

BMTA General Conditions of Entry – 2024

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
1.1 Purpose	3
1.2 Application of Competition Conditions	3
2. Competition Structures and Formats	3
2.1 Competition Terminology	3
2.2 Age/Gender Restrictions and Requirements	4
2.3 Competition Points and Ladders	4
2.4 Finals Format	5
2.5 Modified Rules for Under 7 and 9 Divisions	5
3. Commencement of the Competition	5
3.1 Nominations	5
3.2 Team Fees and Deadlines	6
3.3 Competition Draw and Regrading Process	6
3.4 Round Cancellations	7
3.5 Team Uniform and Playing Attire	7
4. Player Registration and Finals Eligibility	8
4.1 Player Registration	8
4.2 Playing in Multiple Teams	8
4.3 Finals Eligibility	8
4.4 Exemptions	9
5. Competition Requirements	9
5.1 Match Ball	9
5.2 Referees and Disciplinary Tribunals	9
6. Withdrawals, Forfeits and Disqualifications	10
6.1 Withdrawals	10
6.2 Late Starts, Forfeits or Interrupted Games	10
7. Complaints and Score Disputes	11
8.1 Complaints	11
8.2 Score Disputes	11

8. General Regulations and Policies..... 11

8.1 Team Delegates.....11

8.2 Medical and Insurance.....11

8.2 Other Policies12

8.3 Force Majeure.....12

8.4 Supervision of Underage Players13

8.5 Access to Fields13

8.6 Use of Images.....13

8.7 COVID-19 Regulations.....13

9. Appendix 14

9.1 Individual Competitions Conditions of Entry14

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The BMTA General Conditions of Entry document details rules and regulations which apply across all BMTA competitions in addition to the individual competitions [Conditions of Entry documents](#) which detail specific rules and regulations for each individual BMTA competition and can be found on the BMTA website.

1.2 Application of Competition Conditions

Where there is a difference between the BMTA General Conditions of Entry and individual competitions [Conditions of Entry documents](#), the individual Conditions of Entry document shall apply.

All BMTA competitions will be played under the Touch Football Australia (TFA) 8th edition playing rules, however if there is a difference between the TFA 8th edition playing rules and the BMTA General Conditions of Entry or an individual competition [Conditions of Entry document](#), the BMTA Conditions of Entry rules shall apply.

Any rule changes made throughout a season will be communicated to team delegates and officials prior to their implementation.

2. Competition Structures and Formats

2.1 Competition Terminology

For the purposes of BMTA Conditions of Entry documents the following definitions shall apply:

Competition Type: Is the term used to differentiate between the different competitions for example: Men's, Junior Girls, Men's 30s and Junior Mixed etc.

Age Group: Is the term used to differentiate between the different ages of players permitted to play within a competition which include, Under 9's, Under 11's, 13's, 15's, Opens, Men's 30s.

Grade: Is the term used to differentiate between the different standards of teams within a certain competition type. These include A Grade, B Grade, C, D etc.

Division: Is the unique term used to describe a specific competition on any given night and is the combination of a competition type and grade. E.g Women's A, Junior Boys 11C etc.

Club: Is the term used to describe an approved entity nominating a collective of teams playing under the same name and uniform in BMTA competitions.

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Team/Club Delegate: Is the term used for the person responsible for each team playing in BMTA competitions, the delegate for each team will be designated as part of the team nomination process outlined in [Section 3.1](#) and will assume all responsibilities outlined in the relevant individual competitions [Conditions of Entry document](#).

2.2 Age/Gender Restrictions and Requirements

It is the responsibility of the team or club delegate to ensure all players meet the age requirements as set out in the individual competitions [Conditions of Entry document](#) before they play in the division. BMTA may request proof of age documentation which may include a birth certificate, current passport, current school identification and/or driver's license. Failure to supply such evidence may result in penalties including forfeiture of points or disqualification from the competition at the discretion of the Competitions Manager.

