6.4 Player Shorts/Bottoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In v 27.09.13, STD 107 required players in Division 1 to have 'shorts/bottoms of the same colour and style'. This STD has been removed in the 5 Nov version, effective from Round 5 Summer 2013-2014.
4	ST Competition Standards	09.09.014 for Summer 14-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5 Player Registration and Eligibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Player Development' provisions removed - NEW DEFINITION of 'First Division Player' - Men's and Women's Division 1 players provided with the opportunity to play in Division 2 or lower (subject to restrictions on First Division Players) - Player restrictions described as a 'sliding scale' for Men's, Women's and Mixed competitions - Player movement provided for development between different divisions only (note games are played instead of usual game) - Players must be registered using the on-line system by 4pm on game days for player movements to be allowed - Finals eligibility adjusted to address player movement and Division 1 provisions. - Equalisation provisions established to support club development, especially with regard to juniors - Player transfer provisions supplemented to support equalisation provisions. • Section 6.4-6.5 Attire - Player shirts/tops and

Row	Title	Issue Details	Summary of Content/Material Changes
			<p>Player shorts/bottoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men's and Women's Division 1 requirements separated from Division 2 and lower - Provisions related to tops made more flexible to provide for greater choice for players without impacting on player identification during games. - '0' added as a legitimate number <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 7.2 Grading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Especially for Summer seasons, Men's and Women's teams seeking top level games are to register for Division 1, specifically • Section 8.5 Cancellations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidelines relating to hot weather provisions updated in line with Sports Medicine Australia guideline • Section 9 Safety & Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Onus placed on players to abide by safety rules (Not on the referees to implement them) - Restrictions on hats reduced - Fingernail length described. • Finals Eligibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Was in Section 11 in Nov 2013 version, but moved to Section 5 (Eligibility) - Finals eligibility standards adjusted to account for the changes in new Player Eligibility provisions • Section 10.4 Forced Substitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wording revised to clarify that any player may be 'force-subbed', irrespective of whether their team has substitute players or not. • Section 11.4 Semi-Finals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes a new format for divisions with four teams (Only the top three teams play finals) • Section 15.1 ST Terms and Meanings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New definition: First Division Player. • Section 15.2 & 15.3 ST Event Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competition nights and format revised to reflect format for Summer 2014-15 • Section 15.4 ST Event Fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Development Team fee/ discount removed as ST maintains a 'minimum cost' principle for all junior teams

Row	Title	Issue Details	Summary of Content/Material Changes
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 15.7 ST Association awards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GENERAL: Wording updated Club Championships criteria and points revised for 2014-15 competition format ST Association Merit Award: Changed to reflect ST Board decision on 2013-14 that from 2014-15, nominations for this award is to be determined by member votes Player and Technical awards (coaching and refereeing) recognition updated to include financial support with conditions
5	ST Competition Standards	20 February 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
6	ST Competition Standards	9 September 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.3 Eligibility: Other Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Summer Season/s ONLY) The makeup of Mixed teams is subject to the following restrictions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Division 2: A maximum of three players currently in Division 1 teams Division 3: A maximum of two players currently in a Division 1 teams Section 6.5 Undergarments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Round 1, undergarments worn by players in Men's and Women's Division 1 are to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> worn under playing tops and shorts/bottoms be barely visible (i.e. short thigh length bottoms/short sleeve tops); and any neutral colour (i.e. tan/beige/black) Section 7.2 Grading & Regrading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ST utilise an alternate ladder template for grading rounds in all Mixed divisions, also for Men's and Women's divisions 2 and below by awarding only 2 competition points for a win, this aims to reduce any disadvantage to teams who are subject to re-grading.
7	ST Competition Standards	16 August 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STDs 19 & 20 have been recinded from version 9.9.2015, regarding Discounting Team Registration Fees, as a result of Board deliberations. Any reference to how ST makes payments has been updated to include EFTs. STD 44 has been revised to depict a new ST

Row	Title	Issue Details	Summary of Content/Material Changes
			<p>process to help individuals locate a team to join.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.3 Eligibility: Other Provisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion of a newly defined 'Representative Player' (new addition to Comp Stds) - Revised wording to provide further clarity to the provisions for First Division/Representative players to participate in alternate divisions/competitions (i.e. register and/or play) - An update/revision of the fore mentioned provisions • 15.1 Schedule 1: ST Terms & Meanings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'First Division Player' - update to the definition to not include/classify players participating at that level for the first time - 'Representative Player' - new addition to ST Terms & Meanings as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "A Representative (Rep) Player is a ST Member who in the past 12 months has participated as a player at Tasmanian State Cup Open level or at an equivalent level or above outside of Tasmania." • 15.3 Schedule 3: Usual ST Competition Timings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated to reflect a new competition scheduling format for the 2016/17 summer season, as a result of Board deliberations related to feedback received by ST Membership.

