



## **BALLINA TOUCH ASSOCIATION Representative Policy – Adopted August 2025**



### **Representative Touch Policy**

#### **Introduction**

Ballina Touch provides opportunities for representative teams to attend various representative tournaments throughout the year.

The primary focus of the junior representative season is to build towards and be successful at the NSW Northern Eagles Junior Championships and NSW Junior State Cup held in January/February each year.

The primary focus of the senior representative season is to build towards the NSW Country Championships held in October, NSW Senior State Cup held in December and Touch Football Australia Championships held in March each year.

This document has been prepared to assist players, team officials and referees understand the club's processes and policies as applicable to Players, Coaching Staff, Referees and Parents/Carers/Guardians involved in our representative programs.

It also outlines the assistance that the club will provide to players, team officials and referees.

Whilst every endeavour has been made to cover likely scenarios and circumstances that can and do arise during the course of a representative season, this document should not be regarded as exhaustive. Where situations arise that are not covered by the contents of this policy, the Representative Director will be the first point of contact to discuss and determine a way forward to resolve any such issues.

The Ballina Touch Committee will make decisions where required to provide clarity or direction on matters not specifically covered by this policy.

#### **Club Commitments and Requirements**

Ballina Touch commits to providing opportunities for players to play representative Touch at accredited/affiliated tournaments as and when those tournaments are conducted by the sport's governing bodies.

When conducting such tournaments, the governing bodies set out rules and requirements which must be met in order for teams to attend. Ballina Touch will only nominate teams for such events where the conditions of entry and any other requirements set down by the governing body, and this policy, can be met.

Ballina Touch expects aspiring teams, team officials and individual players to work with the club to ensure that conditions of entry and any other requirements set down by the governing body are met.

For the relevant Touch representative events, Ballina Touch commits to the following for players, team officials and referees:



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1. Uphold the governing body's Code of Conduct.
2. Ensure that adequate supervision and support is provided for junior players at all times when representing the club. To this end the club expects a minimum of five (5) adults/parents to travel with any team that is attending a carnival that requires overnight accommodation. This includes team officials such as coaching staff. For carnivals that do not involve overnight accommodation, a minimum of three (3) adults/parents are required to travel with the team.
3. Coordinate nominations for teams, team officials and referees.
4. Provide opportunities for coaching staff to obtain relevant qualifications and upgrades.
5. Provide opportunities for referees to obtain relevant qualifications and upgrades.
6. Provide opportunities and support for coaches to develop their skills and understanding of the game.
7. Provide a uniform for Coaching staff consisting of club polo shirt, shorts, socks and headwear.
8. Meet the cost of a full official on-field referee uniform for referees attending their first official NSW Touch representative tournament and a Ballina Touch off field polo shirt.
9. Provide a playing uniform and training shirt for purchase by individual players.
10. Provide off-field attire and supporter merchandise for purchase by individual players, parents, supporters, team officials and referees.
11. Seek sponsorship and other financial support to subsidise the costs of playing uniforms for players.
12. Coordinate a tent or similar accommodation at the playing fields for all teams that attend representative events.
13. Coordinate a club function/presentation for all teams attending the NSW Junior State Cup.
14. Provide financial support to players, coaches and referees representing the club where approved by the committee and in accordance with club practice for the particular event.

### **Coaching Staff Nominations**

The relevant governing bodies require all teams attending an official tournament to have coaching staff. In addition, there are generally minimum requirements for coach accreditation. All coaches appointed to coach representative sides must hold the relevant coaching qualifications set down by the tournament organiser. Alternatively, they must be prepared to obtain the relevant qualification if possible prior to the event being held.

Nominations for coaches will generally be called in June each year with appointments to be confirmed in July.

### **Team Selections**

All teams representing Ballina will be selected according to this policy with the aim of ensuring that team selections are objective, provide equal opportunity for aspiring players and ensure aspiring players are given a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate their skills and abilities.



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All representative teams, senior and junior, will be selected following at least 2 trials. All selections will be conducted under the auspices of a Head Selector for each team who will generally be a person not part of the coaching staff for that team if possible. This will be dependent on the availability of suitable people to fill these roles. The Head Selector will be appointed by the Technical and Representative Directors. Head Selectors will liaise with coaching staff and may engage other selectors where deemed appropriate to select the team.

For junior sides, no person will be appointed as Head Selector to oversee selection of a team where there is a child or relative of the person trialling for a position in that side. In particular, where any of the coaching staff appointed to a junior side have a child or relative trialling for the team, an independent Head Selector will be appointed.

For junior teams, the selection process may include the assembly of an initial squad that will train together for a period of time before selection of a final team.

For senior teams in the Open and U20 divisions, preference will be given to forming Mens Open, Womens Open, Mens U20 and Womens U20 sides before considering formation of a Mixed Open side.

In cases where the number of players trialling for a team is less than or equal to the player numbers required, selection trials may not be required.

