



**Manly Warringah  
Touch Association  
Incorporated  
By-Laws**

**Junior and Senior  
Competition Rules**

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### **BY-LAW 01 » Rules of Play, Teams and Officials**

- a) Manly Warringah Touch Association (MWTA) will conduct their competitions under the current Touch Football Australia (TFA) Rules, 7th Edition & Amendments. Subsequent sub-sections specify supplementary competition by-laws and procedures to be applied by MWTA.
- b) All teams participating in any MWTA competitions agree to be bound by TFA and MWTA rules and procedures.
- c) MWTA Executive Committee have appointed an Administration Manager to administer our local competitions and a Ground Manager to run the actual game day operations and to ensure all local competitions are conducted in adherence to MWTA's By-Laws.
- d) MWTA local competitions will be based on a social team concept (i.e. not club-based teams like other local sports such as Rugby League, Soccer or Netball).
- e) All teams must have a registered Team Contact present at Nolan Reserve during all competition matches.
- f) All junior teams MUST have a coach aged 16 years or over or should be working towards their Touch Football Australia (TFA) Foundation Coach qualification. A person aged 18 years and over must be present in the substitution box and is to be responsible for the team at each match. Any junior match where both teams do not each have a coach, manager or team contact present that meets these criteria, will not be permitted to take place until they do. Please note a Touch Football Australia coaching accreditation remains current for a period of four (4) years and must be renewed or upgraded before this period expires.
- g) The Working With Children Check (WWCC) is a legal requirement that applies to persons who work or volunteer with children (U18). It checks the background of persons who work or volunteer with children in sport clubs, schools, child care centres, community groups, Churches and other organisations. All coaches, managers, team contacts and referees, who are aged 18 or older, must have a current WWCC or be exempt from holding one under the law (in the case of teachers, police officers, etc.). A parent, who coaches a team that their child plays in, is considered exempt from holding a WWCC for that activity and those that are directly involved coaching their own child(s) team.
- h) Under the law, WWCCs issued for involvement in another organisation or sport are not valid unless the cardholder completes and submits the relevant form to "link" their existing WWCC to MWTA.
- i) To meet Government and NSWTA requirements MWTA must keep a register of all officials (coaches, managers, team contacts and referees) that have a WWCC and are cleared to work with children. Please advise MWTA your WWCC Number as soon as you obtain this.
- j) All teams must use the official MWTA supplied match balls in all games throughout the competition. Each team shall receive a ball from the MWTA at the start of the competition.
- k) The MWTA Executive Committee reserves the right to alter any local rules it deems fit.

## **RULE MODIFICATIONS**

- l) MWTA use the NSWTA Intercept Rule i.e. on the change of position via an intercept the first touch will be a zero touch
- m) U7s and U9s – normal rules apply except for the following:
  - i. To be played on a half size touch football field
  - ii. Teams to use junior-sized touch footballs
  - iii. Only five (5) players take the field
  - iv. First receiver should touch the ball before defence moves up, unless the dummy half runs themselves
- n) U11s – normal rules apply except for the following:
  - i. Teams to use junior-sized touch footballs
- o) Senior Sunday Morning Competition – normal rules apply except for the following:
  - i. Seven (7) players are allowed to take the field
- p) MWTA Drop Off procedure is different to that run by NSWTA and slightly different to TFA. Refer to By-Law 13 for MWTA's Drop Off Procedures.

## **BY-LAW 02 » Competition Structure, Rounds and Finals**

- a) MWTA conducts the following competitions
- i. Junior Summer Competition
    - Boys and Girls Divisions including Under 7s, 9s, 11s, 13s, 15s and 17s - both A and B Grade (Friday nights from 4:15pm until 8:30pm)
  - ii. Senior Summer Competition
    - Womens A and B Grade (Monday nights 6.30pm and 7.30pm)
    - Mens A, B and C Grade (Monday nights 6.30pm and 7.30pm)
    - Mixed A and B Grade (Thursday nights 6.30pm and 7.30pm)
    - Opens (Sunday mornings 8am)
  - iii. Senior Winter Competition
    - Womens A and B Grade (Monday nights 6.30pm and 7.30pm)
    - Mens A, B and C Grade (Monday nights 6.30pm and 7.30pm)
    - Mixed A and B Grade (Monday nights 6.30pm and 7.30pm)
    - Opens (Sunday mornings 8am)
- b) All competitions are played at Nolan Reserve, North Manly.
- c) Matches in all senior divisions will be 45 minutes in duration, consisting of two (2) twenty (20) minute halves and a five (5) minute halftime break. There will be a fifteen (15) minute break between the finish and start of senior matches held on Monday and Thursday nights.
- d) Matches in all junior divisions will be 40 minutes in duration consisting of two (2) eighteen (18) minute halves and a two (2) minute halftime break. The only exception is U10s who play 26 minutes in duration, consisting of two (2) twelve (12) minute halves and a two (2) minute halftime break. There will be a minimum five (5) minute break between the finish and start of each junior match due to field and timing restrictions.
- e) Fixtures, Results and Ladders will be available on the MWTA website [www.manlytouch.com](http://www.manlytouch.com)
- f) The number of competition rounds shall be determined by the number of weeks of the competition and catch-up matches will only be held at the discretion of the MWTA Executive Committee. However, there are normally sixteen (16) rounds for Senior competitions plus two (2) weeks for finals and nine (9) rounds with two (2) weeks of finals for Junior Summer Competitions. This is subject to ground availability and non-conflicting dates such as representative tournaments, public and school holidays. Any rounds cancelled due to the weather are not replayed except for Semis Finals and Grand Finals.
- g) A minimum of four (4) teams is required to constitute a division/grade/pool competition. Where a grade contains four (4) or less nominated teams by the close of nominations, the Association may choose to combine that grade with the closest grade of a similar age/ability. The Association will determine the format for finals for the combined grade, with the priority on holding a separate finals series for both individual grades.
- h) Where a grade contains more than ten (10) teams then that grade may be further divided into pools if numbers permit with Maroon, White and Grey (if required) denoting the different pools. Teams will be allocated into pools based on a perceived level of ability by the MWTA Executive Committee.

