



BALLINA TOUCH ASSOCIATION JUNIOR COMPETITION 2023-24 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Welcome to our 2023-2024 Friday night junior touch competition. Please read these conditions carefully and keep this document as a handy reference for contacts, dates and competition information. These Conditions of Entry have been prepared on the basis of the club being able to run a normal competition. Ballina Shire Council will be undertaking ground renovations at different times during the and this may well mean that the format of the competition has to change. We appreciate your patience and understanding as the club will endeavour to ensure that we provide a safe and enjoyable competition for everyone.

Mission Statement

Ballina Touch is dedicated to educating players, referees, coaches and parents about the sport of touch in a fun, fair and friendly way, while providing pathways for those young players and referees interested in reaching their full potential.

COMPETITION DATES AND FORMAT

Our competition will commence at the beginning of Term 4 in the school year. Round 1 will be Friday 13 October 2023.

Team registration will open 4 September 2023 and close on 29 September 2023. Registration of teams into the competition after 29 September will be at the committee's discretion e.g. to remove a bye from a competition.

Players must register into their teams and pay their fees individually at the time of registration. See further information outlined below under Player Registration and Fees.

Competition commences:

- Round 1: Fri 13 Oct 2023
- Round 10: Fri 15 Dec 2023
- Break - Christmas
- Round 11: Fri 2 Feb 2024
- Bye: Fri 23 Feb 2024 - Junior State Cup (23 - 25 Feb 2024)
- Round 14: Fri 1 Mar 2024

Finals Series: **U11 - U15 (top 4)**
Semi-Finals: Fri 8 Mar 2024 – 1 v 4, and 2 v 3. Winners progress to GF, losers are eliminated.
Grand Finals: **Fri 15 Mar 2024**

Wet Weather Spare: Fri 22 Mar 2024

U5, U7 & U9
Grand Finals: **Fri 8 Mar 2024** (all teams play)

In the event of wet weather during the finals series, Ballina Touch reserves the right to alter the finals series format to suit available competition dates.

Draw: The weekly draw will be published on the Ballina Touch website and Facebook Page.



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TEAM REGISTRATION and PLAYER PAYMENTS

To register a team into the competition, visit the Ballina Touch Website and follow the links/instructions to complete registration on-line. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU USE THE CORRECT LINK TO THE JUNIOR COMPETITION AND NOT THE SENIOR COMPETITION.** Team registration can only be completed through this on-line process.

For assistance email ballinatouch2@gmail.com

Teams can register from 4 September – 29 September 2023. In order for teams to participate in the competition, team registration must be completed by Friday 29 September 2023.

After registering your team, individual players must register into the team and pay their registration fee. A link to the individual registration portal will be provided on the Ballina Touch website. The individual registration fee can only be paid with a Visa or Mastercard Credit or Debit Card, or you can use your NSW Govt. Active Kids Voucher. This process is built into our online registration.

A player can only complete their registration by paying the registration fee. The individual registration fee for 2022-23 is **\$100 per player**.

A minimum of **eight (8)** players for the U11 divisions and older and **seven (7)** players for U9 divisions & younger, are required to register into a team.

Teams that have registered into the competition, but not had the minimum number of players registered into their team will not be permitted to play in the competition until they have the minimum number of players i.e. they will forfeit their games until the minimum number of players have registered.

Teams that do not have the minimum number of players registered by Friday 6 October 2023 (1 week before the competition commences) will not be included in the draw for Round 1 of the competition. Any team that does not meet this deadline, may be replaced in the competition by another team in the event that teams have been wait listed to be accepted into the competition.

Players must be registered and fully paid prior to the night of their first game, whether that is Round 1 of the competition or the first round in which they play for players not registered in time for round 1. Individual players can register into a team up until Round 10 (Christmas break). To be eligible to play in a match on any given Friday night in the competition, players must have registered no later than the preceding Wednesday night, other than for Round 1 in which case they must be registered one week in advance as outlined above. This will ensure their name appears on the team sign-on sheet. It is not acceptable to register and pay, for example, on the day a player intends to play their first match. This creates administrative problems for our volunteers who are already very busy running the competition.