As per the [TFA Participation Guidelines for the Inclusion of Transgender and Gender Diverse People](#), an individual can participate in the competition/category which best reflects their gender identity.

In any other circumstances, including transgender or non-binary participation in BMTA competitions, BMTA will refer to the [TFA Policy](#) regarding player eligibility.

2.3 Competition Points and Ladders

The competition will be judged on a points system. Competition points are awarded as follows:

- Win 3 points
- Bye 2 points
- Loss 1 point
- Draw 2 points
- Washout or Cancellation 2 points
- Loss by Forfeit (notice before 3pm) 0 points
- Loss by Forfeit (notice after 3pm) -1 point
- Loss by Forfeit (no notice) -3 points

Teams involved in a forfeit result will have the match score recorded as 5-0 in favor of the team who did not forfeit and will receive the appropriate competition points as outlined above.

Teams who enter the competition late will be awarded 1 competition point for each round they did not play.

2.4 Finals Format

Teams placing the top 4 ladder places in each division after the final round game, will take place in their divisions final's series as outlined below.

Finals Round 1: Semi Final 1 (1st vs 4th) and Semi Final 2 (2nd vs 3rd)

Finals Round 2: Grand Final (Winner of SF1 v Winner of SF2)

BMTA reserves the right to change the finals format if required due to field availability, wet weather or any other constraint.

Ladder positions for the finals will be determined by:

- Teams with the highest number of competition points at the completion of round games
- If equal – Highest differential (For and against)
- If equal – Highest percentage
- If equal – Winner of Round Game (If equal, highest differential and percentage will be used)
- If equal – Most Try's Scored
- If equal – Any other method as determined by the Competitions Coordinator

All players playing in the finals series must qualify under Finals Eligibility guidelines outlined in [Section 4.3](#).

Drop Offs will be played for any finals matches where the score is tied at full time.

2.5 Modified Rules for Under 7 and 9 Divisions

All divisions in Under 7 and 9 age group will play with slightly modified rules as per below:

- No more than 5 players on the field at once
- Game is played on half a normal field
- Acting Half cannot run with the ball
- Defenders cannot move forward until the attacking first receiver has caught the ball from the acting half
- Coaches are permitted on field for verbal assistance only, they must not directly interfere with play

3. Commencement of the Competition

3.1 Nominations

All team and club nominations must be done in accordance with the [BMTA Team Nomination Process](#) and be completed within the nomination deadlines detailed in the individual competition [Conditions of Entry documents](#).

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Late nominations will only be accepted at the discretion of the Competition Manager and will be dependent on teams already nominated. Discounts will not be given for late nominations.

Team names deemed to be offensive or in poor taste will be rejected. Teams in the same competition must have different names. A team proposing a team name that has already been used, will be asked to select an alternative. BMTA may hold team names for up to 1 year for long-standing teams intending to renominate.

BMTA has the right to refuse any team nomination at its absolute discretion.

3.2 Team Fees and Deadlines

Team deposit and full fee deadlines will be set out in each individual [Conditions of Entry document](#). Teams will not be put into the draw or permitted to play unless the team deposit has been paid as a part of the nomination process. Teams who have not paid their full team fees by the deadline specified in the individual competitions [Conditions of Entry document](#) will be deemed unfinancial and will be penalised and eventually removed from the competition at the discretion of the Competitions Manager.

All players within the unfinancial team will be regarded as being unfinancial and uninsured until all fees are paid. As a result of being classified as an unfinancial player they are ineligible to compete in any TFA affiliated competition until all outstanding debts are paid.

Unfinancial teams will have their details forwarded to a nominated Debt Collecting Agency, and a 30% collection charge will be added to the already outstanding balance.

3.3 Competition Draw and Regrading Process

Team delegates may select their preferred grade when nominating their teams, delegates should make every effort to select the appropriate division based on the ability and experience of their team. BMTA reserves the right to place any team in any division.