- i) MWTA reserves the right to move teams within grades/pools. Any points accumulated by a team prior to the move will be carried into the new grade/pool.
- j) All divisions/grades/pools (except the Sunday Morning competition) will play a two (2) week finals series with the teams finishing positions first (1st) to fourth (4th) playing off for the Premiership as follows:

Week 1 - Semi Finals                      Game A - 1 v 4;      Game B - 2 v 3

Week 2 - Grand Final                      Winner of Game A v Winner of Game B

The Competition Supervisor will advise the format of the final series for the Sunday Morning competition at the commencement of the competition.

- k) Only teams who qualify for Semi Finals and the Grand Final will play on Semi Final night and Grand Final scheduled events, respectively.
- l) A player must have played a minimum of five (5) matches for a team in that particular division, grade and pool to qualify to play in that team for the finals series. If you feel you have extenuating circumstances (such as a return from injury) this may be taken into consideration. Please contact our Administration Manager via [admin@manlytouch.com](mailto:admin@manlytouch.com) who will then forward your case on to the MWTA Executive Committee.
- m) 'Byes', 'Wash Outs' and 'Forfeits For' can also count as matches played provided that the player has played at least one match for that team immediately prior to the 'Bye' or 'Rain-Out' occurring.
- n) Suspensions do not count as matches played for finals eligibility purposes.
- o) Allocation of matches will be at the discretion of the MWTA Executive Committee.
- p) The MWTA Executive Committee reserves the right to alter match durations and time slots as required.

### **BY-LAW 03 »Team and Player Registrations / Insurance**

- a) Teams are to be registered via the MWTA online registration system (Touch Football Online c/- SportsTG Pty Ltd) using the link available on the MWTA website [www.manlytouch.com](http://www.manlytouch.com) prior to the deadline date.
- b) A team's registration will not be accepted unless each team is accompanied with the name of two points of contact, preferably a qualified coach and manager. These team officials will be the primary contact for their team. All communications from MWTA for the competition will be via these contacts.
- c) Due to the overwhelming popularity of our junior competition, along with a finite field capacity, we must cap the number of teams in each junior age division. Registration will be given on a first in first served basis, those teams registering after the maximum number will be placed on a waiting list.
- d) Teams will be required to pay their team registration fee, as set by the MWTA Executive Committee, as part of the registration process via MWTA's secure online registration system, prior to the start of competition. Un-financial teams will not be entered into the draw or be removed from fixtures until outstanding amounts are paid.
- e) No part or individual payments can be made.
- f) MWTA has an early bird registration cut-off date, full payment must be received by midnight on the early bird cut-off date for early bird fees to apply. Any teams wishing to pay their registration fees after this deadline date will be required to pay the full registration fee amount.
- g) If any team fails to pay their team registration fees at all, players in that team will be deemed un-financial with MWTA (and therefore NSWTA and Touch Football Australia) and any games played will not count towards the games required to be played as part of the eligibility criteria to play representative touch football for MWTA.

### **NOTE**

Please note for all Junior teams an additional \$5 per week in cash is payable to the referee before the start of the game. The game does not commence until the referee has their \$5/team i.e. \$10 cash.

MWTA recommends that each team manager should collect the individual registration fees from their players based on the total team fee (plus the \$5 ref fee for each week) divided by the number of players in your team.

- h) There is a section on the Team Registration Form which asks you to select the division your team will be entered in. Please choose carefully as we will NOT be able to change or re-grade teams **during the** season for any competition. As a guideline, a team suitable for the A Grade should be comprised of players with previous touch football experience and/or rugby league/rugby union experience. If you are a new team to the competition, it is suggested you nominate for B Grade (or C Grade where applicable). However, MWTA reserves the right to disallow your requested division

- i) The minimum age for participation in the Senior competitions is fourteen (14) years and players must turn fourteen (14) on or before the 31st December in the year of the competition to compete. The only exception to this rule is for representative junior players, who have previously represented MMTA at Junior State Cup. These players must be (thirteen) 13 years of age by 31st December and have played at JSC in the U14s to be eligible to play in the senior competition. We encourage junior players to support our junior competition where possible.
- j) The minimum age for participation in the junior competition is six (6) years and players must turn six (6) on or before the 31st December in the year of the competition to compete.
- k) To play in a grade (age) a player must not be older than the set age in the year of the competition. (e.g. to play in the 11s age group a player cannot turn twelve (12) on or before the 31st December in the year of the competition).
- l) Players can register and play in only one (1) team per division. They can nominate to play in more than one (1) division provided they meet the age criteria for the grade/s that they are playing in (i.e. a player can register and play both 11s and 13s). However, they cannot play for two (2) teams in the same division (i.e. a player cannot nominate to play in the U11 A and B Grades or the U11B Grade Maroon and White pools of the same Grade).
- m) Players may play more than one (1) match during a competition round, provided BY-LAW 3.k) is met and they meet the age requirement for that division.
- n) Players are not permitted to play for two (2) different teams within the same division/grade/pool i.e. once you register for one team you then cannot play for another team in that division/grade/pool.
- o) Representative players from Premier League, Division 1, Senior State Cup U20s and 30s are not permitted to play in B or C Grade Senior Competitions. Only in extreme cases will these representative players be allowed to play in lower grades. If you feel you have a legitimate reason, applications should be made to the Administration Manager via [admin@manlytouch.com](mailto:admin@manlytouch.com) who will then forward this on to the MMTA Executive Committee
- p) All players are also required to register individually via the MMTA online registration system. Individual player registrations are open online via the link on the MMTA website [www.manlytouch.com](http://www.manlytouch.com) once your team has registered. You will need the team code given to you by your Team Contact.  
  
If you have previously played but have lost your team code or individual code, simply register as a new team or player again this season. If you have previously registered to sporting pulse passport as a player, you can request your personal log in through the registration page
- q) **All players must be registered by the first game of the competition for insurance purposes.** Unregistered players will be unable to take the field. Participants are not covered by the Touch Football Australia National Insurance Scheme until they are registered online
- r) **All players in our Senior competitions must also sign their weekly team sign on sheet prior to the commencement of their game for insurance purposes.** The sign on sheets are located adjacent to the Ground Manager's desk on game nights.



## NOTE

MWTA is a current affiliate of New South Wales Touch Association (NSWTA) who is in turn affiliated with Touch Football Australia (TFA).

**Please note all MWTA registered players and officials are covered by Sportscover however players must have registered ONLINE (and signed on if applicable) to be covered.**

We do know of players that have been injured playing touch footy and have then tried to make a claim via Sportscover Insurance but have had their claim rejected due to not being registered online and/or not signing on prior to their game.