Match Balls

When registration is completed successfully each team will receive a match ball to be used for all team matches for the season. The ball can be collected from the canteen/tournament control area. Teams are expected to bring their match ball each week as the club does not



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supply balls for matches. Team Contacts are requested to sanitise/sterilise their match ball before bringing it to the grounds each week. Additional balls can be purchased from the canteen.

Working With Children

A 'Working with children' check must be completed by the adult contact for each team and submitted to Administration – ballinatouch2@gmail.com . The check must be completed on-line via the RMS website - please use the following link:

<http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/Working-with-children/Working-With-Children-Check/Volunteers-and-students>

Note that the process may take 3 - 4 weeks to finalise after completing the application. Team contacts should commence the process ASAP to ensure completion of the check prior to commencement of the competition. Once completed, the check is valid for other volunteer activities you undertake in NSW that may require a working with children check.

AGE DIVISIONS

Following the recent survey of members, and as a result of less ground availability due to renovations being undertaken by Ballina Shire Council, the U17 division has been moved to Wednesday night and will not be offered on a Friday night for the upcoming junior season.

U5s Born 2018 or after
U7s Born 2016 or after
U9s Born 2014 or after
U11s Born 2012 or after
U13s Born 2010 or after
U15s Born 2008 or after

Divisions of Opens & Girls will be offered for U11s and above.

Regrading:

Teams may be re-graded at any time during the competition at the discretion of the committee, but no later than round 10 of the competition. This is to ensure all teams enjoy an evenly matched competition. Prior competition points are carried with the team.

COMPETITION FORMAT

Games are played under the TFA Touch Rules edition 8, except in the case of the specified modifications for the U5 – U9 age divisions. In these divisions, games are played on a half field, with a smaller ball. Each team has 5 players only on the field (must have 3 players to prevent a forfeit) and a coach is allowed on the field. Referees, Coaches and Officials are to ensure that ALL players in these age groups have an enjoyable game.

Note: The attacking team is to be given reasonable opportunity to use the ball with defenders not moving up until the acting half has passed the ball. Multiple passing is encouraged.



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Points Score

No points ladder applies in the U5 – U9 divisions. All teams will play on Grand Final Night and all players will receive a trophy.

In the U11 – U15 divisions, points will be awarded as follows:

Win – 3 points
Draw – 2 points
Loss – 1 point
Bye – 3 points

Forfeits: Teams that give 24 or more hours notice will be awarded one competition point (as a loss), for that round. No prior notice of a forfeit will result in no competition points for the forfeiting team and a warning, with any subsequent lack of notice for a forfeit potentially resulting in a two match suspension. The result for any match this is forfeited will be recorded as a 5-0 score line in favour of the non-forfeiting team.

Finals Series

The U5 – U9 age groups will play a grand final match where every team will qualify and participate. All players in these age divisions will receive trophies.

The U11 and above age groups will play a finals series where the top four teams in the division will qualify. Trophies/prizes will be awarded to the grand final winners and runners-up. The format of the finals series may be altered if wet weather disrupts the scheduling of matches.

The finals series for 2023-24 will be a two week knock-out series. In week 1, Team 1 on the ladder will play Team 4 and Team 2 will play Team 3. The respective winners will progress to the grand final with the losers eliminated. In the event that wet weather causes washouts, the finals format may be changed to accommodate available dates before the end of the season.

Player Sign On

Each week, a team sign on sheet will be produced and taken to the ground by the referee. The team sheet will list all players registered into the team and eligible to play. The nominated team contact is required to assist the referee to mark off the names of all players participating on that night.