Each BMTA competition will have a regrading period at the start of the season as set out in each individual competitions [Conditions of Entry document](#), the draw for the grading rounds will be published in advance of Round 1.

Following the completion of the last grading round, BMTA will formally review all results and ladders and regrade any teams as deemed appropriate. Regrading will be based primarily on results and competition balance, as opposed to individual requests. Where a team wishes to make a grading request, they should email the Competitions Manager immediately following the final grading round.

The full season draw will be released following the completion of the regrading process. In the interest of fair competition, BMTA reserves the right to, at any point during the season regrade a team, in consultation with the team concerned.

3.4 Round Cancellations

In any situation where BMTA deems its fields, facility or competitions to be unsafe or unsuitable for play, BMTA may cancel a round. Each competition will have a make-up round scheduled. Additionally, BMTA may adjust competition lengths, dates or times as deemed necessary by the Competition Manager.

BMTA will use the [TFA Extreme Weather Guidelines](#) in the case of Hot Weather, Wet Weather and Storms.

Where rounds are cancelled and unable to be replayed, BMTA is not obligated to refund any team or individual as per [Section 8.3](#).

3.5 Team Uniform and Playing Attire

Each team entering BMTA competitions is required to wear a uniform. No person, including opposing team captains or a referee may waive the requirement for players to comply with the player uniform regulations set out within these regulations.

Team playing shirts/singlets/jerseys must comply with the following:

- Each player must wear a uniform representative of his/her team.
- No uniforms are permitted to be predominately white or pink – as to avoid clashing with the referee uniform.
- Playing shirts must bear an exclusive number which must be:
 - At least 15cm in height
 - Placed on the rear of the jersey
 - In a contrasting colour to the colour of the team playing shirts
 - Legible to a referee
 - No more than 2 digits

Numbers cannot be temporarily taped to shirts, taped on or drawn on.

From the start of Round 1 players without correct playing top may hire a bib from BMTA Night Admin to permit them to play. The hire of bibs will cost \$10 (\$5 will refunded to the player after return of bib to night admin).

Teams are not required to wear matching shorts, socks or hats (except for [Metro Cup](#)), the only other clothing regulations are details below:

- A player must wear approved sports shoes at all times whilst on the field during a competition game, boots with screw-in studs are not permitted
- A referee may refuse to allow a player to wear the shoes they are wearing if the referee considers the shoes put the safety of players at risk
- All players must remove all jewelry prior to the game, including Fit Bits/elastic Wrist Bands etc. If it cannot be removed, it must be taped
- All fingernails must be kept short and/or must be taped

4. Player Registration and Finals Eligibility

4.1 Player Registration

All players must be registered to their team before they play their first game of the season. Players may join a team and register up until the registration deadline for the competition which is set out in the individual competitions [Conditions of Entry documents](#). Teams may have an unlimited number of registered players, but can only have 14 players take part in any particular game.

Players who take the field without being registered are not covered under the Touch Football Australia National Insurance Scheme and take the field at their own risk. It is the responsibility of the Team Delegate to ensure all players are registered prior to taking the field.

Players who are not registered before the registration deadline will not be eligible for finals.

4.2 Playing in Multiple Teams

Each BMTA competition type will have specific rules around players playing in multiple teams, rules for each competition can be found in the individual competitions [Conditions of Entry document](#).

Where a team is found to be in breach of these rules, the teams involved may have competition points deducted, be forfeited from a match or have other penalties imposed as determined by the Competition Manager. Individual players found breaching these rules may also have penalties imposed, including bans from competitions and other penalties as determined by the Competition Manager.

4.3 Finals Eligibility

Only registered players will be eligible for finals, fill ins are not permitted to play finals even if they have filled in regularly throughout the season.

Where teams are found to be registering players without intending for them to have a regular and genuine playing involvement throughout the majority of the season, penalties may be applied against the team or individual players as determined by the Competitions Manager.