TFA and MWTA also encourages all players and officials to take out their own Private Health Insurance, Life Insurance and Loss of Income coverage over and above the coverage provided under this Scheme.

- s) Junior participants will not be required to provide a birth certificate during the registration process, however it will be the team contact's responsibility to prove the age of the participant in the event of a dispute.
- t) Players listed as un-financial with any affiliated bodies (i.e. team, club, association, regional, state, or national) shall not be permitted to play, coach or referee until their account is settled and notification has been provided by the affiliated body.
- u) MWTA charges a team-based fee regardless of the number of the number of players in a team, therefore players wishing to withdraw from their team during the season and are seeking a refund should speak directly to their team contact.
- v) All teams must ensure that their coaches, managers, and team officials are registered before the first round of competition commences. Officials who have not registered by the due date will not be permitted to take part in the competition.
- w) Unfortunately, MWTA are unable to accept individual player registrations. If you cannot form your own team with friends, you may email [admin@manlytouch.com](mailto:admin@manlytouch.com) with your details and we can pass them on to any team who contacts us looking for players.
- x) If your **team needs extra players**, please email [admin@manlytouch.com](mailto:admin@manlytouch.com) with your details and MWTA will put you in touch with any players who have contacted us looking for a team.
- y) Team Contacts can view the players registered in their team. Please follow the link available on the MWTA website [www.manlytouch.com](http://www.manlytouch.com) You will need to link your team to your SportsTG Passport account first.

#### **BY-LAW 04 »Junior Representative Player Points**

- a) A representative player for the junior competition is defined as someone who played at the most recent Junior State Cup (JSC)
- i. 'A' representative players are those players that that represented MWTA in the 'A' teams.
  - ii. 'Development' representative players are those players that represented MWTA in the 'Development' teams.
- b) There is a points system in place to ensure we do not have teams full of representative players and to make for an even competition especially in A Grade. This will help promote a good spread of talent across a number of different teams, which will provide the teams competing high quality games each week and will therefore foster the continued development of our players

**All current representative players playing in their own age group are worth one (1) point regardless of whether they are an A representative player or Development representative player.**

There are three (3) exceptions to this rule

- i. Development players that are moving up an age division from last year to this year are considered half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) point. For example, an U12s Development player that played U11s last year and now must play in the U13s age group this year is half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) point
  - ii. U10s A representative players at JSC moving from U9s to the U11 competition this year are worth half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) point. This is because they will now be playing on a larger field.
  - iii. U10s Development players at JSC moving from U9s to the U11 competition this year are worth zero (0) points.
- c) **There are also to be no more than seven (7) representative players in your team** in total in your correct age division regardless of whether they are A or Development representative players. This restriction is in place to prevent a whole team of, for example, ten  $\frac{1}{2}$  point players (i.e. a team total of 5 points) competing in the one team. This would basically be our whole Development side in that age group. We want to share the talent across a number of sides.
- d) If a girl representative player wants to play in the boy's competition she is still considered a rep player and the same points are incurred.
- e) The following rep points are allowed per team:
- i. A Grade - Total of 5 representative player points
  - ii. B Grade - Total of 1.5 representative player points
- f) All current representative players playing in a higher age group are worth 0 points regardless of whether they are an A representative player or development representative player and are not considered representative players. For example, if you qualify to play U11s this year, but choose to play U13s then you do not incur any points.
- g) If a team breaches the points cap allowance of representative players they run the risk of forfeiting games, competition points or even expulsion from competition for repeat offences. Please let us know if you believe a team is not following the rules and MWTA Executive Committee will investigate.

### **BY-LAW 05 » Playing Uniforms and Attire**

- a) MWTA follows the Touch Football Australia 7<sup>th</sup> Edition rules regarding uniform requirements. All players must wear matching team shirts on the exterior of all clothing at all times during the competition. All players must wear an identifying number, not less than 16 cm in height, clearly displayed on the rear of the team shirt. No two players in the same team may wear the same number.
- b) MWTA provides each team in the Summer Junior Competition with a set of playing shirts as part of the team registration fee (10 shirts for each U9 team and 12 shirts for each U11-U17 team). The sizing of the shirts is as follows: U9s size 10 shirts, U11s size 12 shirts, U13s size 14 shirts, U15s size 16 shirts, U17s size Small Adults shirts. Requests for different size shirts or a particular colour can be made to the Administration Manager via [admin@manlytouch.com](mailto:admin@manlytouch.com). MWTA will ensure that no two teams in the same pool will be in the same colour.
- c) If you choose to provide your own shirts, singlets or bodysuits, you must have numbers which are to be regulation size as per Touch Football Australia 7<sup>th</sup> Edition rules. MWTA can source playing shirts for you, please contact our Administration Manager via [admin@manlytouch.com](mailto:admin@manlytouch.com).
- d) Teams are not permitted to wear **white** shirts due to a clash with our MWTA referee shirts
- e) Each team is to supply their own shorts or bike pants. There are no set uniform requirements for these items. However, MWTA would prefer that all players are in a predominantly set colour (e.g. if your team's shorts colour is black, as long as they are predominantly black, it doesn't matter if they also have a 'pink' stripe etc.).
- f) All teams are to be in uniform by the first round of competition. The MWTA Administration Manager is to be notified if there are any delivery problems that will affect teams not being in uniform by the due date.
- g) Players are not permitted to wear garments over their playing shirts. If required, players can wear Skins or similar UNDER their playing shirt or singlet. Wearing hoodies under playing shirts is also not permitted due to safety concerns.
- h) All players must wear shoes and socks as per TFA rules. MWTA would once again prefer that all players in your team are in a predominantly set sock colour.
- i) Shoes with screw-in studs or cleats are not to be worn by any player. Light leather or synthetic boots with soft moulded soles are permitted, provided individual studs are no longer than 13 mm in length; the measurement being taken from the sole of the boot
- j) All players and/or referees may wear glasses, hats and/or medical supports as long as they have no dangerous parts, and in the case of glasses, they must be secured at the back with a band.
- k) Any fibreglass, plaster-of-paris, or solid fixtures of a medical nature cannot be worn while playing or refereeing.
- l) Players are not to participate in any match while wearing any items of jewellery (unless taped) which may be considered dangerous.
- m) Long or sharp fingernails are to be trimmed or taped.

