



***BALLINA TOUCH ASSOCIATION
JUNIOR COMPETITION
2025 - 2026***

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY



MISSION STATEMENT

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



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Welcome to our 2025-2026 Wednesday night senior touch competition. Please read these conditions carefully and keep this document as a 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 could potentially be undertaking ground renovations at different times during the season 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.

Any matters not covered in the Conditions or Guidelines below, will be determined by the Ballina Touch Association Committee and their decision will be final.

COMPETITION DATES & FORMAT

Team registration will open 1st September 2025 and close on 20th September 2025.
Player registration will open 1st September 2025 and close on 13th December 2025.
Registration of teams into the competition after 20 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: Muster Round - **1st October**
Round 1- **8th October**
Round 11 - **17th December** *Bruce (Poppa) Gallagher Legacy Round -Fundraiser
Christmas Break
14th January, potential catch-up game if required
Round 12 - **21st January**
Last Round Game - **25th February**
Semi-final - **4th March**
Grand Final - **11th or 13th March**

Finals Series: Semi Final **1v4 : 4th March**

Semi Final **2v3 : 4th March**

Grand Final: **11th or 13th March**

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



TEAM REGISTRATION & 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 SENIOR COMPETITION AND NOT THE JUNIOR COMPETITION.

Team registration can only be completed through this on-line process.

For assistance email admin@ballinatouch.com.au

Teams can register from 1st September – 20th September 2025.

For teams to participate in the competition, team registration must be completed by Friday 20th September 2025.

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 via a Visa or Mastercard Credit or Debit Card.

A player can only complete their registration by paying the registration fee.

The individual registration fee for 2025-26 is **\$100 per player**.

*If a player wishes to play in more than (1) team that player must register and pay the additional fee.

Juniors (U18 years of age at the time of registration) are eligible for a 50% discount on the competition entry fees. To qualify they must also be playing in a side that is playing in our junior competition on a Friday night.

Before registering, anyone wishing to claim the discount needs to contact the competition administrator on competitions@ballinatouch.com.au to obtain a one off code that can be used when you register to claim the discount. Simply e-mail your details through including the player's name, date of birth and the Friday night team that they are already registered with to obtain your discount code.

Please Note: to be eligible for junior registration fees the player must be under 16 years old from the commencement of the competition.

*** If you are over 16 you must register as a senior player.**

All Junior Players who play MUST be 12 years old by the competition completion 20/03/25 and the max number of 12,13 & 14 year-old players per team is 4, unless committee approval.

Each team(s) may have a **maximum of fourteen (14)** players registered with a **minimum of ten (10)** players. Teams who do not register the **minimum of ten (10)** players will not be entered into the competition until they have.



TEAM REGISTRATION & PLAYER PAYMENTS - CONT

Teams that do not have the minimum number of players registered by 20th September 2025 the committee holds the right to withdraw the side from 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.

Teams found to have played unregistered players will forfeit their game.

The unregistered player will be ineligible to continue to play until registered.

Teams that continually play unregistered players will be expelled from the competition.

The following responsibilities and procedures apply to All Team Contacts:

It is the team contact's responsibility to make sure that all their players are registered and supply their individual playing numbers when signing on and pass on information regarding games.

PLAYER & OFFICIAL INSURANCE

Ballina Touch members are insured with Touch Football Australia in partnership with JLT Sports, members should note the following:

5.1 Any player not Registered in a participating team will not be covered. For insurance purposes, covered footwear must be always worn, and **NO JEWELLERY** to be worn whilst playing. **NO STEEL STUDED BOOTS** are to be worn whilst playing **NO EXCEPTIONS**.

5.2 Please be aware the insurance cover (Option 1) has 'NO INCOME PROTECTION COVERTAKEN'. It is recommended that self-employed members ensure they have private income protection.

5.3 ***All injuries must be notified immediately to the game Referee for noting on the game card or the sign-on sheet and a team member is to ensure the injury is recorded in the Injury Book located at the clubhouse.***

How to make a Claim please contact direct

JLT Sports 1300 130 373 touchfootball.jltsport.com.au

SIGN ON SHEETS & ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY FINALS

The following sign-on procedures will apply to this season's competition:

All players are to go straight to their fields. "Sign-on Sheets" will be carried to the grounds by the referees, and players will be required to sign on, in the presence of the referee, at halftime. For players to be eligible for Final Series they must have played and signed on in **five (5) competition games**.

Note: Byes and Forfeited games do not go towards the above count

GRADING OF TEAMS

Ballina Touch Association reserved the right, at the tournament committee's discretion, to apply grading to suit all divisions.



DIVISIONS

Mens Open (can be male or female)

Women's Open (female only)

Mixed Open (Min of 3 Females on the field at any time)

***Players may only register in one team in any two (2) of three (3) team categories above.**

COMPETITION FORMAT

Games are played under the TFA Touch Rules edition 8. Referees, Coaches and Officials are to ensure that ALL players in these age groups have an enjoyable game.