14.4. Associated Documents:

The following documents are guiding documents for these **Standards**. These documents should be used in subsequent reviews of these **Standards** and this list should be updated.

Row	Document Title	Status/Year	Custodian	Comment
1	Constitution of Southern Touch Incorporated	24.09.13	Southern Touch Board of Directors	Describes the core authorities and responsibilities of Southern Touch Incorporated.
2	Hot Weather Guidelines	2007	Sports Medicine Australia	Describes guidelines for sporting organisation related to decision-making affected by hot weather.
3	Touch Football Australia (TFA) Disciplinary Regulations Manual	2013	Touch Football Australia	Describes processes endorsed by TFA to manage reports of misconduct.
4	TFA Member Protection Policy	February 2014	Touch Football Australia	Describes principles and processes endorsed by TFA to manage member protection matters. It includes guidance for complaint handling, codes of conduct and child protection.
5	TFA Playing Rules	7th Edition, 2000	TFA	Describes the playing rules for Touch Football. It includes notes for players, referees and the Park Competition (ST).

15 Appendices

15.1. Schedule 1: ST Terms & Meanings

Term	At Southern Touch this means.....
Board/ ST Board /	<p>The group of ST members who form the Board as per the processes provided for in the ST Constitution.</p> <p>The ST Board is the primary decision making body for ST events and staff.</p>
Bye	<p>A bye means a rostered game where a team has no scheduled opposition. They usually occur when a division has an uneven number of teams in it e.g. 5 teams, 7 teams etc. ST aims to limit the number of byes and actively seeks to form divisions that have even numbers, so as to not incur byes.</p>
Club	<p>Three or more teams registered in ST events under a common name .</p> <p>ST is supportive of club formations and strongly recommends all clubs are incorporated.</p>
Competition	<p>Means touch football rosters developed in groups of Men's, Women's or Mixed teams, as per the current TFA Playing Rules.</p>
Complaint A complaint prepared by a referee, may be referred to as a 'referees report/citation'. A complaint may also be referred to as a 'protest'.	<p>Means a written objection lodged with ST by a member (email preferred) about an alleged misconduct.</p> <p>Complaints may only be accepted by ST when they are lodged in writing (email preferred).</p> <p>Complaints for any activities except games in Finals, must be lodged within 48 hours of the alleged misconduct occurring.</p> <p>Complaints related to Finals games must be lodged within one (1) hour of the game's actual finish time.</p> <p>ST does not accept:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• complaints related to individual referee decisions during games• more than one complaint/s being lodged by the same member/members from the same team about the same matter. <p>At ST, complaints are managed using the principles described in the current TFA Member Protection Policy.</p>
Dispensation	<p>Means specific approval given to a member/clubs to vary specified ST Standards before a breach occurs.</p> <p>Dispensation requests can only be sought (and provided) for player eligibility Standards.</p>
Division May also be known as 'Div' or 'Divs'.	<p>Means teams deemed by ST to be of a similar, competitive standard grouped within a competition for rostering.</p> <p>Divisions at ST are identified numerically i.e. Division 1, Division 2 etc.</p>
Event	<p>An event is a scheduled set of competitions conducted by ST for a specified period of time.</p>

Term	At Southern Touch this means.....
Fees: Competition	An ST fee for a team to be included in a competition roster and it is additional to the registration fee.
Fees: Penalty	An ST fee which is applied at ST's discretion to members/ teams. It is usually applied to contribute to additional costs generated by the member/team.
Fees: Registration	An ST fee for nominating a team in an ST event. This is usually non-refundable. May also be referred to as the 'deposit'.
Finals	The rounds that provide for the final placings/results in each division. This series usually consists of three rounds (Semi-Finals, Preliminary or Elimination Finals and the Grand Final).
Finals: Semi-Final	<p>The first round of scheduled games in Finals played between the top four ranked sides in each division. It consists of two games:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major: 1 v 2 • Minor: 3 v 4 <p>Unless Elimination Finals are played, the winning team of the major Semi-Final progresses automatically to the Grand Final and the losing team of the minor Semi-Final is eliminated.</p> <p>Semi-Finals are usually followed by the Preliminary Final, however if either of the Semi-Final Games are cancelled or abandoned, an Elimination Final is played instead of Preliminary Finals.</p>
Finals: Elimination Final	Elimination Finals replace Preliminary Finals only when the Semi-Final round is affected by cancellations or abandonments. It consists of two games (four teams) where the two winning teams qualify for the Grand Final.
Finals: Grand Final	<p>The last round of scheduled games in the Finals. It consists of one games/ division and is played between the qualifying teams from the Semi-Finals and Preliminary Finals OR the winning teams from the Elimination Finals.</p> <p>The winning team is awarded the Premiership for the division. The losing team is acknowledged as the 'runners-up' (2nd place overall for the division in that season).</p>
Finals: Plate Series	A Plate Series is an additional Finals series played within a division. It is at ST's discretion as to when to include a Plate series but it is usually included when a division has 10 or more teams, using the same protocols as Semi-Finals, Preliminary Finals/Elimination Finals and Grand Finals for the four identified teams.
Finals: Preliminary Final	The second round of scheduled games in Finals played by the losing team of the major Semi-Final (1 v 2) and the winning team of the minor Semi-Final (i.e. 3 v 4). The winning team progresses to the Grand Final. The losing team is eliminated.