All players are required to sign on for finals matches and must show photo ID.

4.4 Exemptions

Dispensation for finals eligibility may be granted for a player. The Team Delegate must submit a written application to the Competitions Manager to have dispensation considered.

Dispensation for finals eligibility, due to injury through the season or a player leaving the team due to an exceptional circumstance, may be granted for a replacement player. Applications should include a medical certificate or statement of declaration from the injured player.

5. Competition Requirements

5.1 Match Ball

All games should be played with a regulation touch football match ball, teams are responsible for providing match balls for each game. Teams may purchase match balls from the BMTA administration desk.

Under 7, 9 and 11 age groups will play with a size 4 Junior Ball, all other competitions will be play a full size 5 adult ball.

5.2 Referees and Disciplinary Tribunals

The BMTA Referees Manager will allocate at least 1 referee to each competition game.

Appointed referees are the sole people who have the power to discipline a player, official or spectator during a game. A referee may discipline a player by:

- A warning
- A direction to the player to substitute (forced sub)
- A direction to the player to leave the field for a Period of Time (sin bin)
- A direction to the player to leave the field for the remainder of the game (send-off).

Any Participant who is sent from the field for the remainder of the game will receive an automatic 2 match suspension unless the Disciplinary Tribunal considers further action is warranted.

Where the BMTA Disciplinary Tribunal determines a hearing is necessary, all provisions of the [TFA Disciplinary Regulations Manual](#) shall apply.

6. Withdrawals, Forfeits and Disqualifications

6.1 Withdrawals

Where a team is disqualified or withdrawn from competition, after final copies of the draw have been completed, all registration fees and bonds received will be retained by BMTA.

Any team that withdraws on or after the first night of competition are liable to pay the full balance of team fees owing.

If a team is withdrawn from the competition through choice or expulsion, the Competitions Manager may adjust the ladder for the competition to reflect a bye for the other teams, as to not disadvantage the ladder points and positions.

6.2 Late Starts, Forfeits or Interrupted Games

A minimum 4 players per team are required to start a game. If a team is not ready to take the field within 5 minutes after the siren signaling the start of the game, the game is to be declared a forfeit in favour of the team which is present.

Any team that forfeits without notice, in addition to the loss of competition points, may be fined \$50. If the team repeatedly forfeits, they may be removed from the competition at the discretion of BMTA.

In the event of a power failure, washout or other circumstance where games that have commenced cannot be completed, the following will apply:

- Prior to half time (first half) – the result will be declared void and the game will either be replayed or declared a cancelled game
- After half time – the score at the time of the termination of play will stand.
- Where a disruption is temporary, the evenings schedule will continue where practical.
- In the situation where a cancellation has prevented a complete round, teams that were unable to play their scheduled games may be awarded 2 points.

7. Complaints and Score Disputes

8.1 Complaints

A Team Delegate may lodge a formal complaint on behalf on their team with the Competition Manager, formal complaints must be made in writing and:

- Reference the specific rule which the delegate believes has been breached
- Include supporting evidence relevant to the complaint
- Be submitted within 48 hours of the incident occurring (although they should be lodged earlier if practical)
- Include their desired remedy

Team Delegates may also make informal complaints or queries to BMTA staff at any time.

8.2 Score Disputes

A Team Delegate may lodge a score dispute on behalf of their team with BMTA Competitions Staff following a match. Score Disputes must be lodged within 30 minutes of the completion of the match.

The game result of a competition game in which a protest has been lodged may be upheld, varied or declared void at the discretion of BMTA.

8. General Regulations and Policies

8.1 Team Delegates

In accordance with Clause 9 of the BMTA Constitution, the person who nominates the team into the competition will be considered the Team Delegate. Nominations will only be accepted in accordance with the approved [BMTA Team Nomination process](#).

Team Delegates must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and will be legally responsible for ensuring all team fees are paid.