The team contacts will also be required to sign and confirm that the opposition team players have all been checked off and are all in correct uniform. The sign on sheet will then be used by the referees to record the scores in the match and the referee will return the sheet to the clubhouse at the end of the match.

Players must sign on before taking the field of play to be covered by insurance. In the U11 and older age groups, players must have signed on and participated in a minimum of 5 games throughout the season to be eligible to play in the finals series. Failing to sign-on may result in a loss of competition points. Further penalties will apply for repeat offenders.

If a player's name does not appear on the sign-on sheet, this is likely to be because they did not register into the team before the weekly deadline (as outlined earlier in this document).



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Please assist us in this vital process as it is there to ensure players are insured and the competition maintains its integrity with players being registered.

NO fill-in players are allowed. Only players registered in the team can play for that team. PENALTY for using players who are not registered in your team is loss of competition points.

Injuries:

All injuries must be notified immediately to the referees for noting on the game card. Team contacts/parents must ensure all injuries are recorded in the Injury Book located at the clubhouse (normally with the first aid kit in the canteen).

Footwear must be worn at all times while playing - touch or grass shoes are strongly recommended. Players found with spikes, screw in studs, or slip on shoes will not be permitted to play and asked to leave the field.

Game Times

Games will be 30 minutes duration consisting of 2 x 15 minute halves with a 5 minute half time break. There will be a 10 minute break between matches. Preliminary timeslots are as follows and are subject to change depending on final team nominations.

U5s to 13s :**4:30** pm, **5:15** pm or **6.00** pm;
U13s to U15s **6:45** pm, or **7:30** pm.
Times may vary as needed

Any specific requests regarding game times may be given in writing to the competition administrator, or via email to ballinatouch2@gmail.com The club will endeavour to accommodate all requests, but cannot guarantee they can be met.

Player Uniforms

All players in a team must wear the same coloured playing top - shirt or singlet. Predominantly white uniforms will not be accepted as they clash with the referees. All players must have an approved visible number on their shirt. No tape or drawn numbers will be allowed. Numbers must be not less than 16cm in height on the back, or not less than 8cm in height on BOTH sleeves. From Round 3, each player out of uniform will result in a 'bonus touchdown' awarded to the opposition (by the competition administrator), which in turn may affect competition points for that game.

Wet Weather Policy:

Games will not be played if the grounds/conditions are deemed too wet or dangerous. Every effort will be made to have games go ahead. If in doubt, go to our website or Facebook page from approx. 2pm on Fridays where cancellations due to wet weather will be published.

Cancellations will result in the draw continuing as normal with no re-scheduling of games. For the purposes of the competition ladder (U11 – U15), all matches in a cancelled round will be regarded as a draw. Teams that had a bye on washed out rounds will be allocated 3 points for the bye.



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Extreme Weather Guidelines:

Games may be cancelled or postponed if extreme weather is experienced or forecast. Extreme weather includes extreme heat, cold, wind, lightning and storms. Ballina Touch utilises the NSW Touch Extreme Weather Policy which can be found on the NSW Touch website. In the event of extreme weather causing the cancellation of games during a round, results from any completed games from that round will stand and any uncompleted games will count as a draw.

BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

Zero-Tolerance Policy:

The club does not tolerate any abuse by players, parents, spectators, referees or officials towards any other user group mentioned, and any breaches will be dealt with by the Committee. A written warning system will be utilised with suspensions applying to individuals **AND** teams for misbehaviour deemed not in the best interests of the game.

Ballina Touch advises all parents, carers, spectators, coaches and other supporters of all teams that you are equally covered by the code of conduct for Ballina Touch. In the event of any person associated with a particular team being found to have breached the code of conduct, penalties will be applied to the team you are associated with. This can include loss of competition points, suspension from the competition for a period of time for individuals and/or entire teams and expulsion from the competition for individuals and/or entire teams. No refunds will be given.