Term	At Southern Touch this means.....
First Division Player	A First Division Player is an ST member who has met the eligibility criteria to participate for the Finals Series in the highest graded ST competition (or equivalent) for Men's or Women's in the previous Summer season (i.e. played at least five matches for one team in that division), unless it is the first season participating at that level at which point will not be defined. On a case by case basis, ST may also classify new members as First Division players, should their playing credentials meet or exceed the standard of play in Division 1 from the previous Summer season.
'For and Against'	'For and Against' scores are the total number of touchdowns a team has made ('For') and the number of touchdowns that have been scored against them ('Against'), which is calculated/shown as a percentage (%).
Force Majeure	A force majeure event includes but is not limited to any or all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emergency events: natural disasters/weather events e.g. fires, flooding, drought, earthquake, landslide, cyclone, tsunami, public health emergency e.g. epidemic • civil unrest and/or politically motivated violence including war • a permanent injunction issued by any court of competent jurisdiction an act, fact, circumstance, matter or thing beyond the reasonable control of ST.
Forced Substitution	A substitution of a player during a game at the request of the referee. May also be referred to as 'force/d sub'.
Game Card	The record of information about ST games. It shows the participating players and referees, game score etc. May also be referred to as the 'score card'.
Game	A game is a single match played by two teams in accordance with ST scheduling and the current TFA playing rules. Teams are usually scheduled to play one game per week and games are not usually scheduled on Public Holidays.
Game: abandoned	A scheduled game that is underway which ST decides cannot continue, so it is concluded before the scheduled finish time.
Game: cancelled	A scheduled game that ST decides will not be played..
Game: forfeited	A scheduled game that is cancelled because at least one team is unable and/or decides not to play..
Grading	Grading is the process used by ST to develop rosters for competitions before the start of each season. See also 'Regrading'.
Judiciary Tribunal	A group of members that form a panel to assess complaints lodged against other members.

Term	At Southern Touch this means.....
Late Payment Penalty	<p>A penalty applied by ST to team's scores for late payment of competition fees. The penalty is a three point deduction.</p> <p>The Late Payment Penalty can only be applied to results of games rostered for Rounds 5-7 (inclusive), for each round that the competition fees have not been paid.</p>
Member	<p>People who are players and/or officials as defined by the ST Constitution.</p>
Misconduct	<p>Misconduct is defined in numerous guiding documents including the current TFA playing rules (Rule 17), the TFA Member Protection Policy and the TFA Disciplinary Regulations Manual.</p> <p>At ST , 'Misconduct' includes on-field breaches of playing rules as well as other unacceptable off – field behaviours whilst participating in ST events e.g. discrimination, harassment, bullying, privacy breaches etc.</p> <p>Misconduct is not accepted or tolerated at ST.</p>
Natural justice	<p>'Natural justice' refers to legal standards and principles regarding rules against bias and the right to a fair hearing.</p> <p>May also be referred to as 'procedural fairness'.</p>
Officials	<p>People nominated to carry out specific duties for ST e.g. referees, coaches, selectors, ST staff, Board members etc. This includes people appointed by ST clubs and ST.</p>
Participants	<p>People attending ST events including players, officials, spectators/visitors.</p>
Penalty (Tribunal)	<p>The imposition of a suspension from participation, monetary fine, good behaviour bond or other appropriate action as deemed necessary by the Disciplinary Tribunal for the express purpose of discouraging any unacceptable behaviours from any Association members, either on or off the field of play.</p>
Penalty (Referee)	<p>The action taken by the referee during a game when a player or team infringes the current Touch Football rules e.g. a penalty tap, 10 m.</p>
Player	<p>A person who is registered in a team for a current ST season/event. At ST players are categorised according to their age (Juniors/children/Youth, and Seniors).</p> <p>Unless otherwise stated, at ST the qualifying age for an ST event is taken as the age the player will be as of 1 January in the next calendar year.</p>
Player-First Division	<p>Refer to 'First Division Player'</p>
Player- Junior	<p>Unless otherwise specified, the definition of a junior is taken from the Australian Sports Commission & the TFA Member Protection Policy to be players under 18 years of age.</p> <p>Further: 'Youth: 13-17 years. 'Juniors/Children': 5-12 years (as at 1</p>