### **BY-LAW 06 » Number of Players**

- a) All competitions are allowed a maximum of six (6) players per side on the field at any one time.
- b) The maximum number of players permitted to be registered to a team is fourteen (14).
- c) A maximum of fourteen (14) players are permitted to play in any round match and any finals series match. Teams that play more than fourteen (14) players will have their match counted as a forfeit and all relevant rules for a forfeit will apply.
- d) The maximum of three (3) male players are permitted on the field at any one time during Mixed matches i.e. 3 males and 3 females; 2 males and 4 females, etc are permissible.
- e) In all competitions the minimum number of players required to start a game shall be four (4) on the field.
- f) Fewer numbers than four (4) players on the field will result in a forfeit by the offending team.

### **RULE MODIFICATIONS**

- g) U7s and U9s – only a maximum of five (5) players per side on the field at any one time
- h) U7s and U9s – a maximum of ten (10) players permitted to be registered per team
- i) U11-U17 – The maximum number of players permitted to be registered in U11, U13, U15 and U17 teams is twelve (12). This is the amount of playing shirts provided for each team, hence the maximum number of players)
- j) Senior Sunday Morning Competition – Seven (7) players are allowed to take the field

### **NOTES**

MWTA recommend that junior teams do not have any more than ten (10) players to ensure everyone spends a fair amount of time on the field. This is not a representative competition and there is no need to have fourteen (14) players like rep sides. As this is a social comp, it is about having fun, enjoying the game as much as possible whilst still competing. Children cannot enjoy and learn the game of touch football if they only play a 1/3 of the game.

**BY-LAW 07 » Match Procedure for All Teams and Referees**

- a) The referees are to identify each team's Captain and Coach (for Junior Competitions), who will be responsible for their team in the interchange box. They then check shoes, fingernails and jewellery of all players and ensure that the interchange area, only contains coaches, players, and officials and not spectators.
- b) Coaches or captains are to bring to the referees' attention any doubts they may have with the validity of the opposition team (e.g. not in uniform, illegal player etc.). Referees are to mark on the back of the scorecard any concerns and after the match bring to administration's attention.
- c) A coin toss is made, players shake hands, interchange players, coaches and managers move to the interchange box in readiness for the match to commence.
- d) At the completion of the match, the captains or coaches check the referee's scorecard to ensure that they agree with the marked score. If in agreement and if there is no protest on the match, the captains or coaches sign the referee's scorecard.
- e) If there is a protest on the match (e.g. score incorrect, etc.) the protesting coach is not to sign scorecard. The coach should immediately speak to an official from their club to obtain protest form. The completed form should be submitted as per BY-LAW 14.a).

### **BY-LAW 08 » Substitution Boxes**

- a) Players, coaches, managers and officials must use the designated Substitution Boxes during a match. Coaches have the option of coaching from the end of the field at a distance of not less than two (2) metres from the dead ball line, though if this option is utilised they cannot move from that position until halftime. In a junior's game there must be also be a manager (over the age of 18 years) present in the substitution box to be responsible for the team whilst the coach is not present.
- b) Spectators are not permitted in the substitution box during a match. It will be the responsibility of the Team Coaches and Referees that this occurs. If spectators refuse to move the match is not to proceed until the sub-boxes are clear of spectators.
- c) The substitution boxes are ten (10) metres either side of halfway. In all instances, if distance permits, the depth of the substitution boxes shall be two (2) meters.
- d) The substitution boxes for U7s and U9s matches, when half fields are used is the area either side of the half way line on the outer extremity of the half-field.
- e) Interchange procedure: Player substitution rules as per TFA Rule book apply. Players must remain in their Interchange Area for the duration of the match. All interchanges must occur at or within the team's Interchange Area, and only after the substituted player has crossed the boundaries and entered the Interchange Area. All interchanges must be on the one side of the field and without delay.
- f) Physical contact does not have to be made between the interchanging players. Players leaving or entering the field shall not hinder or obstruct play and must enter from an onside position.
- g) Following the scoring of a touchdown, players may interchange at will without having to wait for the substituted player to enter the interchange area, provided there are not more than six (6) players from their team on the field at the recommencement of play (or five (5) players for U7 or U9 matches).

### **BY-LAW 09 » Provision of Referees and Referee Payments**

- a) All appointments for games will be authorised by the Referee Director or Ground Manager for senior competitions, and the Junior Referee Coordinator for junior competitions. Preference will be given to referees that have indicated their availability and graded referees.
- b) The MWTA Ground Manager or Junior Referee Coordinator will prepare the allocation of referee roles to matches with the requirement that all matches must have at least one (1) 'Experienced' referee appointed.
- c) All referees must hold at least a minimum TFA Level 1 Touch Referee qualification or are in the process of attaining their qualifications
- d) Junior referees appointed to the 'Experienced' role must have refereed for at least one (1) season and be at least two (2) years older than the division they are appointed to referee, unless they are over the age of 18 or are a qualified Level 2 Touch Referee, or higher.
  - i. All other referees are deemed to be 'Junior' referees.
  - ii. The MWTA Referee Director may approve a junior referee, who has completed a Level 2 Touch Referee course, to be appointed as an 'Experienced' referee for the purpose of assessment and upgrading.
- e) The minimum age for referees in our Junior Competition is 12 years. A referee must be 12 or older on or before the 31st December in the year of the competition. The minimum age for referees in our Senior Competition is 14 years. A referee must be 14 or older on or before the 31st December in the year of the competition
- f) Any referee that cannot attend the match they have been appointed to referee is required to notify the MWTA Ground Manager or Junior Referee Coordinator as soon as possible
- g) If a referee is allocated a game and there is a forfeit on that game they MUST return to the desk to let the Ground Manager or Junior Referee Coordinator know and they will be allocated another game. Failure to do this and assist fellow referees may incur a forfeit of referee payments
- h) Matches should not proceed until there are at least two (2) referees in attendance, in accordance with the above by-laws. A single one (1) referee can take charge of a game by themselves, but this is at the discretion of the Ground Manager or Junior Referee Coordinator.
- i) Under no circumstances is a referee to be appointed or referee more than three (3) matches in a row on a single day, regardless of their age, level, or experience.
- j) Junior Referee Payments
  - i. All teams are required to pay the referee fee of \$5 per match i.e. for any one match both teams must pay \$5 each to the referee being \$10 in total before the match commences
  - ii. No match will proceed until the referee has received payment from both teams. If after five (5) minutes one team has not paid the referee, the match will be counted as a forfeit by the offending team who has not paid the referee.
  - iii. No match fees are required to be paid for any Semi Finals or Grand Finals
  - iv. Junior Referees are also paid a top up amount from MWTA which is included as part of the team registration fee

k) Senior Referee Payments

- i. Level 1 - Level 3 referee \$30 per game
- ii. Level 4 - Level 6 referees \$40 per game
- iii. Non-badged referees \$20 per game (i.e. a referee that has not done a touch football referee course)

Referee payments are part of the team registration fees and no further payments are required. Each team will need to supply a duty referee for a minimal number of rounds each season, please see notes below.

