



2024
MID-YEAR COMPETITION
INFORMATION BOOKLET

www.maitlandtouch.com.au

COMPETITION INFORMATION BOOKLET

Please read this conditions booklet carefully

HOW TO REGISTER

Maitland Touch Association (MTA) do not accept cash payments for player registrations. Our system is to offer an easy online registration process which can be completed with a credit/debit card.

To [register a team](#), please follow the online registration process at www.maitlandtouch.com.au. NO FEES are charged at this point in the process. Once your team is registered, there are three (3) ways to register your individual players.

- Team manager can add email addresses of their players who will then be sent a link to register.
- Team manager is provided a link (via email) to share with their players to register.
- Your players can [search for the team](#) name via the link at www.maitlandtouch.com.au on our homepage.

Team managers MUST be over the age of 18. No teams will be accepted with a minor nominated as team manager.

NOTE: Registration fees are paid by each individual player. No fees are charged at the time of team registration.

Please ensure you **read the NEW Team Manager Access** section of this document below!

PRE-COMPETITION DETAILS

- **ONLINE REGISTRATION and PAYMENTS** can be done via our website 24/7 www.maitlandtouch.com.au
 - **Online team registrations OPEN – Monday 18 March 2024**
 - **Online team registrations CLOSE – Wednesday 24 April 2024**
- **DRAWS/FIXTURES** can be accessed from the website *after 5:00pm Friday 26 April 2024*.
- If you have any problems understanding any of the supplied information or filling in the forms, please email admin@maitlandtouch.com.au

REGISTRATION FEES

Fee: \$85 per player

NO LATE REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED

- **PLAYER REGISTRATION FEES ARE DUE BY WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL 2024**
- Player registration fees are payable online at the time of registration.
- There are **no additional weekly fees**.
*PLEASE NOTE: Registration includes GST, affiliation with NSWTA, ground hire, and other competition costs.
Under no circumstances will **refunds** be given to any team/player withdrawing from the competition once draws are complete.*
- Remember – you can use an **Active Kids Voucher** to make up part of your registration.
Get your voucher here: www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/active-kids
- Please also see below regarding the new **TFA National Membership Program**.



TOUCH FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA MEMBERSHIP *NEW*

From July 1, 2023 – Touch Football Australia (TFA) will implement their new **national membership program**.

- When you sign up for your first competition of the financial year through MySideline, you will be prompted to pay a **national membership fee of \$22.00**. This is a one-time, annual fee which covers insurance and affiliation.
- Once paid, you may register in as many competitions as you like, paying only your competition fees each time you enter. Insurances and TFA affiliation costs have been included in the national membership fee.
- On 30 June each year your membership will expire and will need to be renewed before registering into a new competition in the new financial year.
- More information can be found in the [National Membership Hub](#) on the **Touch Football Australia website**.

DIVISIONS AND GRADING

- MTA offer the below competitions for the Winter Season:
 - **Men's competition: MONDAY NIGHTS** – All ages welcome, from beginners to elite players
 - **Women's competition: MONDAY NIGHTS** - All ages welcome, from beginners to elite players
 - **Mixed competition: MONDAY NIGHTS** – All ages welcome, from beginners to elite players
(Families with parents and kids welcome)
- Each competition may have several divisions, ranked on player/team skill and experience.
- The first three (2) weeks of competition will be used to confirm divisions. Points will carry over with any adjustments.
- The running of each competition and number of divisions will be based on registration numbers.

TEAM COMPOSITIONS

- As per the [Touch Football Australia 8th Edition Rule Book](#) (available online).
- **NUMBER OF PLAYERS:** each team consists of a **minimum of 10** and a maximum of 14 players registered in the side, no more than six (6) of whom are allowed on the field at any one time.
- **MIXED COMPOSITION:** the maximum number of males allowed on the field of play is three (3). The minimum male requirement is one (1), with the exception of a combined Women's/Mixed competition.
- **NO TEAM WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE REQUIRED MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS.**
- MTA reserves the right to add additional players to a team if they do not meet the minimum number of registered players.

COMPETITION FORMAT

- Games will be 30 minutes (try - change ends).
- Games commence from 6pm. Times to be confirmed once team registrations close.
- MTA reserve the right to change competition dates as deemed necessary.
- For player insurance purposes, all players must sign-on via QR Code at the fields. QR Code details will be displayed at the playing fields on game days.
- The venue is Maitland Touch playing fields, Maitland Park, Park Street, Maitland.