Term	At Southern Touch this means.....
	January of the next calendar year).
Player-Senior/Open	Unless otherwise specified, players 18 years old and over (as at 1 January of the next calendar year).
Referee	An ST official appointed to manage the application of the current TFA playing rules at an ST game.
Regrading:	Regrading is the process used by ST to confirm the rosters for each competition. It usually occurs after Round 4 each season, but may also occur at other times at ST's discretion.
Replay day	Means day/s identified as part of an ST roster, that may be used to replay cancelled or abandoned games.
Representative Player	A Representative (Rep) Player is a ST Member who in the past 12 months has participated as a player at Tasmanian State Cup Open level or at an equivalent level or above outside of Tasmania.
Roster	Means a set of scheduled games for an ST division. At ST, rosters include grading and premiership rounds and are followed by Finals.
Round	<p>A round means a single group of matches scheduled for a division so that all teams compete once.</p> <p>Where divisions have an uneven number of teams this includes a team/s 'playing' a bye (no game).</p> <p>Usually one round is played/per week noting that some game details may be adjusted to avoid Public Holidays.</p>
Round: Grading	Games played where the results are used to determine the make-up of ST divisions. Usually Rounds 1-4 are grading rounds at ST.
Round: Premiership	Games played after the initial grading rounds, where the results are combined with results from grading rounds to determine the qualifying teams for the Finals Series in each ST division.
Southern Touch League (STL)	Southern Touch League is an ST event conducted in summer and winter seasons for teams with open age group players.
ST	Southern Touch is an affiliate of TFA and exists to conduct touch football events in Southern Tasmania.
Standard	ST documents that describe ST's codes of practice for any given matter.
Suspension	Means a defined period of time that an ST member cannot participate in ST events as a player or official.
Team Captain	The person who is a team's representative for a game. This includes being the primary liaison with the referee, for the team.
Team Delegate	The person who is the primary contact for a team for an ST event.

Term	At Southern Touch this means.....
Team	A group of individuals who nominate themselves to play in an ST event in accordance with ST Standards and TFA playing rules.
TFA	Touch Football Australia is the national touch football organisation.
TFT	Touch Football Tasmania is the Tasmanian branch of the TFA.
Touch Football Tasmania affiliates	Southern Touch Inc, Launceston Touch Association and Devonport Touch Association.
Un-notified forfeit	A forfeited game where the forfeiting team does not advise ST two or more hours before the scheduled game start time that they are unable to field a team. Un-notified forfeits usually attract a penalty of -3 points.
Wet Conditions	Means a declaration by ST due to wet conditions, which requires specified shoes to be worn for games.
WWP / WYSC	Wentworth Park or Wentworth Park Youth & Sports Centre
Youth Development Team	Means teams that are entered in an ST event by a club where 60-70% of the registered players are between 13-17 years of age (inclusive) and have a nominated, qualified coach i.e. a bonafide youth development team.

15.2. Schedule 2: ST Event Rounds

ST's routine events are usually comprised of the following rounds:

ST Event	Grading Rounds	Premiership Rounds	Finals
STL	Yes	Yes	Yes
STS	Yes	Yes	Yes
ST Juniors	No	Yes	Yes (Limited)

15.3. Schedule 3: Usual ST Competition Timings

Season	Competition	Division/s	Night
Winter (Typically April-August)	Men's	All	Monday
	Women's	All	Tuesday
	Mixed	All	Wednesday
	As required e.g. Corporate Cups/special events	As required	TBA
Summer (Typically Oct-March)	Women's	Division 1	Wednesday
	Women's	Under 15 Girls	Tuesday
	Women's	Division 2 and lower	Tuesday
	Men's	Under 15 Boys	Tuesday
	Men's	All	Wednesday
	Mixed	All	Thursday
	Social Mixed	All	Monday
As required e.g. Corporate Cups/special events	As required	TBA	

