



2024 JUNIOR COMPETITION INFORMATION BOOKLET

www.maitlandtouch.com.au

COMPETITION INFORMATION BOOKLET

Please read this booklet carefully

HOW TO REGISTER - (Note: If you are an individual WITHOUT a team, see Page 6)

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.
- Individual 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!



WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

For Team Contacts

For MTA to fulfil legal obligations, it is a requirement that **all team contacts and officials** working with children (under 18 years) at a competition under our control complete a **“Working with Children” (WWC) check**.

Follow these steps to apply for a WWC check and receive a WWC number:

Step 1:

Apply for a WWC check by completing the [online application form](#) or visit <https://www.ocg.nsw.gov.au/>.

Step 2:

Once you apply, you will receive an Application (APP) number by email from the Office of the Children’s Guardian.

Step 3:

Attend [your nearest Service NSW](#) and provide your **Application Number** and **Proof of Identification**.

Step 4:

Service NSW will issue a receipt and you will receive your official WWC number within 1-2 weeks.

Step 5:

Provide your WWC number to MTA during the team registration process, or as soon as it is received.

Step 6:

Once MTA have verified your WWC number online, we will advise when you can commence working with children.

Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.ocg.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check>

PRE-COMPETITION DETAILS

- **ONLINE REGISTRATION and PAYMENTS** can be done via our website 24/7 www.maitlandtouch.com.au
 - **Online team registrations OPEN – Monday 5 August 2024**
 - **Online team registrations CLOSE – Monday 30 September 2024 (or until competitions reach capacity)**
- **DRAWS/FIXTURES** can be accessed from the website *after 5:00pm Monday 14 October 2024*.
- Once released and available online, **fixtures WILL NOT be adjusted** unless required by MTA. Any queries around fixtures should be communicated to admin@maitlandtouch.com.au at the time of registration.

REGISTRATION FEES

Fee: \$85 per player (includes playing singlet)

NO LATE REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED

- **PLAYER REGISTRATION FEES ARE DUE BY MONDAY 7 OCTOBER 2024**
- **Player registration fees are payable online at the time of registration.**
- There are **no additional weekly fees**.
PLEASE NOTE: Registration includes GST, playing singlet, 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) implemented 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 / AGE GROUPS AVAILABLE

○ Under 7s – Boys and Girls Competitions-	-	Born 2017 or after
○ Under 9s – Boys and Girls Competitions-	-	Born 2015 or 2016
○ Under 11s – Boys and Girls Competitions	-	Born 2013 or 2014
○ Under 13s – Boys and Girls Competitions	-	Born 2011 or 2012
○ Under 15s – Boys and Girls Competitions	-	Born 2009 or 2010
○ Under 17s – Boys and Girls Competitions	-	Born 2007 or 2008

- Players ARE permitted to play 'up' a division; however, it is advisable they play in their division/age group as per the guidelines above. Players ARE NOT permitted to play in a division younger than their age.
- No male players are permitted in the female competition from 11 years up. Females are permitted to play in the male competition.
- Team registration limits will apply for each age division (see below).

UNDER 7S AND 9S – PLAY FOR FUN POLICY

MTA has a “play for fun” strategy for all under 7s and 9s boys and girls competitions. These divisions are non-competitive, and no score is kept on these games. In addition, coaches can assist with the refereeing and on-hand development of these kids by being on the field with them at the same time. There are no finals for these divisions. We aim to encourage participation and enjoyment without the over competitive attitude of beating other kids. We also have a variation to some rules to assist with this development and enjoyment. Further information will be provided once the competition begins.

TEAM COMPOSITIONS

- **Team Numbers:**
 - **U7s** - 5 a side with a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 10 (max 3x rep players)
 - **U9s** - 5 a side with a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 10 (max 3x rep players)
 - **U11s** - 6 a side with a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 12 (max 4x rep players)
 - **U13s** - 6 a side with a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 12 (max 4x rep players)
 - **U15s** - 6 a side with a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 12 (max 4x rep players)
 - **U17s** - 6 a side with a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 12 (max 4x rep players)
- **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).
- Game 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.
- Maitland Touch competitions are held at **Maitland Park - Corner Elgin and Park Streets, Maitland NSW 2320**



COMPETITION DATES

- **Games** will be played Thursday evenings as per the table below:

2024 JUNIOR COMPETITION DATES	
Round 1	THURSDAY 17 October 2024
Round 2	THURSDAY 24 October 2024
Round 3	THURSDAY 31 October 2024
Round 4	THURSDAY 7 November 2024
Round 5	THURSDAY 14 November 2024
Round 6	THURSDAY 21 November 2024
Round 7	THURSDAY 28 November 2024
NO GAMES – Senior State Cup	THURSDAY 5 December 2024
Round 8	THURSDAY 12 December 2024
Grand Finals	THURSDAY 19 December 2024

FINALS

- At the conclusion of round games, the top two teams on the ladder will go directly into the Grand Final.
- Finals series information will be provided on the website as the dates become closer.