COMPETITION DATES

MID-YEAR COMPETITION	
Round 1	Monday 29 April 2024
Round 2	Monday 6 May 2024
Round 3	Monday 13 May 2024
Round 4	Monday 20 May 2024
Round 5	Monday 27 May 2024
Round 6	Monday 3 June 2024
Round 7	Monday 10 June 2024
Round 8	Monday 17 June 2024
Semi Finals	Monday 24 June 2024
Grand Finals	Monday 1 July 2024

FINALS

- At the conclusion of round games, the top 4 teams will progress through to semi-finals.
- Final series information will be provided on the website as the dates become closer.

UNREGISTERED PLAYERS

- Unregistered players, substitute players, day players and/or “fill-ins” **will not** be permitted. Players are required to register into a specific team. They may only play in a second team in the same competition if they are a registered player in the second team. If a team is found to have breached this condition of entry, a technical forfeit will be awarded to the non-offending team. Loss of competition points will apply.
- If a player plays in more than one competition on the same night, no guarantee can be given games won't clash.
- New player registrations will be taken up to and including round 6.

FIXTURE/DRAWS AND DUTY REFEREE ALLOCATIONS

These will all be available on our website after 5pm Friday 26 April 2024. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager and each player to check on game allocations and duty referee allocations.

AGE RESTRICTIONS

The social Winter competition is an open touch competition. This means the competition is open to any age, young or old. However, in the interest of participant safety, there is an age restriction of **12 years or older to participate**. The committee may approve exemptions in special circumstances. If you are unsure, please contact our Administrator. Alternatively, please consider entering any children under 17 years old into our Maitland junior competition. Details are available on our socials and website or email us at admin@maitlandtouch.com.au.

UNIFORMS - ATTIRE – UPDATED

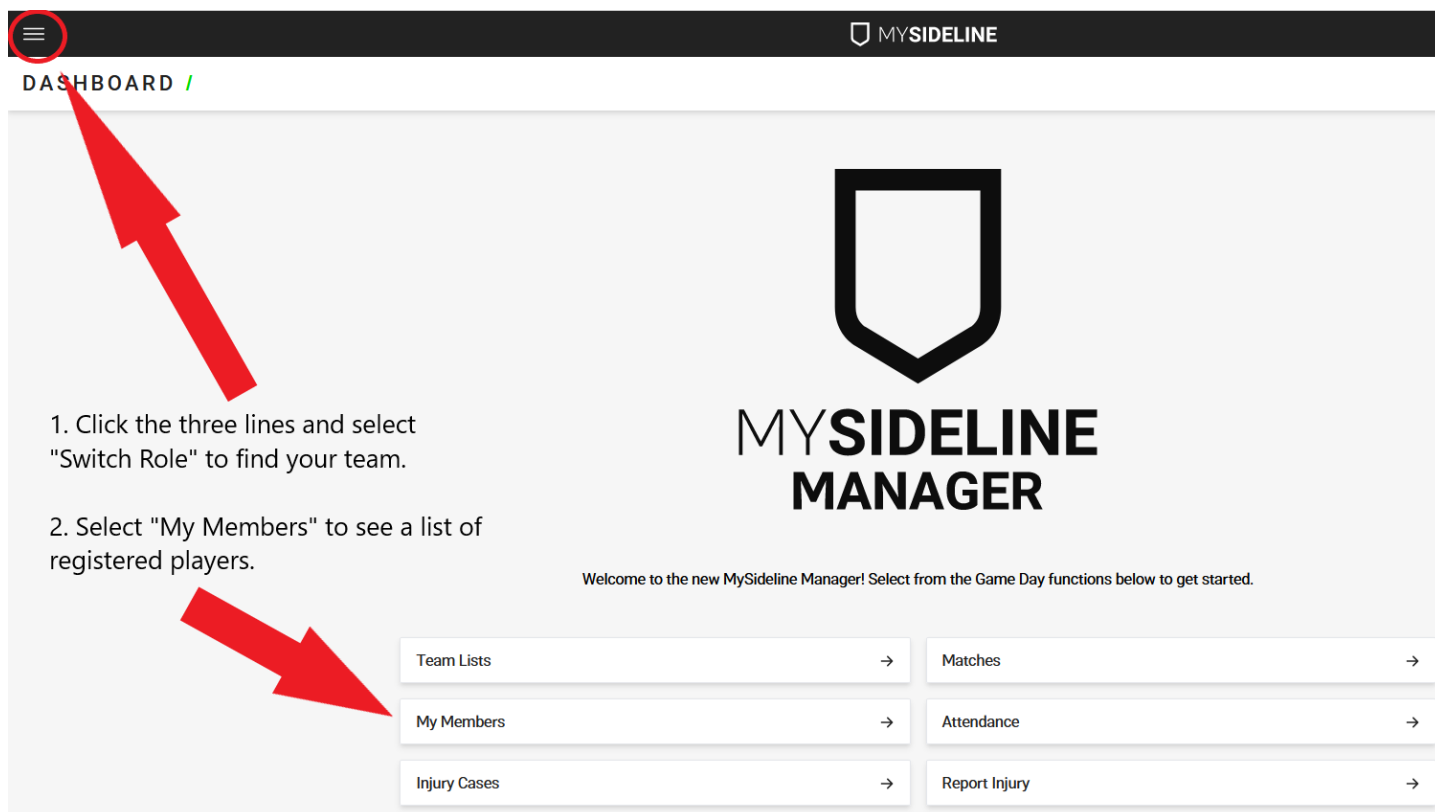
- Each player in your team is required to have a playing shirt. All team shirts must be the same colour.
- Every team member must also have an identification number on **either**:
 - a. Both sleeves (no smaller than 10cm in height) OR
 - b. Back of the shirt (no smaller than 16cm in height)
- NO JEWELLERY is permitted on the playing field. This includes:
 - Earrings or studs, watches, arm or power bands, eyebrow piercings, lip piercings, rings
- Please be aware that Maitland Touch abides by a national policy on jewellery. If jewellery is not removed, you will be refused permission to take the field and will not be permitted to take part in the match.
- Long fingernails are not permitted.
- Our policy doesn't prevent you taping over these items. Doing so does not guarantee your eligibility to play. The decision lies with the referee and/or committee of the association.
- **Any team fielding players without an approved uniform after Round 2 may incur a penalty, including (but not limited to) the exclusion of that player, their inability to score, or a technical forfeit. This will be at referee/committee discretion.**

