



## Memo

Date: Tuesday, 6th June 2023  
To: All NSWTA Affiliates and Members  
From: Nathan Loveday- NSWTA Events Coordinator  
Subject: 2023-24 NSWTA General Conditions of Entry Update

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The New South Wales Touch Association (NSWTA) wishes to advise all Affiliates and Members of the following important updates to the released 2023-24 NSWTA General Conditions of Entry (COE).

These COE will be in place for the NSWTA 2023-24 Representative season.

There have been a number of updates within the Conditions which are explained in full detail below.

All Affiliate Coordinators should be aware of the changes, the COE and ensure the appropriate members of their Affiliate are actively involved. Ignorance of the regulations will not be considered as a defense for any breaches.

**A registration link has been emailed to ALL Affiliate Coordinators from last year regarding a COE Meeting to take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 6:30 pm.**

### Change 1 – Definitions

#### **Invitational Team additions Added into Section: 1 G (Page 6)**

*Any domestic invitational team requires State endorsement and must be at the level identified in Clause I. Any international team requires home country and FIT endorsement.*

**Rationale:** To provide clarity on the process for Domestic and International invitational teams to be able to be considered for NSWTA events.

### Change 2 – Definitions

#### **RETURNING PLAYER Added into Section: 1 O (Page 7)**

*A player who is currently domiciled either interstate or intrastate, being a current financial member of Touch Football Australia (TFA) participating in an Affiliated competition over 100km beyond the Sydney basin from or over 100km in regional NSW, from their home or long-term affiliate, is able to represent under this rule. The player must agree to make themselves available as a first choice for NSWTA State of Origin teams. Failure to do so would invoke Clause 2.1.9 of the General Conditions.*





**Rationale:** Each year the NSWTA is inundated with requests for exemptions for long-serving NSWTA representatives, who have moved away from their home or long-term Affiliate to be able to return and play. The previous regulations required that the individuals had to be registered and participating in the said affiliate. This would result in some affiliates providing false information, the NSWTA having to request physical evidence, and multiple requests for exemptions in the lead-up to events.

In consultation with the NSWTA High Performance Unit, it was agreed and supported that should a long-serving NSWTA representative meet the stated criteria, then they should be allowed to return to their home or long-term affiliate.

The introduction of the national membership model enables this process to proceed. The regulation mirrors the Home Region regulation for national events and therefore allows for a consistent approach.

### Change 3 – Definitions

#### **Tier 1 State/International (P) and Tier 2 State/International (Q) Added into Section: 1 P + Q (Page 7)**

*Tier 1 State is either NSWTA or Queensland Touch Football*

*Tier 1 International is either Australia or New Zealand*

*Tier 2 State is any state or territory affiliated with TFA other than NSWTA or Queensland Touch Football*

*Tier 2 International is any country affiliated with the Federation of International Touch other than Australia or New Zealand*

**Rationale:** To distinguish and give clarity over Tier 1 and Tier 2 in regard to requests to participate and the player points system.

### Change 4 – Officials and Referees

#### **Adjustments made in Section: 2.4.6 (Page 12)**

*Whilst in attendance at any venue, Officials and Referees are to be correctly attired and wear official uniforms supplied by the Affiliate, Region, NSWTA, and or TFA as requested by NSWTA.*

*Any Referee running water or acting as official scorekeeper MUST be attired in official uniform supplied by NSWTA and or TFA as requested by NSWTA.*

**Rationale:** Give a clear direction to officials and referees regarding uniform requirements and standards at NSWTA events. Will also clearly identify to Event staff the correct persons allowed onto the playing area.

### Change 5 – Officials and Referees

#### **Adjustments made in Section: 2.4.12 (Page 12)**

*Referees must be registered and participating with your Affiliate for Eligibility and Insurance purposes and must be regularly officiating at your Affiliate in the Current Competition or Previous Competition.*

*Be aware of and abide by the 5-strike policy as introduced by NSWTA in February 2023.*

*Affiliates will have a maximum limit of 5 points over a 3-year period. Affiliates will receive 1 point per Referee short for NSWTA events. Should all 5 points be exhausted, the affiliate will be placed under a limit on the number of teams they can enter into the next NSWTA event.*



**Rationale:** The Inclusion of the 5-strike policy is to provide a level of flexibility to affiliates for referee compliance while still maintaining a focus on Affiliates to meet compliance.