UNREGISTERED PLAYERS

- Unregistered players, substitute players and/or "fill-ins" **will not** be permitted to take the field.
- 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 may apply at the discretion of MTA.

UNIFORMS AND ATTIRE - *UPDATED*

It is the responsibility of the team manager to ensure your team abides by the rules. The rules state that all players must be correctly attired in the team uniform. Specifically, this includes:

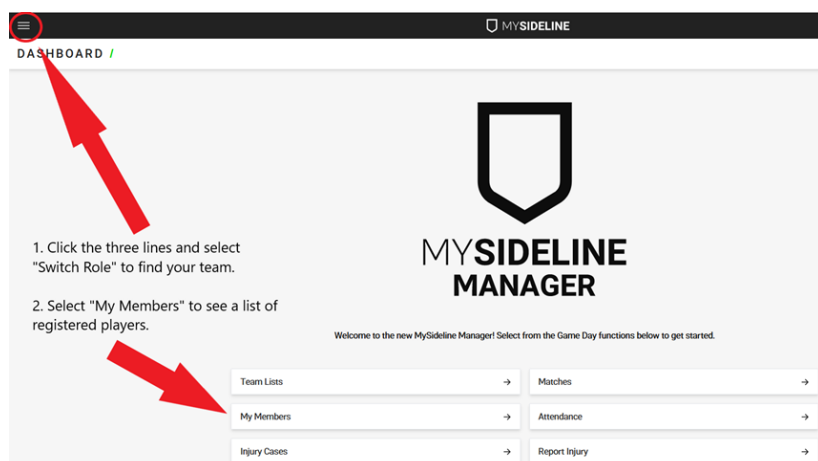
- A **playing singlet will be provided** to each registered junior participant. Teams will be allocated a jersey design and team managers will be advised of collection dates and times to pick up their team's singlets.
- All teams **MUST participate in the MTA provided singlets**. This forms part of our sponsorship agreement and allows us to provide these singlets to each individual participant. **No external jerseys will be permitted.**
- All jewellery **MUST** be removed, and fingernails must be short and smooth.
- Shoes **WITHOUT** screw-in studs or cleats are to be worn by all players (joggers and moulded football boots are permitted). Strictly no metal studs or playing barefoot.

Players will get to keep their allocated singlets at the end of the season as a gift from Maitland Touch Association.

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.

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



The screenshot shows the MySideline Manager dashboard. At the top left, there is a hamburger 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 the MySideline logo, the text "MYSIDELINE MANAGER", and a grid of buttons: Team Lists, My Members, Injury Cases, Matches, Attendance, and Report Injury. A welcome message is displayed below the buttons: "Welcome to the new MySideline Manager! Select from the Game Day functions below to get started."

REFEREES COURSES

- MTA will aim to conduct a Level 1 (beginners) referee course for those interested.
- Course dates, times, costs, and further details will be posted on our social pages and website.
- Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at admin@maitlandtouch.com.au.

OFFICIAL REFEREES

- As most members know, we do experience some difficulty obtaining official referees from time to time.
- Various methods have been attempted to attract new referees, all resulting in only minor success. Players are asked to acknowledge without referees 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 harassing referees in any manner.**
- Anyone wishing to become a referee are asked to see the Director of Referees in the referee's room on any game day/night or contact the Administrator.

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 may have the below penalties enforced at MTA's discretion:
 - 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 will not lose any points. Notification must 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 also has by-laws, policies and procedures that must always 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 alternate days 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. The 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 - *NEW*

If you are an individual looking to join our competition, but do not have a team, please join our [MTA Junior Competition 2024](#) Facebook Group via our Facebook page. There, you can connect with team managers and other players to hopefully find a place in our competition. Unfortunately, as much as we endeavour to assist where we can, we cannot guarantee a position for all.

JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

An opportunity exists for players to make themselves available for representative selection and participate at regional and state tournaments. Please follow our social media sites for details or contact us at admin@maitlandtouch.com.au.

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.