**NOTES**

MWTA has a duty referee system for our Senior competitions. Teams are required to nominate a Duty Referee and attend rostered referee duties, approximately 3 times a season.

If there are insufficient graded referees available on competition night, these Duty Referees will be required to officiate a game. It is recommended that all teams ensure they organise for at least 1 or 2 of their players to attain their Level 1 Referee Certificate accreditation. Please contact our Referee Director to register your interest and find out the date of our next Level 1 Referee Course.

When a team is rostered on to supply a duty referee, they must supply one referee that will need to report to the competition desk at least 10 minutes prior to the start of their allocated duty time slot.

Penalties for not providing someone for your team's referee duty will be as follows:

- i. The team who does not supply a duty referee must supply a duty referee the following week or they will lose 3 competition points
- ii. This weekly penalty will continue until the team provides a duty referee

MWTA understands that everyone does not feel comfortable refereeing a game of touch football, especially our new teams. MWTA will never force a duty ref to referee a game on their own if they do not feel comfortable to do so. MWTA will instead place you with a qualified referee.

Please note Duty Referees are not paid.



### **BY-LAW 10 » Scoring and Competition Points**

- a) Each touchdown scored shall be worth one (1) point for all players.
- b) Each team receives:
  - i. Win/Bye 3 competition points
  - ii. Draw 2 competition points
  - iii. Loss 1 competition point
  - iv. Forfeit 0 competition points (unnotified forfeit = -3 competition points)
- c) In the case of a junior team forfeiting, the forfeiting team will be allocated zero (0) competition points with zero (0) points 'FOR' and five (5) points 'AGAINST'. The non-offending team becomes the team will be allocated three (3) competition points with five (5) points 'FOR' and zero (0) points 'AGAINST'.
- d) In the case of a senior team forfeiting, the forfeiting team will be allocated zero (0) competition points with zero (0) points 'FOR' and nine (9) points 'AGAINST'. The non-offending team becomes the team will be allocated three (3) competition points with nine (9) points 'FOR' and zero (0) points 'AGAINST'.
- e) The 'FOR and AGAINST' points are determined in accordance with TFA rules. If a team is not in attendance after five (5) minutes has expired, the match is deemed a forfeit. The offending team is penalised one touchdown after the first minute for every minute thereafter up to five (5) minutes.  
For clarification, teams that arrive three (3) minutes late to a game do not start the match with a scoreline of 0-3.
- f) Nominations received after the competition commences will be taken as a Forfeit Team and receive zero (0) competition points and zero (0) points 'FOR' and zero (0) points 'AGAINST' for the matches missed.

### **BY-LAW 11 » Byes, Forfeits and Withdrawals**

- a) Teams on a bye will be counted as a match played and normal rules will apply to the players in that team as if the match had been played.
- b) A player cannot 'fill-in' for another team in their pool or grade if their team has a bye. Players that play in another division are still permitted to play as per usual.
- c) Players who have played in their team in the last round game that the team played, immediately prior to the bye occurring will be permitted to count the bye as a match played in order to qualify for the finals series.
- d) Teams must be in attendance at their playing field, five (5) minutes before the commencement of their match. Any team that cannot field a team on the scheduled or rescheduled date (in the case of a match change) with at least the minimum number of players after five (5) minutes of the siren going will be required to forfeit.
- e) Should a team need to forfeit, that team **MUST** notify the MWTA Administration Manager via [admin@manlytouch.com](mailto:admin@manlytouch.com) by 5:00pm the day before the scheduled match to allow time to notify the opposing team. Failure by the forfeiting team to notify the MWTA Administration Manager by the given time will result in the team having zero (0) points recorded for the forfeit, as well as the loss of an additional three (3) points for failure to notify the MWTA Administration Manager by the due time.
- f) In the case of a forfeit the non-offending team will be counted as a team on a bye and any rules associated with a bye team will apply. However, they receive 3 competition points and the game is scored as a five (5) – zero (0) victory for junior competition games and nine (9) – zero (0) victory for senior competition games
- g) If a 'scratch match' is played, then teams are required to notify the Ground Manager (this is for insurance purposes).
- l) Referees are still to be paid for any forfeits or scratch matches, but this will be at the discretion of the Ground Manager and Referee Director. If a referee is allocated a game and there is a forfeit on that game they **MUST** return to the desk to let the Ground Manager or Junior Referee Coordinator know and they will be allocated another game. Failure to do this and assist fellow referees may incur a forfeit of referee payments
- h) Any teams that forfeit two (2) matches shall be required to "show cause" to the MWTA Executive Committee as to why they should not be removed from the competition.
- i) Any team that forfeits three (3) matches without good reason shall be immediately removed from the competition with no refund.
- j) Any team that withdraws from the competition after the first week of competition shall be ineligible for a refund of their team registration fees.

**BY-LAW 12 » Determining Positions for Finals Series**

- a) The team higher on the ladder will determine positions for Final Series.
- b) If teams are on equal points at the completion of the round games, 'for and against' results will be used to decide the higher teams for the finals series. The following measures in order will be used:

i. FOR & AGAINST DIFFERENCES METHOD

The difference is determined by subtracting the total of Touchdowns scored 'against' from the number of Touchdowns scored 'for'. The team with the best difference will obtain the higher position.

Example:

Team A scores 50 for and 10 against = 40

Team B scores 40 for and 20 against = 20

Team A obtains the higher position

ii. FOR & AGAINST PERCENTAGES METHOD

If the teams For & Against differences are the same, the Percentages System will be used. Basically, if both teams have a 'plus' For & Against difference the team with the least number of touchdowns scored against them would obtain the higher position. However, if both teams have a 'negative' For & Against difference, the team that has scored the most touchdowns (for) would obtain the higher position.

The percentage system is calculated by placing Touchdown 'for' over Touchdowns 'against' and multiplying by 100 over 1.