Shadow players may be appointed where required or requested by the coaching staff. Shadow players will be given the opportunity to continue to participate in training and matches to assist with their development, and to be available to come into the side in the event of other players being injured or unavailable for any reason.

Once a final team has been selected, it must be endorsed by the Executive Committee before any announcement.

Where a representative team has less than 12 players available/nominated to participate, or 10 players in the case of an U10's age group, the club reserves the right not to progress the team to training and/or nominate the team for the relevant event.

Junior representative sides will be selected on the basis of players committing to attend the primary event that team are being selected to attend i.e. Junior State Cup. Where players are not available to participate at the primary event, selection into a team will only occur if there are insufficient numbers to make a full squad in that team e.g. 13 players committed to primary event but another player that can commit only to secondary or warm up events is added to make a squad of 14 for those events.

All players trialling for junior representative sides must trial in their correct age group. No player will be permitted to trial for an older age group without first trialling for their correct age group. For example, a player that is eligible to trial for the U14 boys but wishes to trial for the U16 boys. The player must first trial for the U14 boys, and if unsuccessful in being selected for the U14 boys, would then be available to trial and be considered for the U16 boys.



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Any disputes in relation to the selection process shall be overseen by the Ballina Touch Executive Committee. The final decision on selections shall be made by the Ballina Touch Executive Committee.

All teams will be selected based on the following criteria. The criteria do not have equal weighting but must be taken into account.

- Player fitness including consideration of injuries.
- Player agility, speed and ball skills.
- Player reading of attack and defence including positional play.
- Player communication skills.
- Overall skill needs of team and consideration of positions players are trialling for.
- Player integration into team including teamwork, moves and harmony.
- Demonstrated player respect for others including team-mates, opposition, referees & coaches.
- Must meet relevant tournament eligibility requirements.

#### **Team Announcements and Player Feedback**

Once teams have been endorsed by the Executive Committee, they will be announced by the club as it sees fit.

A player's selection into a team is not confirmed until they have signed and returned the player contract (junior teams only) and paid the applicable player levy (all teams).

Players not selected into a team are encouraged to seek feedback from selectors and coaching staff on their performance at selection trials and what aspects of their game need further work to increase their chances of selection in the future.

#### **Player Commitment**

Ballina Touch expects all players representing the club at all times to:

1. Represent Ballina Touch with distinction.
2. Adhere to the relevant governing body's Code of Conduct
3. Attend all training sessions as organised by your team Coach.
4. Respect and abide by any decision of the club that applies to you individually, your team or to the collective group of teams representing Ballina Touch.
5. Purchase playing and non-playing attire as determined by the club.
6. Ensure that you are properly attired, both on and off the field of play, when attending representative tournaments.
7. Attend training and practice/warm-up matches for your team as determined by your team Coach.
8. Attend any club organised function organised for, or at the relevant event.
9. Pay any monies/levies to both Ballina Touch and the tournament organisers by the required dates for attendance at representative tournaments.



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### **Team Official Commitment**

Ballina Touch expects all appointed team officials e.g. Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, at all times when representing the club to:

1. Represent Ballina Touch with distinction.
2. Adhere to the NSW Touch Code of Conduct.
3. Ensure that adequate supervision and support in accordance with club policy is provided for junior players at all times when representing the club.
4. Do your utmost to ensure that individual players within your team adhere to the NSW Touch Code of Conduct.
5. Assist the club with any matter that effects, involves or relates to the team which you are involved with.
6. Implement any decision of the club that applies to your individual team or to the collective group of teams representing Ballina Touch.
7. Ensure that your team is properly attired, both on and off the field of play, when attending representative tournaments.
8. Ensure that any player unsuccessful in being selected into a team is provided with constructive feedback on the reasons for their non-selection where requested.
9. Arrange training and practice/warm-up matches for your team as deemed appropriate and that training venues and times are chosen to ensure equitable access for all participants in the team.
10. Notify the club of proposed training venues and times such that they can be booked with Ballina Shire Council. This is to ensure that players are adequately covered by insurance during training.
11. Coordinate with other club and team officials, accommodation for your team to attend representative tournaments.
12. Ensure that in arranging team accommodation, player needs and preferences are respected e.g. female players that may request separate accommodation to male players.
13. Have your team attend any club organised practice day for representative events.
14. Have your team attend any club organised function at or for representative events.
15. Assist the club with management of player payments.

### **Referee Commitment**

Ballina Touch expects all referees representing the club at all times to:

1. Represent Ballina Touch with distinction.
2. Adhere to the NSW Touch Code of Conduct
3. Abide by any decision of the club that applies to you individually, or to the collective group of people representing Ballina Touch.
4. Ensure that you are properly attired, both on and off the field of play, when attending representative tournaments.
5. Attend and referee (where available) any club organised practice day for representative events.
6. Attend any club organised function at or for representative events.

**ADOPTED BY THE BALLINA TOUCH COMMITTEE 19/08/2025**