## Change 6 - Requirements

### **Player Eligibility adjustments made to 3.1.1 (Page 13)**

*Where a participant/s resides at a residential address in the view of the NSWTA, outside a reasonable geographical location to the domestic competition, Interstate, Interregional, or Intraregional, the required proof will be:*

- *the sign-on sheet for that day of competition and a photo of the participant at the facility holding that day's paper and both to be forwarded to the **NSWTA events team on that day of play.***

**Rationale:** There have been many questionable player movements where Affiliates have claimed individuals to be registered and participating in the Affiliate that they wish to represent. On many occasions, the NSWTA has been asked to accept that participants are driving up to three hours in both directions to play a game. The provision of physical evidence on the day of play will alleviate all doubt and ensure compliance.

## Change 7 – Requirements

### **Player Pool from Developing States 3.1.7 (page 14)**

*Consideration may be given to players from developing states to enter the Players Pool on written application to the Events Team. This must be received at least three weeks prior to the Event and will only be considered with endorsement from the player's state/national governing body.*

**Rationale:** Changed from 6 weeks to 3 weeks given trends from the past event cycle.

## Change 8 – Requirements

### **Player Eligibility Addition 3.1.9 (Page 16)**

*Where a player meets the definition outlined in Clause O of these Conditions of Entry, the affiliate may apply for a player to be granted Return Player status.*

*The rule is in place to recognise players who have moved a significant distance from their home or long-term affiliate and have continued supporting the NSWTA events and state teams.*

*Return Player status is provided along the lines of the existing Country residential exemption clause and looks to recognise those players who have a long history of service in representing the NSWTA but may now have moved interstate or intrastate (more than 100km as described in Definition O).*

*Any player who is granted returning player status will be eligible to return to their home affiliate or long-term affiliate and be deemed eligible regardless of being registered and participating at that affiliate.*



To be eligible, the following must be satisfied;

- Is a financial member of a TFA Affiliated competition.
- Must be registered and participating in an affiliated competition and meet the minimum game requirement of the NSWTA General Conditions as described in Clauses 3.1.2 and 3.13.
- Must be registered and participating in an affiliated competition, meeting the eligible Season requirement of the NSWTA competition they wish to participate in.
- Affiliates must lodge their application to the NSWTA by the stated date for that competition so that status eligibility checks can be completed, verified, and approved.
- They must agree to make themselves available as a first choice for NSWTA State of Origin teams. Failure to do so would invoke Clause 2.1.9 of the General Conditions.
- Must have only represented NSWTA in Tier 1 competition.
- Have represented NSWTA but also, due to their domicile, a Tier 2 State.

**NB1** – Where a player's Home or Long-Term affiliate no longer has a team in the division that they are eligible for, and they still wish to participate in NSWTA events for State representation eligibility, that player can make an application to the NSWTA for exemption under this clause. If granted, the NSWTA will place the player where best suited for the competition.

**NB2**- Where a player had previously moved to a Tier 1 state, and due to that domicile chose to represent that Tier 1 state, pre-July 1, 2023, an application may be made and considered providing the player meets the criteria above with special reference to Clause 2.1.9.

**Rationale:** These are the criteria referenced in **Change 2- Definitions, Return Player**. It ensures that while recognising long-term NSWTA players, it also ensures that, should they wish to avail themselves of this regulation that they remain tied to NSWTA.

## Change 9 – Requirements

**Developing States/Countries Adjusted in Section: 3.1.10 (Page 24)**

*The word Developing changes to Tier within the player points section.*

**Rationale:** To align with changes in terminology.

## Change 10 – Uniforms

**Affiliate Hat wording Adjusted in Section: 4.1 (Page 27)**

*The approved Affiliate Hat/s are the only headwear to be worn after approval of the uniform submission.*

**Rationale:** To specify to affiliates that ONLY approved Hat/s can be worn at NSWTA events. This includes straw hats with logos which are now a part of some officials' uniforms at events.



## Change 11 – Late Entry and Refunds

### **Section: 8.1.2 (Page 31)**

*If an Affiliate enters a team(s) and subsequently withdraws that team(s) post the release of the draft draw, they are liable for the full amount of player registration fees.*

**N.B.** *The NSWTA Policy is not to release draws until confirmation of all entries has been completed. Therefore, where an Affiliate is late with their nominations, this will have an effect on the draw being published for all Affiliates.*

**Rationale:** To give a clear deadline regarding when a club becomes liable for teams that are withdrawn late

## Change 12– Requirements

### **Substitution and Interchange area Section 12.3.2 additional information added**

*four (4) team management officials (made up of 3 Accredited coaches and 1 manager)*

**Rationale:** To specify and ensure the correctly accredited officials are listed in the Condition of Entry for clarity to affiliates.

## **Questions?**

For further information or clarification on the [2023/24 General Conditions of Entry](#), please contact NSWTA Events Coordinator Nathan Loveday