Example:

Team A scores 50 for and 10 against = 40

Team B scores 60 for and 20 against = 40

Team A =  $50/10 \times 100/1 = 500\%$

Team B =  $60/20 \times 100/1 = 300\%$

Team A obtains the higher position.

iii. ROUND GAMES

If the above systems are unable to decide the outcome, then Round Game results will be used.

The team winning the 1<sup>st</sup> round game between the teams would obtain the higher position. If the teams had a draw, then the subsequent round games would be used.

iv. TOSS OF A COIN

If all games were a draw, then a toss of the coin will be conducted to determine the highest ranked team.

**BY-LAW 13 » Drop Off Procedures for Finals Games**

- a) MWTA will utilise the following procedures for any drop off in MWTA semi-final or grand final games ending in a draw:
- i. The referee will raise their arm to signal to tournament control that there is a drawn game.
  - ii. A tournament representative will come to the field and brief the referee and coaches to make sure everyone is aware of the "drop off" rule.
  - iii. The game will resume once tournament control have been to all fields that have indicated a drawn game.
  - iv. At the start of the extended period the referee will conduct a toss with the 2 captains and the winning team will start with the tap off.
  - v. Each team will have 5 players on the field.
  - vi. The first team to score wins the game. If the team that won the toss, receiving first possession, scores a try on their first set of 6 touches, then the other team gets a "right of reply".
  - vii. The "right of reply" team gets to tap off from half way. The "right of reply" rule will remain until one team does not score in their set of six.
  - viii. Every 2 minutes in the drop off period, the siren will sound. At the next stop in play, each team will remove 1 player until we get down to 3 on 3.
  - ix. Then we continue the game with 3 on 3 until one team scores.
  - x. With regards to **Mixed Division Games** both teams will commence the "Drop Off" three (3) males and two (2) females. The first "Drop Off" will be a male leaving two (2) males and two (2) females on the field. The next player to "Drop Off" will be a female leaving (2) male and one (1) female on the field.
  - xi. In the case of a male player in the sin bin at the commencement of the "Drop Off" the offending team will start with two (2) males and two (2) females on the field. If it is female in the sin bin, then the offending team will start with three (3) males and one (1) female on the field.

#### **BY-LAW 14 » Interrupted Matches**

- a) Should a scheduled match be unable to continue due to injury or any other extenuating circumstance, the following shall be the policy:
  - i. Prior to first half - The match results in a draw. If the game is unable to be replayed, then the game will result in a draw and both teams will be allocated a 'For/Against' points of 5 /5
  - ii. After half time - The match score is to stand as it was when play stopped.
- b) In the case of a final series match where a decision is required, if the match is drawn at the time of the stoppage when the final siren sounds the match will be moved to the nearest available field and a drop-off will occur. Normal Drop-Off rules will apply.
- c) If on a fixture day all matches are abandoned, the replaying of the round will be at the discretion of the MWT A Executive Committee, though if the round is not replayed then all matches scheduled will be declared a "washout" and teams will receive two (2) competition points and be allocated 'For/Against' points of 5/5. Bye teams will receive the usual three (3) competition points and be allocated the usual 'For/Against' points of 5/0.
- d) If on a fixture day some matches are abandoned, then the following will apply:
  - i. For those matches that were able to be completed, teams will receive points as per the scorecard;
  - ii. For those matches that were abandoned during play, BY-LAW 14.a) and BY- LAW 14.b) will apply;
  - iii. For those matches that were abandoned prior to starting, points will be allocated as per BY-LAW 14.c).
- e) Where practical, the decision to cancel matches will be made at approximately 3.00pm on match day for afternoon and evening competitions and 7.30am for Sunday morning competitions. If games are cancelled this will be announced on the MWT A website ([www.manlytouch.com](http://www.manlytouch.com)), social media, and a notification sent to all Team Contacts via email.

### **BY-LAW 15 » Match Changes**

- a) During round matches, a scheduled match may be played on an alternate date/and or time. For this to occur both teams must agree to the rescheduling.
- b) In the case of a team requesting a match to be rescheduled due to having players attending a sanctioned representative event, MWTA will assist to reschedule the match to a date and time to suit both teams.
  - i. Sanctioned events are as follows:
    - NSWTA Junior State Cup
    - NSWTA Senior State Cup
    - NSWTA Junior Regional Championships
    - NSW All Schools
    - Touch Football Australia National Touch League
    - Touch Football Australia National Youth Championships
    - Touch Football Australia National School Series
    - School Sport Australia National Championships
  - ii. If both teams cannot agree on a suitable date and time, the MWTA Executive Committee will set a date and time and advise both teams.
  - iii. Normal forfeit rules will apply if a team does not field a side in a rescheduled match.
  - iv. If the majority of teams are affected by representative duties, as above, the round may be cancelled at the discretion of the MWTA Executive Committee.
- c) The MWTA Administration Manager is to be notified of the change
- d) MWTA will arrange referees for this match.
- e) All rescheduled matches must be pre-played before the next scheduled round match commences.
- f) All matches are to be played at Nolan Reserve, North Manly
- g) All matches should be played preferably on the same day/night another MWTA Competition is being held (fields permitting). A representative from the MWTA Executive Committee must be present. Referee fees and all rules as per a normal round match will apply.
- h) In the case of a Semi Final or Grand Final match, the match time only is to be negotiated to allow the player/s affected by representative touch football duties to participate.

### **BY-LAW 16 » Extreme Weather Conditions**

- a) Touch Football games will not go ahead in the case of heavy rain, hail, lightning, thunderstorms or extreme heat.
- b) MWTA follows the **Touch Football Australia Extreme Weather Guidelines 2015** regarding extreme weather conditions and whether games should be postponed or suspended.
- c) In the case of **extreme hot weather** conditions, MWTA will adhere to the following:
  - a) 36 degrees + Play/Competition will be postponed or cancelled.
  - b) 31 – 35 degrees Play/Competition will be interrupted with a quarter-time and three-quarter time interval for a minimum period of 2 minutes.
  - c) 30 degrees MWTA will communication of heat stress management strategies and warnings of possible risk.
- d) In the case of **wet weather**, MWTA will always adhere to advice from Northern Beaches Council or other state/regulatory body who has the authority to close the fields.

However, if there is **heavy rain** play/competition will be suspended until the hazard clears. If it continues to rain heavily during that time, play/competition may be suspended until further notice.