15.4. Schedule 4: ST Event Fees

Current fees are shown on the ST website/competition information packs

Row	Fee	Notes
1.	Team Registration Fee (all teams)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-refundable deposit paid by nomination close date. • Includes a new touch football/team.
2.	'Early Bird' Team Competition Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid in addition to the Team Registration fee to secure a place in the ST roster • To be eligible for this rate, teams must pay in full by the last business day of Round 2.
3.	'Standard' Team Competition Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid in addition to the Team Registration fee to secure a place in the ST roster • Teams are due to pay this fee when they pay in full after the close date for the Early Bird fee and by the last business day of Round 4.
4.	Late Payment Penalty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between Rounds 5-7 inclusive, teams that have not paid their competition fees (i.e Team Registration Fee and either the 'Early Bird' or the 'Standard' fees, will have three points deducted/game until the amount owing has been received by ST. These points will not be re-instated. • From Round 8, at ST's discretion, ST may remove teams from the roster if fees owed have not been paid, unless ST chooses to provide for alternative payment arrangements.
5.	ST Penalty Fee (General)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams who are removed from a roster at any point in the season may incur an additional \$500 fee. This is at ST's discretion. • This fee (along with any other outstanding fees) must be paid before the team or its continuing players can register for subsequent ST events.
6.	Appeal fee (Disciplinary Tribunal findings only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This fee must be paid to ST when an appeal against Disciplinary Tribunal findings is lodged. • The payment must be made within the timeframes provided for lodging appeals, for the appeal to be recognised. • The fee will only be refunded when TFA guidelines are met.

15.5. Schedule 5: Payment Methods

Method	How/Where
Cash, EFTPOS, Credit Card:	At the clubhouse ST prefers payments made during Business Hours, in bulk/multi-player payments. ST may refuse individual payments due to operational needs and takes no responsibility for the impact on the overall team fees due.
Cheque:	At the club house OR mail to ST
Direct Debit/ Online Bank Transfer:	Bank: ANZ BSB: 017-318 Account: 1852-26128 Use the Team Name and the Team Delegates surname as the Reference e.g. 'Bulldogs Pratt' Teams are asked to email ST after the transfer has been authorised.

15.6. Schedule 6: Summary of Managing Misconduct During Competitions

Descriptor:	ST Management Guide	Examples:
<p>1. Basic offences/ breaches:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed during games by referee/s • Management guide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - caution issued to the offending player, or in the case of an offending official, to the captain of the offending official's team - 10 m penalty tap awarded against the team of the offending player or official - forced substitution (the referee instructs the player to 'sub' off). - send the player from the field for a period of time - request the Team Captain to arrange for an offending official/spectator to leave the immediate playing area for the remainder of the game. This includes the authority to stop the game until the referee's request is met. <p>NOTE: Any player who is sent off twice in a single game and/or any player who is sent off three times in any one event (e.g Summer STL is an event) will receive an automatic two round suspension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor offences are managed on-field and written complaints are not usually required, unless requested by ST staff or Board members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical infringements of playing rules e.g. off-side, forward pass • Other infringements e.g. 'phantom' calls, repeated back chat • 'one-off' instances of argumentative, insulting, bullying/ antagonistic commentary • Participating in a manner actively discouraged by the referee because it is not in the spirit of the game e.g. repeated appeals for 'no touch'
<p>2. Serious offences/ breaches:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially managed during games by referees and may also involve a Disciplinary Tribunal • Management Guide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dismissal for the remainder of game. This can be a penalty awarded immediately or it may occur as a result of a player being sent from the field a second time in the same game. - dismissal for the remainder of the game automatically results in a 2 round suspension period, in player and official capacities. In this situation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ at the end of the game, the referee will advise the Team Captain of the automatic two round suspension ○ the referee/s lodges a written complaint (ST form preferred) as soon as possible after the game and on the same day as the dismissal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions taken on-field that put any participant at risk of injury e.g. tripping, pushing, interfering with play • Repeated instances of argumentative, insulting, offensive/ bullying, antagonistic, threatening commentary or behaviour directed toward any other participants.

Descriptor:	ST Management Guide	Examples:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ST is not compelled to form a Disciplinary Tribunal at this point but it will provide written confirmation of the suspension to the player or Team Delegate in line with the specifications set out the TFA Disciplinary Regulations • ST will form a Disciplinary Tribunal where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the referee's complaint includes a recommendation to increase the suspension period due to the nature of the offence - the player appeals his/her automatic suspension. • Even if the player appeals the automatic suspension period, they are not eligible to play or officiate at ST events until the automatic suspension period is served. 	
<p>3. Extreme offences/ breaches:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially managed during games by referees (usually by dismissal for the remainder of the game) and is finalised with a Disciplinary Tribunal or similar • ST may refer the matter directly to Tasmania Police ('Triple Zero' call) • The referee/s lodges a written complaint to provide details of the situation (ST form preferred), as soon as possible after the game and on the same day as the dismissal. • ST forms a Disciplinary Tribunal and uses processes and guidelines described in the TFA documentation the Disciplinary Tribunal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions taken on-field that puts any participant at risk of serious injury e.g. tripping, pushing, interfering with play • Offensive language or threats directed at any other participants • Making contact with a referee (AKA striking, touching) • Refusal of dismissal from playing area.

