



Memo

Date: Wednesday, 12 June 2019
To: All NSWTA Affiliates and Members
From: Keith Lee – Events Coordinator
Subject: 2019-20 NSWTA General Conditions of Entry Update

The New South Wales Touch Association (NSWTA) wishes to advise all Affiliates and Members of the following important updates to the released 2019-20 NSWTA General Conditions of Entry.

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

Change 1 – Agreement to Enter NSWTA Events

Added into Section: 1 (Page 6)

To abide by the NSWTA General Conditions of Entry, each relevant event's Conditions of Entry documents and all NSWTA policies and bi-laws they are participating in.

To abide by any Licence regulations put in place by the NSWTA in relation to the organisation's brand.

That an appropriate penalty determined by the NSWTA will be incurred for failure to comply with any of the above items.

Rationale: To enforce the Conditions of Entry, policies, bi-laws and regulations related to all NSWTA events and brand and hold members and participants accountable for non-compliance.

Change 2 – Technical Development Plan

Added into Section: 2.2.5 (Page 7)

Develop a Technical Development Program. Affiliates undertake to run as a **minimum one (1) referee accreditation course per annum** for their domestic competition.

As part of the new State Technical Development Plan to aid affiliates with referee recruitment and retention at their Affiliate, all referees will be required to nominate their one (1) representative affiliate for the 2019-20 NSWTA event period **at the time of online registration**. Please check each event's Conditions of Entry for further Referee Nomination details.

Rationale: Following feedback received from the NSWTA Referees Panel and Affiliate Coordinators in relation to referee compliance before and during events, this clause has been introduced to assist with referee retention to represent Affiliates at NSWTA events.





Change 3 – Player Eligibility

Added into Section: 3.1.2 (Page 10)

NSWTA will only consider a player’s registration as valid from the date that is shown online within the Affiliate’s competition database.

All players who are defined as an interstate player and wishing to participate at NSWTA events must make themselves available for NSW selection. Refer to **Clause 3.1.1**.

Rationale: All players wishing to participate at NSWTA events must now be registered online in their weekly Affiliate competition. To minimise the cumbersome nature of eligibility matters, the existing “minimum of five Affiliate competition games” clause outlined in this section is only considered from the date displayed in the Affiliate’s competition database.

Change 4 – Junior Player Transfers

Added into Section: 3.1.18 (Page 13)

An Affiliate has a maximum allowance of five (5) transfer opportunities for Junior Players per gender per annum. Per annum period is defined as **1 July to 30 June** of the following year (i.e. for 2019-20 NSWTA Events, this is from 2019 Vawdon Cup to 2020 Junior State Cup inclusively).

Affiliates **must** submit their nominated Junior Player Transfer list to the NSWTA Events Team prior to each event entered.

Once an Affiliate utilises all five (5) per gender of their Junior Player transfer allowance, they will be unable to import additional Junior players regardless if their transfer player(s) returns to their Home Affiliate or changes to another Affiliate throughout the defined period.

Exemption requests will be considered in the case of an established family history/lineage to an Affiliate in line with the “long-term status” clause outlined in **Clause 3.3.1**.

Rationale: Following the introduction of the Junior Player Transfer clause in the 2018-19 events cycle, the clause has now been reviewed to increase the transfer allowance from three (3) players per gender per annum to five (5) players per gender per annum. In addition to this, exemptions due to family lineage to an Affiliate will also be inconsidered in line with the Long-Term Status clause.

Change 5 – Player Age Exemptions

Added into Section: 3.1.19 (Page 13)

There are to no special consideration requests considered for **players under/over the age required** for the division they are wishing to participate in. Eligible ages for all divisions within each tournament will be outlined in each event’s relevant Conditions of Entry.

Rationale: The majority of requests received in the 2018-19 events cycle were for Vawdon Cup Youth League and Opens events. As such, Youth League is now for ages 13-17 and Opens is 15 and above.