**With regards to wet weather please check the MWTA website [www.manlytouch.com](http://www.manlytouch.com) and Manly Warringah Touch Association Facebook Page after 3pm on the day of the competition, as we do not find out from Northern Beaches Council whether the fields are open or closed until this time.**

We will send an email to team contacts if time permits.

- e) When **lightning** is considered to be a possible or actual threat to a Touch Football game and in the absence of specific information from a weather radar, lightning location system, or specialised warning device then MWTA uses the 30/30 Safety Guideline.

The 30/30 Rule is a guide to postponement or suspension of play/competition. The accepted “safe” distance from lightning is greater than 10km. This means:

- i. That as the time interval between observing the flash and hearing the thunder approaches 30 seconds, all those in exposed areas should be seeking or already inside safe shelters. A storm cell with lightning within 10km constitutes a threat.
- ii. For resumption of play/competition, it is recommended that people wait a minimum of 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning or sound of thunder.

If MWTA decides to postpone games during matches, MWTA will communicate this by three short blasts from the scoreboard siren. Players, coaches, managers, referees, supporters are to vacate the playing area immediately and seek shelter.

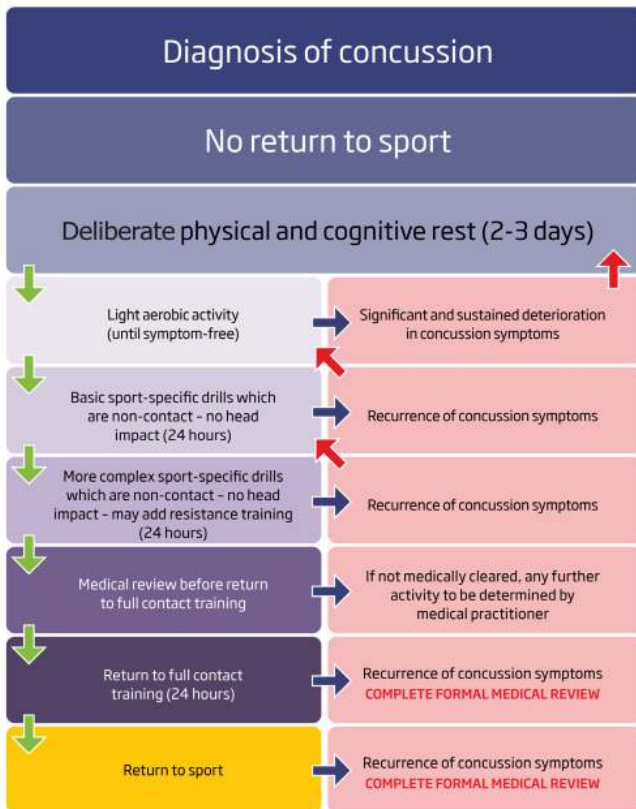
- f) If there is **hail or ice on the ground** play/competition will be suspended immediately until the hazard clears. MWTA will refer to weather radar for official reports and where available, shelter will be offered for players/ spectators/officials until cleared.
- g) When **severe winter weather** is forecast, MWTA will monitor weather reports and traffic conditions within the immediate area. If the ground is slippery from frost, snow, rain or mud, or if the temperature drops below 8 degrees, MWTA will determine whether play/competition should be suspended or cancelled until the hazard clears.
- h) If there is **limited air quality and/or pollution**, MWTA will source and communicate appropriate health management strategies and warnings for Asthma sufferers.

**BY-LAW 17 » Concussion**

a) The most important element in the management of concussion **MUST ALWAYS** be the welfare of the player - in both the short and long term.

MWTA uses the TFA approved Concussion in Sport Policy. These Return to Sport Protocols should be adhered to if a player suffers any form of concussion during a MWTA competition game regardless of the mildness or severity of the incident.

Return to Sport Protocol for adults over 18 years of age



Return to Sport Protocol for children 18 years of age and under



b) MWTA requests that any player with suspected concussion seek out a medical practitioner for an assessment, and the player should be reassessed to look for developing symptoms and cleared by a medical practitioner before returning to sport.

c) Depending on the severity of the concussion MWTA will request the player affected to provide a Doctors Certificate confirming that they be allowed to return to the sport.

**NOTES**

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and Australian Medical Association (AMA) established a joint Position Statement on Concussion in Sport and have launched [www.concussioninsport.gov.au](http://www.concussioninsport.gov.au) – an Australian Government funded website providing simple but specific advisory tools for athletes, parents, teachers, coaches and medical practitioners.





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**BY-LAW 18 » Blood Bin**

- a) Any player with a bleeding cut or abrasion is to leave the field immediately and have the cut or abrasion cleaned and covered. At this time, any blood-stained clothing must also be either cleaned or replaced.
- b) If the player does not leave the field immediately, the Referee will stop the game and ask the player to leave the field (normal substitution rules apply).
- c) Once the flow of blood has been stemmed, the cut or abrasion cleaned and covered, and any blood-stained clothing and equipment cleaned or replaced, the player may return to the field and continue play.
- d) If bleeding cannot be controlled and the wound securely covered, the player must not continue in the game.



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**BY-LAW 19 » Images**

- i. All persons accept that, by participating in our competitions, they may be photographed/filmed and that these images may be used by the MWTA for the promotion of our club and sport.
- ii. MWTA will not pass any image/s onto a third party unless prior approval is sought. If you do not wish the MWTA to be able to use your image/s or be filmed, you must notify MWTA in writing.
- iii. MWTA reserves the right to take immediate possession of any video footage taken at an MWTA event that may assist the MWTA in investigating any matter of judiciary, discipline or protest. All care of equipment, tape and data cards will be taken and returned to the owner upon determination of the judiciary, disciplinary hearing or protest.
- iv. With the use of social media, it is now important MWTA has regulations around the filming of players and games at events. To protect the privacy and images anyone filming games or players will be required to be registered with MWTA and have permission to film. In allowing filming they must comply with relevant clauses around the use of the footage. These will be provided on the registration sheet.