TEAM MANAGER ACCESS - *NEW*

After registering, team managers will receive an email to access the **MySideline Manager**. This allows team managers to check which players are registered, and ensure they meet team number requirements.

<https://manager.mysideline.com.au/>

NOTE: You will require your usual MySideline login details to access this system. Please remember your details and keep them handy.



The screenshot shows the MySideline Manager dashboard. At the top left, there is a menu icon (three horizontal lines) circled in red. A red arrow points from this icon to the text: "1. Click the three lines and select 'Switch Role' to find your team." Another red arrow points from the "My Members" button in the dashboard to the text: "2. Select 'My Members' to see a list of registered players." The dashboard itself features a black header with the MySideline logo, a "DASHBOARD /" breadcrumb, a large shield icon, and the text "MYSIDELINE MANAGER". Below this is a welcome message and a grid of buttons: "Team Lists", "Matches", "My Members", "Attendance", "Injury Cases", and "Report Injury".

DUTY REFEREES

Thanks to the efforts of our Director of Referees, committee, and fellow referees in recent seasons, MTA has been blessed with the number and quality of officials we have been able to provide. However, referee retainment is difficult in any sport, and as such, teams may be required to provide a duty referee at times to support the competition.

- Each team is to supply a duty referee when they are rostered on (times and dates will be shown on the website and socials). For any duty referee appointment which you fail to meet, your team will not receive any competition points for that round AND you may receive a \$50 team fine.
- Failure to referee twice when required will stop your team from playing in the finals.
- Failure to referee 3 times when required may mean your team could be withdrawn from the competition.

REFEREES COURSES

- MTA periodically run level 1 (beginners) referee courses for any individuals or teams who do not already have an official referee. These courses are run for the benefit of your team, and we encourage every team member to attend.
- **By attending a course your duty referee is eligible to complete your duty and may be eligible to receive payment if assisting with additional games.**
- Course dates, times, costs, and further details can be found on our website – www.maitlandtouch.com.au
- Alternatively, you can follow our social media pages for further updates on our referee courses.
- Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at admin@maitlandtouch.com.au.

OFFICIAL REFEREES

- WE NEED MORE REFEREES TO KEEP OUT COMPETITION ALIVE!
- As most members know, we have trouble in attaining official referees.
- Players are asked to acknowledge without referee's the Association would not be as strong and we therefore ask teams to support referees and not abuse them.
- **Severe penalties apply for any player sent to the judiciary for harassing referees in any manner.**
- We ask that you do your duty referee allocations as required and encourage all players to take up refereeing to help reduce the burden on the regulars. Anyone wishing to become a referee are asked to see the Director of Referees in the referee's room on any game night or contact the Administrator.

TEAM GRADING

- Teams will be graded and placed into competitions that suit their ability. The committee reserves the right not to accept any team/s who may endanger the competitiveness of the overall competition.
- If after grading, a division does not have enough teams to run a viable competition the committee reserves the right to either combine a division, adjust the competition to suit the circumstances, or not to run that division. Teams will be contacted as to the reasons and possible solutions.
- The committee reserves the right to promote and relegate teams to another division after the competition commences. Teams will remain on the same night. The committee will do so after round 2 and prior to round 3, unless extreme circumstances prevail.