A team wishing to change their Team Delegate must have the initial team delegate advise the BMTA Competitions Manager of the person taking over their duties, by emailing competitions@bmta.com.au

8.2 Medical and Insurance

Only registered players are covered for Player Accident Insurance under the Touch Football Australia National Insurance Scheme.

If an injury occurs, it must be reported to the referee and noted on the back of the scorecard. The injured person must then submit a Claim Form Request directly with Sportscover within 30 days of the injury occurring. This can be done via the [Sportscover website](#).

For more serious injuries, an ambulance can be requested to be called by the Team Delegate or any other person, in consultation with the Competition Coordinator.

BMTA staff are not qualified medical practitioners, therefore will only assist with immobilizing the injured person and supplying ice.

For further information regarding the TFA National Insurance Policy, visit the Touch Football Australia website.

8.2 Other Policies

It is the responsibility of each Team Delegate to ensure that their respective players, accredited volunteers and other support staff are aware of and comply with the following:

- The BMTA [Individual Conditions of Entry](#) document for their relevant competition
- [TFA Membership & Participant Declaration](#)
- [TFA Disciplinary Regulations](#)
- [TFA Code of Conduct](#)
- [TFA Member Protection Policy](#)

By completing the required Online Registration and agreeing to the National Terms & Conditions (i.e. Membership & Participant Declaration) wording, each participant agrees to comply with all applicable policies.

BMTA requires all Players, Managers, Coaches, Referees and Parents/Spectators to behave in a sportsmanlike, respectful, non-abusive and non-violent manner at all times. Team Delegates, Coaches, Managers and Captains are responsible for the behaviour of all team players and spectators. Inappropriate behaviour and/or disrespect on or off field at competitions will not be tolerated.

8.3 Force Majeure

If BMTA is unable to perform, in whole or in any obligation under these regulations by reason of a Force Majeure event, BMTA is relieved of that obligation under these regulations to the extent, and the period it is unable to perform.

BMTA has no obligation to refund any team or individual competition fees paid if it is unable to perform by reason of a Force Majeure event.

8.4 Supervision of Underage Players

Coaches, Managers and Parents are to be reminded that they are responsible for the direct supervision of any player of official who is under the age of 18 years. All steps should be taken by nominated supervisors to protect these persons from all forms of harassment. This includes ensuring that:

- These minors must be made aware of the TFA Code of Conduct
- All Officials comply with the relevant Child Protection Laws
- That when travelling to, during and from the competition all care is taken to supervise minors.
- Children must stay within well-lit areas of the venue. The car parks and surrounding parklands are out of bounds to unsupervised children.

All Coaches, Managers and Parents involved with under 18's must be compliant with the Working with Children Checks laws for Queensland.

8.5 Access to Fields

Fields are not permitted to be used outside of scheduled fixtures without written approval from the BMTA General Manager. Requests must be submitted in writing to the manager at least seven (7) days prior to proposed use and an appropriate fee may be charged.

8.6 Use of Images

All persons accept that, by participating in BMTA competitions, they may be photographed/filmed, and these images may be used by BMTA for promotion of the sport. BMTA will not pass any image/s onto a third party unless prior approval is sought. If you do not wish BMTA to be able to use your image/s or be filmed, you must notify the BMTA General Manager in writing.

8.7 COVID-19 Regulations

All attendees at BMTA must comply with all laws, directions and guidelines with respect to COVID-19, including but not limited to border closures, quarantine and self-isolation directions and hotspot declarations.

Any player, official or spectator who is found to have breached the above rule will result in forfeiture of the match plus any other penalties as determined by BMTA.

9. Appendix

9.1 Individual Competitions Conditions of Entry

To access Individual Conditions of Entry documents, follow the links below:

[Adult Social – Conditions of Entry](#)

[Junior Girls – Conditions of Entry](#)

[Junior Boys – Conditions of Entry](#)

[Junior Mixed – Conditions of Entry](#)

[Metro Cup – Conditions of Entry](#)