Change 6 – Player Clearance & Player Transfer Process

Added into Section: 3.3.1 (Page 15)

Player Clearance (Player Transfer Process) – Players wishing to transfer Affiliates between events will require clearance online via SportsTG/TFO submitted by their current Affiliate (Source Club), approved from NSWTA and accepted by their new Affiliate (Destination Club).

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

Change 7 – Residential Exemption

Added into Section: 3.3.1 (Page 15)

Residential exemption is only for:

- a) A country player who moves from one country town to another country town as long as this is outside their current Affiliate Cluster at a minimum 60 minutes in car travel time from previous residence to new residence as measured by GPS routing conducted by NSWTA.
- A country player that moves from the Country to the City or vice versa for educational purposes will receive an exemption where they may participate for the Affiliate in closest proximity to their residential address or their educational provider.
- Interstate player

Rationale: This definition has been amended to reflect contemporary player movements due to study or work purposes and allow for the opportunity to participate within their new residential area.

Change 8 – Player Points Value

Added into Section: 3.3.10 (Page 17)

Opens Players	2019	2018	2017	2016
Open NRL Premiership/Elite 8 Player		40Pts	30Pts	20Pts

Rationale: Player points values for the NRL Touch Premiership has been added in line with Elite 8 player points values (40 points for the most recent participation).

Players points values are now determined by the highest most recent level of representation via NSWTA event cycle (July 1 to June 30) rather than the calendar year (January 1 to December 31).

Change 9 – Referee Eligibility

Removed from Section: 3.6.5 (Page 20)

In extenuating circumstances the NSWTA may accept nominations from affiliates not utilising their own referees, but those from another affiliate. This will only be considered in line with the threshold level of referees required for the tournament and under the following guidelines.



- That while the rule states the referees must be participating on a affiliates park, if an affiliate cannot fulfil this, then as a minimum, 75% of their quota must be from their affiliate and they must provide a plan showing how they will address their deficiency, to which they would be given two years to satisfy.
- Nominations of interstate referees will incur a levy as set by the NSWTA.

Rationale: Under the new Technical Development Plan for referee development and retention (described in Change 2), referees will nominate their Home Affiliate when registering online for the event. Referees wishing to change Home/Long Term Affiliates will need approval from their Current Affiliate and NSWTA. This clause is outlined in greater detail within each event’s Conditions of Entry.

Change 10 – Uniform Quality

Added into Section: 4.1.1 (Page 21)

All uniform and uniform submissions **must comply** with any NSWTA Licencing Regulations that are in place for the event that Affiliates have entered. The NSWTA reserves the right to reject any design. If a design is rejected the Affiliate will need to submit a new design.

Official uniform items are determined as (but not limited to):

- Playing Shirt or Singlet;
- Playing Shorts or Tights;
- Socks;
- Hat;
- Team Management Polo Shirt;
- Team Management Shorts or Pants;
- Affiliate Jacket, Jumper or other off field items

Rationale: To promote the brands of Touch Football and NSWTA, under the new NSWTA Licencing Program, all Affiliate and Region playing uniforms will be required to display the “NRL Touch Football-NSW” logo. For more details on this, please visit: [NSWTA Licencing Program FAQ](#)

Change 11 – Uniform Compliance

Added into Section: 4.1.2 (Page 22)

If any Player, Coach, Manager, Official from an Affiliate is observed by a Tournament Official and deemed to be non-compliant for uniform requirements whilst participating, they will be requested to leave the field of player to meet compliance before return to participation. Notice to the Affiliate Coordinator and penalties may apply for further non-compliance.

Rationale: In the 2018-19 events cycle, multiple cases of non-compliance for uniforms were reported by NSWTA tournament officials across several tournaments with no immediate or formal penalties. To promote the professional image of NSWTA events, from 2019-20 onwards, non-compliant participants will be held accountable prior to returning to participate in that match or subsequent matches.