**BY-LAW 20 » Zero Tolerance Policy re Approaches to a Referee**

- a) MWTA supports a zero tolerance to abuse of referees. Such behaviour can lead to players being cited and/or teams losing competition points
- b) TFA Playing Rule 18 Player Note A will be adhered to at all times

*'Team captains may respectfully enquire of the referee, matters of varying interpretation or causes of penalties. Any discussion is to be brief and polite and must not delay play. Other team members should not talk to the referee.'*

Also *'The playing area under the control of the referee extends from the boundaries of the field of play, to an area which covers substitute player and officials involved in the particular match. Referees are also not to tolerate abusive behaviour from the sub-box during the game and will deal with it appropriately should it take place. This could involve removing a player from the field of play.'*

- c) No player, coach, manager or official is to approach, engage or communicate with the referee following the conclusion of the game.
- d) The signing of the scorecard will take place only by the two captains of the teams. Should either try to engage the referees in discussion about the game or decisions made during the game, the referees will immediately stop those discussions and direct the captain to move back to their team.
- e) Any dispute of the score must be raised with the Ground Manager at the conclusion of your game in question or alternatively in writing within 48 hours of the game taking place.
- f) A player, coach, manager or team contact may not agree with the way a referee officiates a game, nor may he/she agree with decisions made, however MWTA does have procedures in place to handle such matters.
- g) We do however welcome feedback, reports or consultation under the proper guidelines. Should you have an issue with a performance of a referee you may:
  - i. Arrange to consult, in a calm manner, with our Ground Manager, Referee Director or Administration Manager
  - ii. If necessary, they will orchestrate a meeting with the Referee and MWTA Executive Committee.

**BY-LAW 21 » Protests, Reports and Disciplinary Regulations**

- a) All protests regarding breaches of by-laws are to be in writing, addressed to the MWTA Executive Committee and are to be submitted by the Team Contact immediately following the match.
- b) Disciplinary Incident reports are to be submitted by the referee/participant/official immediately following the match.
- c) Further information can be submitted, either in person or by email, to the MWTA Executive Committee within 48 hours.
- d) Protests regarding by-law violations will be addressed by the MWTA Executive Committee.
- e) Disciplinary Incidents will be addressed by the MWTA Judiciary Tribunal Chairman.
- f) In general, reports lodged on match day/night will not be addressed before the next business day.
- g) Captains and coaches are to confirm the score with referees at the end of the match, prior to signing the scorecard. If there is a dispute with the score which cannot be resolved at this time, the captain or coach is not to sign the scorecard and shall instead speak to the Ground Manager to raise a protest through the above process.
- h) Protests will only be heard regarding breaches of by-laws and no protests will be heard regarding the decision of referees.
- i) Protest forms, Disciplinary Incident forms and Supplementary Information forms are available from the Ground Manager, Referee Coordinator, Administration Manager or the MWTA website



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**BY-LAW 22 » Send Offs**

- a) Any player sent from the field for the remainder of the game will receive an automatic two (2) match suspension unless the Disciplinary Committee considers further action.
- b) Teams that have three (3) or more players SENT OFF for the game automatically forfeit
- c) Referees may request that a player be removed from the field for the remainder of the game. They have therefore not been sent off and may be replaced. If a player who is asked to leave the field for the remainder of the game refuses to do so, the referee may show due process and SEND the player for the remainder of the game. Any player sent off in this manner will see an automatic two (2) match suspension
- d) If a player is sin binned players are required to stand behind their teams attacking score line until directed by the referee to return to the field
- e) Any player who receives two “periods of time” during the same game, will also receive an Automatic one (1) match suspension.



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**BY-LAW 23 » Requests for Special Circumstances**

- a) Where there arises any special circumstance that is not already covered by these By-Laws then a team may make application in writing to the MWTA Executive Committee to have their situation considered.
- b) All requests must be submitted by the Team Contact to the MWTA Executive Committee.
- c) Any requests under this by-law that apply to the finals series must be submitted to the MWTA Executive Committee by end-of-play, two (2) weeks prior to the start of the final series.



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**BY-LAW 24 » Force Majeure Event**

- a) For the purposes of these regulations a force majeure event includes but is not limited to any or all of the following:
- i. Acts of God including flood, drought, earthquake, storm, cyclone, fire, explosion, epidemic; or
  - ii. War; or
  - iii. Terrorism; or
  - iv. Riot or civil disturbance; or
  - v. Permanent injunction of any duly constituted court of competent jurisdiction; or
  - vi. Any fact, circumstance, matter or thing beyond the reasonable control of MWTA



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### **BY-LAW 25 » Other Policies**

- a) MWTA adheres to and is subject to the following TFA policies:
- i. TFA National Match Fixing Policy
  - ii. TFA Anti-Doping Policy
  - iii. TFA Member Protection Policy
  - iv. TFA Disciplinary Regulations Manual
  - v. TFA Privacy Policy
- b) MWTA supports the following:
- i. TFA Responsibility Code
  - ii. Code of Conduct



**BY-LAW 26 » Penalties for By-Law Violations**

The following penalties exist for violations of competition By-Laws by players and/or teams.

- a) Team with players not in correct uniform.....BY-LAW 5.f)  
Loss of one (1) competition point in round matches.
- b) Players not in uniform for the final series.....BY-LAW 5.f)  
Players not permitted to play.
- c) Player/s playing more than one match not within by-laws..... BY-LAW 3.m)  
Match to count as a forfeit by the offending team with the non-offending team counted as a team on a bye.
- d) Player playing for another team in the same division ..... BY-LAW 3.l)  
Match to count as a forfeit by the offending team with the non-offending team counting as a team on a bye.
- e) Player (who played) not registered online.....BY-LAW 3.p)  
Match to count as a forfeit by the offending team with the non-offending team counting as a team on a bye.
- f) Team playing more than fourteen (14) players ..... BY-LAW 6.c)  
Match to count as a forfeit by the offending team with the non-offending team counting as a team on a bye.
- g) Team permitting an un-financial player to play ..... BY-LAW 3.g)  
Loss of three (3) competition points by offending team.
- h) No team contact present and responsible for team after five (5) minutes ..... BY-LAW 1.f)  
Match to count as forfeit by offending team and a bye for non-offending team.
- i) Referees not paid prior after five (5) minutes of game commencement..... BY-LAW 9.j)  
Match to count as a forfeit by the offending team with the non-offending team counting as a team on a bye.
- j) Player playing when not qualified for finals ..... BY-LAW 2.l)  
Match counts as a loss by the offending a team
- m) Failure to notify MWTA of forfeit by set time.....BY-LAW 11.e)  
Loss of three (3) competition points.
- k) Team that forfeits three (3) matches without good reason ..... BY-LAW 11.i)  
Removal from competition.
- l) Non-payment of Team Registration Fees prior to commencement of competition..... BY-LAW 3.d)  
Removal from comp until paid



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