15.7. Schedule 7: ST Association Awards

Row	Award	Criteria	Conditions/Notes:	Recognition:
1.	<p>‘Best & Fairest’ Player</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Divisional award (all Divisions) Presented in Summer and Winter seasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer: announced at Summer Premiership presentations and presented at the ST association awards event Winter: Premiership presentations. <p>NOTE: The Best & Fairest Player award for the top level Men’s and Women’s competition in Summer season are titled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenny Geappen Medal (Women’s) Dale Langford Medal (Men’s). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ‘Best & Fairest’ award is determined through the accumulation of points awarded by game referee/s during premiership rounds only (not grading rounds). Points are awarded for the three players in each game who demonstrated the best: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> playing skills teamwork behaviours/Code of Conduct. The game result has no bearing on this determination. All qualities/criteria have equal weighting. Points are recorded on the Game Card: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 pts-Best & Fairest 2 pts-2nd Best and Fairest 1 pt-3rd Best and Fairest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of premiership rounds, the three highest scores, indicate the players that can be considered for the award. Usually it is awarded to the player with the highest score, noting the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If two or more players receive the same points for ‘Best and Fairest’, the award is shared. If a candidate has been penalised by an ST, State or national Disciplinary Tribunal they are ineligible to receive an ST award in the same season that the penalty was incurred, unless it was overturned following an appeal. At ST a tradition has been established to name these awards in honour of members who are historically linked with the division. The protocols for this are included in the ST General Management Standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are recognised publicly by ST receive an ST memento e.g. usually an engraved medallion and certificate award details are recorded in ST’s perpetual register. Players who were placed 2nd and 3rd are also announced at the Premiership Presentations (both seasons).

Row	Award	Criteria	Conditions/Notes:	Recognition:
2.	<p>Player of the Final</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Divisional award for Grand Final games Presented in Summer and Winter seasons Announced at Premiership presentations only. <p>NOTE: The Player of the Final award for the top level Men's competition in Summer season is titled the Sean Williams medal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'Player of the Final' is determined by the game referee, unless ST appoints other members for this. The game result has no bearing on this determination. Player of the Final is the player who demonstrates the highest standard of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - touch football skills - teamwork, and - knowledge and application of the playing rules, incl. misconduct. Criteria: equal weighting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The award is based on player performances only during the Grand Final game. The award may be shared by up to two players if the quality of their performance cannot be separated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winners are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognised publicly by ST - receive an ST memento e.g. usually a certificate - award details are recorded in ST's perpetual register.

Row	Award	Criteria	Conditions/Notes:	Recognition:
3.	Club Championships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented annually at the conclusion of the Summer season for the Summer season Announced at the Summer premiership presentations and presented at the ST association awards event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Club Championships is presented to the club with the highest aggregated points Points will be awarded as shown below: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Club must enter a minimum of five (5) teams to be eligible to win the Club Championship. Where clubs points are equal a count-back system will apply with the winner being the club with the highest division finishing position. In the event that points are still equal the award shall be shared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winners are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognised publicly by ST club details are engraved on a perpetual trophy ST provide a letter of recognition or similar to the club president for club records award details are recorded in ST's perpetual register.

3.1	CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS	Premiers	Runners Up	Finalist
	STL Division 1	5	3	2
	STL 15 & Under Division	4	3	2
	Other STL Divisions	3	2	1

Row	Award	Criteria	Conditions/Notes:	Recognition:
4.	<p>ST Coaches Award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented no more than annually, the award is determined by, and at the discretion of, the ST Board. If awarded, it is presented at the ST association awards event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This award is presented to a member/s who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is Level 1 accreditation minimum has consistently provided direct support to the development of coaching in ST for the last 12 months. Specific criteria include but are not limited to consideration of factors such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coaching at the ST sanctioned events e.g. State Cup, Challenge Cup Coaching of ST teams (this includes support at games e.g. a highly effective coach/ development of players, and player qualities including skill development, teamwork and behaviours/ Code of Conduct. NOTE: The first criteria is weighted more heavily/considered more important. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any member of the ST Board or the General Manager can recommend nominees and the award is determined by consensus. The General Manager may have the deciding vote if needed. The award may be shared if the quality of performances/contributions cannot be separated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are recognised publicly by ST receive an ST memento e.g. usually a trophy/ certificate/ letter of appreciation as appropriate, letters of recognition may also be sent club president or team delegate or sponsor award details are recorded in ST's perpetual register. Where ST provides for financial assistance for members to attend sanctioned events in its annual budget, recipients of this award receive up to 30% of the budgeted amount, if they are attend as a non-playing coach.