Change 12 – Use of NSWTA logos

Added into Section: 4.1.4 and 4.1.5 (Page 22)

Usage of NSWTA events logos & NSWTA Partners logos is encouraged. However, authorisation of any usage must be first obtained from NSWTA.

Usage of the NSWTA logo **must comply** with any NSWTA Licencing regulations that are in place for the event that affiliates have entered into.

Penalty: \$500 (GST exclusive) maximum per Entity

Rationale: These clauses outlines the approval required for NSWTA logo usage described in Change 10.

Change 13 – Withdrawing Teams

Added into Section: 8.1.2 (Page 25)

If an Affiliate enters a team(s) and subsequently withdraws that team(s) within 21 days prior to the commencement of the competition, they are liable for the full amount of player registration fees.

Rationale: Due to the close proximity of some events (in particular the Junior State Cup Conference Events) and the length of time undertaken to finalise nominations and prepare a draw, Affiliates will be restricted to withdrawing teams without financial penalty within 21 days prior instead of the previous 14 days prior.

Change 14 – Second Forfeit

Added into Section: 11.19.1 (Page 30)

The Affiliate **must** pay the NSWTA \$800 on the second occasion of a forfeit. This must be paid before any other team from their Affiliate being allowed to participate. \$200 of which will be paid to the Affiliate that has been inconvenienced.

If a team has two (2) forfeits within the same competition, they will be removed from the competition. Should a team wish to remain in the competition, they must also provide an extensive written explanation to NSWTA detailing reasons why.

Rationale: If team performs a second forfeit within the same competition, they will incur the same penalties regardless of NSWTA being notified or non-notified.

Change 15 – Cross Pool Determination

Added into Section: 11.21.7 (Page 30)

For some events, teams may be split into uneven pools (i.e. Pool A has 7 teams, Pool B has 6 teams and Pool C has 6 teams).



The **Points Per Average** system may be used to determine which team(s) will be progressing to and within the Finals Series of the relevant tournament.

- a) **Points Per Average** (Points Per Average is determined by the total competition points accrued divided by amount of games played); then
- b) **Differences and Percentages**; then
- c) **Ladder Adjustments**; then
- d) **Drop Off**

Rationale: For divisions that have multiple pools with an uneven amount of teams in each pool (i.e. some pools have a bye round), this procedure will be used to determine which teams will progress to the next stage of the relevant competition.

Change 16 – Cold Weather Policy

Added into Section: 11.27.3 (Page 33)

In the event that games need to be rescheduled due to extreme cold weather, please refer to **Clause 11.27.1 (Weather Affected Matches)**.

Local weather reports will be monitored when severe weather is forecast. If the temperature drops below 8 degrees and ground is deemed to be excessively slippery from frost, snow, rain or mud, it is at the discretion of the NSWTA to determine whether play should be suspended or postponed until the conditions improve.

For more information, please view [TFA Cold Weather Policy](#)

Rationale: Due to some events now occurring in areas of the state where extreme cold weather may impact matches, NSWTA has adopted the existing Cold Weather Policy that TFA has.

Change 17 – Rules

Added into Section: 12.1.1 (Page 34)

The NSWTA conduct events under the auspices of the **Touch Football Australia 7th Edition** rule book, the General Conditions of Entry as well as that event's Conditions of Entry. The NSWTA will review the **Touch Football Australia 8th Edition** rule book for adoption when it is completed.

Rationale: As the TFA 8th Edition rule book is still under review, NSWTA will continue to utilise the TFA 7th Edition rule book with NSWTA specific rules (e.g. drop off procedure, zero on intercepts) until such time that the TFA 8th Edition rulebook is finalised and adopted.

Questions?

For further information or clarification on the [2018-19 General Conditions of Entry](#), please contact NSWTA Events Coordinator Keith Lee via keith.lee@nswtouch.com.au.