



## BUSSELTON TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION PLAYING RULES AND BYLAWS

1. The Busselton Touch Football Association (BTFA) is affiliated with Touch Football Australia (TFA) and Touch Football WA (TFWA) and regulations set by these bodies will be enforced. In addition, the following rules and by-laws apply at Busselton Touch Football Association (BTFA).
2. Should a situation arise that is either not covered under the current by-laws, or requires an exemption from these by-laws, the BTFA Management Committee has the authority to make a final decision concerning the situation, in the best interests of the Association and its members.

### TEAM NOMINATIONS

3. Nomination of teams must be concluded before the commencement of each season utilising the online service provided by TFA (MySideline). Teams must complete the online nomination form, including the contact details of a nominated person as the team's primary contact for BTFA.

### COMPETITION FEES

4. BTFA registration fees will be determined prior to the start of each season by BTFA Management Committee.

### PLAYER REGISTRATION

5. To be eligible to participate in a BTFA competition, all players must have an active player registration for that season.
6. All players must individually register online and pay relevant registration fees via the 'MySideline' online system.
7. Players may register for one (1) BTFA team only, per competition.
8. BTFA will be the sole adjudicator on the eligibility of players to participate in a BTFA competition.

## COMPETITION STRUCTURE

9. Prior to start of each season, the BFTA Management Committee will determine a competition structure based on the number of team nominations, team preferences and the perceived experience and skill level of each team.
10. The competition structure may include various grades i.e. A,B or C grades and various formats including Men's, Women's, Mixed or Junior formats. All divisions and formats will be played in accordance with official TFA 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Rules unless otherwise specified in these by-laws.
11. Competition points will be awarded as follows:
  - WIN = 3 Points
  - LOSS = 1 Point
  - DRAW = 2 Points
  - BYE = 3 Points
  - FORFEIT WIN = 3 Points (with a win score of 5 tries)
  - FORFEIT LOSS = 0 Points (with a loss score of 0 tries)

## MIXED FORMAT COMPETITIONS

12. In BFTA Mixed format competitions, the maximum number of males allowed on the Field of Play is three (3). The minimum male requirement is one (1) and the minimum female requirement is one (1).

## TEAM COMPOSITION

13. There is no limit to the number of player's that may be registered to a team, however a maximum of 14 players are permitted to play in any competition game. If more than 14 registered players are present at a competition game, those players not playing are to have their playing uniform covered, and names removed from the scorecard.
14. To be eligible to play in any finals series games, a player must have played a minimum of 4 games during the competition rounds, unless there has been extenuating circumstances (injury etc), upon which the BTFA Committee will decide the eligibility of the player in question.
15. Junior players must be aged at least 12 years old to participate in any Men's, Women's or Mixed format match.

To participate in any A-Grade Men's, Women's or Mixed format match, a junior player must be aged 15 years or over, unless specific exemption to play in A-grade has been sought and approved by the BTFA Management Committee.

## TEAM UNIFORMS

16. All players must be in team uniform by the commencement of Round 2. Correct team uniforms are considered to be similarly coloured tops with clear contrasting numbers displayed on the back.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY:** From round 3 onwards, players without similarly coloured tops and/or without numbers, will be deemed to be out of uniform and may not be permitted to take the field.

17. All players must wear appropriate covered footwear. Shoes with screw-in studs or cleats are not to be worn by any player. Bare feet are not permitted.

Players are not to participate in any match wearing any item of jewellery, chain, identification band/bracelet or similar item that maybe a hazard to the wearer or to other players. Any jewellery or other items that cannot be removed are to be taped to the satisfaction of the Referee.

Sport monitoring equipment and medical supports such as knee or ankle braces may be worn provided, at the discretion of the referee, they are not dangerous.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY:** Offending player will not be permitted to take the field.

### **FILL-IN PLAYERS**

18. To minimise match forfeits and excessive player fatigue during matches, when for unforeseen circumstances insufficient regular players are available at the commencement of a BTFA fixtured game, a team is permitted to utilise fill-in players, strictly in accordance with these by-laws.

The use of fill-in (or ring-in) players during regular season matches, is generally not encouraged and all teams are expected to have sufficiently registered regular players (both male and female) to minimise reliance on fill-in players.

It is the responsibility of each team to familiarise themselves with, and abide by, the following rules concerning fill-in players

#### **When Can Fill-in Players Be Used**

19. At the commencement of a regular season game, if a team has less than 7 regular players (6 on-field and 1 sub) available to take the field, fill-in players may be utilised. A maximum of 2 fill-in players may be utilised by a team in any given match.
20. Fill-in players are only permitted in regular season games. Fill-in players are not permitted for any finals matches, at any stage of the season.
21. Any fill-in player must hold an active TFA registration for the current season and must be registered to a BTFA team in the same or lower division. Fill-in players registered to a BTFA team playing in a higher grade are not permitted. Any player who is dual registered to more than one team, is not permitted to act as a fill-in player for a third team

#### **Procedure For Using Fill-in Players**

22. Prior to the commencement of the match, any team wishing to utilise fill-in players must write the names of all fill-in players on the match card in the 'fill-ins' section and advise the referee and opposing team captain, of the presence of fill-in players.

Fill-in players must not take the field unless their names were entered on the match card in the 'fill-in' section, prior to the match commencing

23. During the match, any team utilising fill-in players must monitor the late arrival of any regular team players to ensure that if a regular team player arrives after the start of play bringing the total number of available players (including fill-in players) to more than 7, the regular team player immediately replaces a fill-in player to ensure the total number of players (including fill-in players) does not exceed 7
24. A fill-in player replaced by the late arrival of a regular team player, may no longer participate in the match.
25. A fill-in player may not join a match in the second half, if they have not taken the field in the first half.
26. Neither an opposing team captain nor referee, may grant permission for a team to utilise a fill-in player in contradiction to these by-laws.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY:** Any team found to have a utilised a fill-in player in breach of these by-laws shall forfeit the match and the result will be recorded as a victory by forfeit to the non-offending team.

#### **TEAM DELEGATE REFEREES**

27. All teams will be required to supply a minimum of one team delegate referee when rostered to do so. This will usually be one delegate referee from each team each week. Delegate referees are to be available for their allocated timeslot. A delegate referee will never be rostered on at the same time as their team is rostered to play. An individual team may arrange to swap delegate duty with another team or find a suitable fill in for their allocated timeslot. Delegate referees do not necessarily have to be from/play for the allocated team as long as the rostered team organises and nominates them. Team nominations for delegate referee must be communicated to the Referee Co-ordinator each week.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY:** If a team does not provide a delegate referee for any reason twice during the season when rostered to do so, they may be docked 3 points. Continual refusal to supply a delegate referee may result in a team being asked to show cause why they should not be suspended from the competition.

#### **MATCH FORFEITS**

28. Teams who are unable to field a team for a scheduled match, should notify the BTFA committee two or more days prior to the commencement of the game.

#### **TEAM MANAGER MEETINGS**

29. The BTFA Management Committee may schedule Team Manager meetings prior to, and during each season. A minimum of one member from each team must be in attendance for each meeting.

30. BTFA will update these by-laws as necessary. Notice of changes to the bylaws will be given at the Meetings and emailed out to primary team contacts.