Row	Award	Criteria	Conditions/Notes:	Recognition:
5.	Referee of the Season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Referee of the Season is determined by the ST Board. It is presented in Summer and Winter seasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer: Presented at the ST association awards event. Winter: Presented at the Premiership presentations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This award is presented to the referee who has consistently demonstrated the highest quality refereeing during the season taking into consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reliability personal presentation and communication with players (may be evidenced through 'Referee of the Month' award or similar) number of matches completed badge level/technical expertise contribution to refereeing development. <p>NOTE: The weighting of these criteria is at ST's discretion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any member of the ST Board or the General Manager can recommend nominees and the award is determined by consensus. The General Manager may have the deciding vote if needed. The award may be shared by up to two referees if the quality of their performances cannot be separated. If a candidate has been penalised by an ST, State or national Disciplinary Tribunal, they are ineligible to receive an ST award in the same season that the penalty was incurred, unless it was overturned following an appeal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winners are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognised publicly by ST receive an ST memento e.g. usually an engraved medallion and certificate award details are recorded in ST's perpetual register. Where ST provides for financial assistance for members to attend sanctioned events in its annual budget, recipients of this award receive up to 30% of the budgeted amount, if they attend as a non-playing referee.
6.	Junior (Youth) Referee of the Season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Referee of the Season is determined by the ST Board. It is presented in Summer and Winter seasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer: Presented at the ST association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This award is presented to the junior member/s who has demonstrated the same qualities as the ST Referee of the Season. Candidates must be between 13-17 years at the time of the presentations, to be eligible for the award. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any member of the ST Board or the General Manager can recommend nominees and the award is determined by consensus. The General Manager may have the deciding vote if needed. The award may be shared by up to two junior/youth referees if the quality of their performances cannot be separated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winners are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognised publicly by ST receive an ST memento e.g. usually an engraved medallion and certificate as appropriate, letters of recognition may also be sent to their school principal or similar, club president award details are recorded

Row	Award	Criteria	Conditions/Notes:	Recognition:
	awards event. - Winter: Presented at the Premiership presentations.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a candidate has been penalised by an ST, State or national Disciplinary Tribunal, they are ineligible to receive an ST award in the same season that the penalty was incurred, unless it was overturned following an appeal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in ST's perpetual register. Where ST provides for financial assistance for members to attend sanctioned events in its annual budget, recipients of this award receive up to 30% of the budgeted amount, if they attend as a non-playing referee.
7.	Referee Incentive Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented no more than each season, the award is determined by, and at the discretion of, the ST Board. If presented, presentations are made as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer: Presented at the ST association awards event. Winter: Presented at the Premiership presentations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This award is presented to the referee/s who has demonstrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> significant potential for and/or improvement in refereeing substantial commitment to refereeing over the season i.e. reliability, number of matches. It may be awarded to a senior or junior/youth referee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any member of the ST Board or the General Manager can recommend nominees and the award is determined by consensus. The General Manager may have the deciding vote if needed. The award may be shared by up to two referees if the quality of their performances cannot be separated. If a candidate has been penalised by an ST, State or national Disciplinary Tribunal, they are ineligible to receive an ST award in the same season that the penalty was incurred, unless it was overturned following an appeal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winners are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognised publicly by ST receive an ST memento e.g. usually an engraved medallion and certificate award details are recorded in ST's perpetual register.

Row	Award	Criteria	Conditions/Notes:	Recognition:
8.	<p>Junior (Youth) Development Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented no more than annually, the award is determined by, and at the discretion of, the ST Board. If awarded, it is presented at the ST association awards event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This award is presented to the club/member/s who has consistently provided direct support to the development of junior/youth teams for ST over the last 12 months. This includes but is not limited to consideration of factors such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> number of teams and their coordination (this includes support at games e.g a highly effective coach/manager, uniforms and registration matters), and player qualities including basic skills, teamwork and behaviours/Code of Conduct. final placings of the team/s. NOTE: The first two criteria are weighted more heavily/considered more important. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any member of the ST Board or the General Manager can recommend nominees and the award is determined by consensus. The General Manager may have the deciding vote if needed. The award may be shared if the quality of performances/contributions cannot be separated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are recognised publicly by ST receive an ST memento e.g. usually a certificate/letter of appreciation as appropriate, letters of recognition may also be sent to the school principal or similar, and/or club president award details are recorded in ST's perpetual register. Where ST provides for financial assistance for members to attend sanctioned events in its annual budget, recipients of this award receive up to 30% of the budgeted amount, if they attend as an official for a junior ST and/or Tasmanian team.