Your assistance in reporting any incidents is greatly appreciated. Please refer to the relevant Codes of Conduct on the NSW Touch website and on page 7. BTA advises that suspended players are notified to NSW Touch and adjoining affiliates and are unable to participate in any affiliated Touch Football competition whilst suspended.

Any person that wishes to raise issues about the conduct of another player, coach, parent spectator or supporter is advised to contact either the Director Junior Touch, or the Competition Manager.

Bikes, Skateboards & Scooters:

The riding or leaving of pushbikes, skateboards or scooters near playing fields and crowded areas is not permitted for safety reasons.

REFEREES

Get paid to referee!

A Level 1 Referees Course will be held on Sunday 22 October 2023. Participants must be 12 years or over to enrol.

There will be a cost to participate in the course and this will be advised once details are confirmed. The club will subsidise the cost of a referee's shirt for each person that completes the course successfully.

There is an on-line component of the course that must be completed prior to attending the course. Intending participants **must** bring to the face to face course the certificate confirming their completion of this component. Without it, you will not be able to complete the face to



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face course. It can be completed in your own time and it is recommended that intending participants make a start ASAP.

Go to the following link and follow the instructions: <https://learning.ausport.gov.au>

Players, coaches, parents, spectators and supporters are reminded that most of our referees are juniors and many will be refereeing for the first time this season. They will be learning as the season progresses. The only person that is to approach a referee whilst matches are in progress is the team captain. Team coaches or the captain may also politely ask a question at half time of a match. Asking questions of the referee is not an opportunity for a debate, or to dispute decisions. It is an opportunity to seek clarification on a particular matter.

At all times anyone approaching a referee is to abide by the code of conduct. The committee will deal harshly with anyone found to have breached the code of conduct in their behaviour towards referees. Penalties will also apply to the team that the person is associated with.

Remember, this competition is about participation, fun and exercise. The players are kids, the referees are kids, our competition is run by volunteers - set a good example.

Returning referees are asked to advise the club of their availability to referee during the upcoming season.

SOCIAL MEDIA

With the rise in the use of social media, Ballina Touch has adopted the NSW Touch Policy on the use of Social media by participants in our competition. All participants in our competition, including players, parents and coaches are bound by the code as a condition of entry to the competition. A copy of the code can be found on the NSW Touch website.

AMENDMENTS TO CONDITIONS

Ballina Touch reserves the right to amend or alter these conditions as circumstances dictate from time to time to address issues as they arise, clarify an existing condition or add new conditions if deemed necessary.

All decisions of Ballina Touch will be final in this regard.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE UPCOMING SEASON!



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PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

- Abide by the NSW Touch Code of Conduct.
- Play by the rules
- Never argue with an official. If you would like a point clarified ask your captain or coach to approach the referee at half time or after the game in an appropriate manner.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately sledging, distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's participation will benefit, so will you.
- Be a good sport. Acknowledge all good plays, whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Cooperate with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Avoid the use of derogatory language, particularly language based on gender, race or impairment.
- Be prepared to lose sometimes. Everyone wins and loses at some time. Be a gracious winner or loser.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please your parents and coach.
- Respect the rights, dignity of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT

- Abide by the NSW Touch Code of Conduct.
- Encourage your child to learn and develop skills through full participation in playing and practice. Let the coach know as soon as possible if your child will not be able to attend a playing session.
- Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
- Do not criticise children in front of others, but reserve constructive feedback for more private moments.
- Remember children are involved in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Remember children learn best by example. Applaud good play by all teams.
- Accept decisions of all referees as being called to the best of their ability. Do not raise issues of disagreement publicly, and at all times remember that it is up to the team coach or captain to politely raise issues of disagreement with the referee in an appropriate manner at an appropriate time - not you.
- Do not criticise opposing team members or supporters by word or gesture.
- Set a good example by your own conduct, behaviour and appearance.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse. Avoid the use of foul language, particularly based on gender, race or impairment. Do not smoke or drink alcohol as a spectator on the sidelines.