JUDICIARY/BAD BEHAVIOUR

- Players informed by the Judiciary Chairperson (and/or committee) by mail, that they must attend a judiciary will be required to attend at the clubhouse at a date to be determined.
- MTA has a **ZERO TOLERANCE** to bad behaviour. Any type of abuse WILL NOT be tolerated to/from players, spectators, officials, or committee.
- The MTA board reserves the right to penalise/discipline these individuals/groups if deemed necessary and where they see fit.

SEND OFFS AND PERIODS OF TIME

- A referee may send a player for a period of time, the duration of which is at the discretion of the referee. You must take up a position behind your opponent's score line.
- A second period of time, in the same game will incur an AUTOMATIC 2 WEEK SUSPENSION (NOT APPEALABLE).
- Any player sent off for the duration of the game will incur one of the following:
 - An AUTOMATIC 2-week suspension from the team in which the dismissal occurred (NOT APPEALABLE)
 - An AUTOMATIC 2-week suspension from the team in which the dismissal occurred (NOT APPEALABLE) **plus judiciary.**
 - For these send offs you must go to the sideline
- If you are in any doubt, please get your captain/manager to check with the Director of Referees or the night supervisor before leaving the fields.

FORFEITS

Forfeits can be given for:

- Not having a minimum of 4 registered players for a game.
- Incorrect uniforms.
- Unregistered players taking part in a match.
- Misconduct or breach of Code of Conduct, by-laws or club rules.

Other forfeit information:

- Teams winning on forfeit will receive 3 competition points and 5-0 for/against win.
- Teams who forfeit games without notice will have the below penalties enforced:
 - 1st forfeit – loss of 2 competition points.
 - 2nd forfeit – automatic eviction from competition (no refund of player registration fee).
- Forfeits notified to the competition supervisor may not lose any points if Maitland Touch believe enough notice was provided. Notification should be received **no later than 1:00pm on game day.**
- Competition supervisor details:
Shelly Rush-Nichols
Mob: 0408 757 058
Email: admin@maitlandtouch.com.au

ADDITIONAL RULES

- MTA use the game rules outlined in the Touch Football Australia 8th Edition Rule Book. However, please be aware that MTA Association also has by-laws and policies and procedures that must always also be adhered to. This information can be found on our website, or by contacting our administrator. MTA reserves the right to alter, change and make additions to these by-laws and procedures without notice. These are here to help protect our club and assist in its efficient day to day running.

EXTREME WEATHER

- In the unforeseen circumstances extreme weather is predicted on game day, please refer to the MTA social media pages for advice on game cancellation.
- MTA reserves the right to re-schedule cancelled games to be played on Sunday/s if required.

IMAGES

- All persons accept that, by participating at MTA, they may be photographed/filmed and that these images may be used by the MTA for promotion of the sport. MTA will not pass any image/s onto a third party unless prior approval is sought. If you do not wish the MTA to be able to use your image/s or be filmed, you must notify MTA in writing.
- MTA reserves the right to immediately take possession of any video footage taken at any of our competitions of events that may assist the MTA 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.

INDIVIDUALS LOOKING FOR A TEAM

For our Senior competitions, Maitland Touch does not offer the option of Individual players looking for a team to register. Please contact admin@maitlandtouch.com.au if you are looking to join a team.

MEMBERS CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

MTA has a very strict Member Protection Policy, which includes the relevant codes of behaviour for the following members:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. General Code of Behaviour | 5. Coaches Code of Behaviour | 8. Parents and Guardian Code of Behaviour |
| 2. Junior Player Code of Behaviour | 6. Selection Code of Behaviour | 9. Spectator Code of Behaviour |
| 3. Senior Player Code of Behaviour | 7. Administrators and Officials Code of Behaviour | |
| 4. Referee Code of Behaviour | | |

These Codes are available for downloading and viewing on our website, or upon request to the MTA Association office.

ALL TEAM MEMBERS MUST READ AND UNDERSTAND THESE CODES BEFORE REGISTERING

MAITLAND TOUCH IS A GOOD SPORTS CLUB

Sports clubs such as ours play a significant role in the community and therefore have a responsibility to our members and their families. In recognition of this, MTA has elected to participate in the Australian Drug Foundation's Good Sports Program.



As such, while in this program

- **ALCOHOL** and/or
- **SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED** at the Maitland Park Playing Fields.

Members who are seen breaching these rules may be asked to leave the park. Please respect these rules.