Row	Award	Criteria	Conditions/Notes:	Recognition:
9.	ST Youth Achievement Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented no more than annually, the award is determined by, and at the discretion of, the ST Board. If awarded, it is presented at the ST association awards event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This award is presented to the member/s who is recognised as the most outstanding youth player, based on representative selections and duties for the last 12 months. Candidates must be between 13-17 years at the time of the presentations, to be eligible for the award. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any member of the ST Board or the General Manager can recommend nominees and the award is determined by consensus. The General Manager may have the deciding vote if needed. Input may also be invited from TFT. The award may be shared by up to two members if their performance cannot be separated. Equally the ST Board may agree that there are no suitable candidates in any one year. If a candidate has been penalised by an ST, State or national Disciplinary Tribunal, they are ineligible to receive an ST award in the same season that the penalty was incurred, unless it was overturned following an appeal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winners are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognised publicly by ST receive an ST memento e.g. usually a certificate/letter of appreciation as appropriate, letters of recognition may also be sent to their school principal or similar, club president award details are recorded in ST's perpetual register. Where ST provides for financial assistance for members to attend sanctioned events in its annual budget, recipients of this award receive up to 30% of the budgeted amount, if they are playing in it for ST and/or Tasmania.
10.	ST Member Achievement Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented no more than annually, the award is determined by, and at the discretion of, the ST Board. If awarded, it is presented at the ST association awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This award is presented to the member/s recognised as the most outstanding senior member based on representative selections and duties for any combination of playing, refereeing, coaching and/or selecting for the last 12 months. Candidates must be 18 years or over at the time of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any member of the ST Board or the General Manager can recommend nominees and the award is determined by consensus. The General Manager may have the deciding vote if needed Input may also be invited from TFT. The award may be shared by up to two members if their performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winners are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognised publicly by ST receive an ST memento e.g. an engraved medallion and certificate as appropriate, letters of recognition may also be sent to the TFT/TFA and club president award details are recorded

Row	Award	Criteria	Conditions/Notes:	Recognition:
	event.	presentations, to be eligible for the award.	<p>cannot be separated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equally the ST Board may agree that there are no suitable candidates in any one year. If a candidate has been penalised by an ST, State or national Disciplinary Tribunal, they are ineligible to receive an ST award in the same season that the penalty was incurred, unless it was overturned following an appeal. 	<p>in ST's perpetual register.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where ST provides for financial assistance for members to attend sanctioned events in its annual budget, recipients of this award receive up to 30% of the budgeted amount, if they are playing in it if they are playing in it for ST and/or Tasmania.
11.	<p>ST Association Merit Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formerly known as the Presidents Merit Award, in 2014-15, the ST Board has determined that ST members are to nominate/recommend the potential recipients. Presented no more than annually, the Association Merit Award is determined by ST members (ST General Manager facilitates) Presented at the ST association awards event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This award is presented to the member/s for outstanding contribution over the last 12 months or longer, assisting the Association to achieve its strategic goals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The award may be shared by up to two members if the quality of their performance cannot be separated. The ST Board retains a discretionary responsibility to not award this honour if the nominated member/s has been closely involved or directly responsible for breaching the TFA code of conduct. Further, if a candidate has been penalised by an ST, State or national Disciplinary Tribunal they are ineligible to receive an ST award in the same season that the penalty was incurred, unless it was overturned following an appeal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winners are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognised publicly - receive an ST memento e.g. usually a certificate/letter of appreciation award details are recorded in ST's perpetual register.

Row	Award	Criteria	Conditions/Notes:	Recognition:
12.	ST Life Membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented no more than annually, the award is determined by, and at the discretion of, the ST Board. If awarded, it is presented at the ST association awards event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This award is presented to the member/s recognised for long and diligent service to ST actively assisting it to achieve its vision and mission Members are considered eligible for consideration after a minimum of ten consecutive years of membership and usually only voluntary positions/contributions are considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to the ST Constitution Life membership may not be awarded every year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awardees are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognised publicly by ST - receive ST mementos e.g. an engraved medallion and certificate, ST shirt etc. - as appropriate, letters of recognition may also be sent to the TFT/TFA and club president - award details are recorded in ST's perpetual register - invited to participate in the ST association awards event, Grand Finals, other ST official events - advise/have input on selected matters at the invitation of the ST Board.