Points Score:

Win – 3 points

Draw – 2 points

Loss - 1 point

Bye - 3 points

In the Semis, Finals and grand Finals drawn games will be decided by the drop off procedure.

FORFEITS

Team contacts are to ensure that their team is available for each competition game.

However, if due to certain circumstances, the team will not be available to play, they are to advise the Tournament Director 24 hours before the competition game.

This will allow time to notify the opposing team prior to the game.

(Competition Manager) Mobile: 0400909233 or email us on admin@ballinatouch.com.au

The following should be noted:

14.1 Any team forfeiting three (3) games because of a lack of players will be expelled from the competition unless 24-hour prior notice has been given on each occasion.

14.2 If teams do not have a minimum of four (4) players on the field after five (5) minutes from the starting bell a forfeit will be declared. The five (5) minute period will be announced by Tournament Control.

Note: Teams will be ineligible for the finals series if their team has a combination of three (3) forfeits due to a lack of players (no 24hrs notice given), or not providing team referees as required in the conditions of entry.



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 final's 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).

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 always worn 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.



PLAYER UNIFORMS

All teams must play in the same-coloured shirt and individually numbered on the back only. The following rules apply:

- 10.1 All players must be in the correct playing attire by Round 4 at the very latest.
- 10.2 Team shirts or singlets MUST be of all the same colour and numbered on the back (16cm). No numbers on sleeves.
- 10.3 **No taped-on numbers are allowed or written on numbers.**
- 10.4 All participating players must have their own uniformed numbered shirts.
(i.e. players are not permitted to swap shirts on the sideline)
- 10.5 ***Players not in team uniform must not take the field. Any players playing not in their correct team uniform will incur a 1 touchdown penalty against their team per offense after the cut off point this will be after round 3.***
All Teams must be in correct attire by round 4.

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.

Cancellations will result in the washout round being played where possible at a later date.

EXTREME WEATHER GUIDLINES

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.

FIRST AID

Basic First Aid, Ice, and dressing are available upstairs at the clubhouse, all financial and registered players who sign on legitimately are covered under the TFA Players Insurance policy. See also Player and Official Insurance and Injury and Claim Procedures.



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 push bikes, E bikes, skateboards or scooters near playing fields and crowded areas IS NOT PERMITTED for safety reasons.

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.

<https://touchfootball.com.au/policies/social-media-community-code/>



SUSPENSIONS

Ballina Touch Competitions are played under the rules of Touch Football Australia (TFA) and incorporated with Ballina Touch '**Zero Tolerance Policy**'.

11.1 *All reports of Teams/Players found attempting to intimidate/physically abuse referees will be followed up immediately.*

The Competition Committee has the right to:

11.2 *Advise the offending team in writing (via email to team contacts) that their team has been suspended for unacceptable behaviour by two and/or more of their team members, and as a result the team will be suspended from competition for two (2) rounds. Suspension is at the discretion of the Ballina Touch Committee & Judiciary.*

11.3 *In the event of a player being sent from the field for the remainder of the game, an automatic two (2) round suspension from all Ballina Touch Association games will apply. The Judiciary Committee will determine if any further action is necessary. If a player is sent off in the first time slot-he/she is automatically suspended for the rest of the time slots during that round. NB: Suspensions will be advertised.*

11.4 *The second time a team is found to be guilty of intimidating/physically abusing referees they will be expelled from the competition. **NO REFUNDS.***

11.5 *Individual players who are involved in a second send off from the field of play for the remainder of the game, in the same season, will incur an automatic four (4) round suspension unless the Judiciary considers otherwise.*

11.6 *If there is a ruling that the captain or any player is unsure of, an incident report form can be filled out by the captain or manager of the team and submitted to our Director of Referees, and he can clarify the ruling.*



REFEREES

All teams must supply two (2) Accredited Referees from players registered in their team, **NO Referees - No entry to Competition.**

It is the team's responsibility to always have one of their team referees fulfill the refereeing duty on the night. Both nominated referees replace one another. Any change/replacing the nominated team referee is to be submitted to the Tournament Director 24hrs prior to the game.

Teams not full filling their duty on the night will incur a forfeit result from their game that round. The individuals nominated as the 'Team Referees' must complete the 'Referees Team Nomination Sheet', which the Referees Director must acquire.

Nominated team referees must also be available during the Finals Series whether their teams are participating or not. Failure to participate could result in match payment deductions.

For further inquiries regarding refereeing, referee courses, upgrades, representing Ballina Touch at NSW Touch events, referee match payments, or un-available to referee your weekly duty - please contact: Blake Donovan
Email: referees@ballinatouch.com.au

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!



PLAYERS 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 losses 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.



PARENTS 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 always 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.

