



2026

JUNIOR COMPETITION

INFORMATION BOOKLET

www.maitlandtouch.com.au

COMPETITION INFORMATION BOOKLET

Please read this booklet carefully

HOW TO REGISTER

STEP 1

[Register a team](#); Please follow the online registration process at <https://maitland.nswtouch.com.au/>. **NO FEES** are charged at this point in the process.

- **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 Team Manager Access** section of this document below.

STEP 2

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 will be provided a link (via email) to share with their players to register.
- Individual players can [search for the team](#) name via the link on our [homepage](#).

INDIVIDUALS PLAYERS LOOKING FOR A TEAM

If you are an individual looking to join our competition, but do not have a team, please join our [MTA Junior Competition 2026](#) 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. **MTA do not offer individual registrations.**

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK



It is a requirement that **team managers and officials** working with children (under 18 years) at a competition under our control complete a “Working with Children” (WWC) check.

To apply for a WWC check, please complete the [online application form](#) or visit <https://www.ocg.nsw.gov.au/>. Team managers are required to obtain a *volunteers* check. Once the application is complete, you will need to take your application number and proof of identification to [your nearest Service NSW](#) centre.

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
 - **Online team registrations OPEN – Monday 3 August 2026 at 5:30pm.**
 - **Online team registrations CLOSE – Monday 28 September 2026 (or until competitions reach capacity)**
 - **Some competitions reach capacity QUICKLY! Be on time to not miss out.**
- **DRAWS/FIXTURES** can be accessed from the website *after 5:00pm Monday 12 October 2026*.
- 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: \$80 per player (includes playing singlet)

Note: Does not include TFA / NSWTF annual membership (details below)

Teams **MUST** meet minimum registration requirements by **5 October** to be included in the draw (details on next page)

- **PLAYER REGISTRATION FEES ARE DUE BY MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2026**
- Player registration fees are payable online at the time of player registration.
- There are **no additional weekly fees**.
*PLEASE NOTE: Registration includes GST, playing singlet, and 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 and NSWTF Membership Programs**.



TOUCH FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA & NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL MEMBERSHIP

From July 1, 2026 – Touch Football Australia (TFA) and NSW Touch Football (NSWTF) implemented their new **annual membership program**.

- When you sign up for your first competition of the financial year through MySideline, you will be prompted to pay an **annual membership fee** of **\$60.00***. This is a one-time, annual fee which covers insurance and affiliation; It includes Touch Football Australia membership (\$30.00*) and NSW Touch Football membership (\$30.00).
- Once paid, you may register in as many competitions as you like, paying only your competition fees each time you enter. Insurances and affiliation costs have been included in the annual membership fees.
- 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.
- Additional information will be available via the [NSWTF Affiliate Hub](#) and the [TFA Membership Hub](#).

AGE ELIGIBILITY

○ Under 7s – Boys and Girls Competitions-	-	Born 2019 to 2021
○ Under 9s – Boys and Girls Competitions-	-	Born 2017 or 2018
○ Under 11s – Boys and Girls Competitions	-	Born 2015 or 2016
○ Under 13s – Boys and Girls Competitions	-	Born 2013 or 2014
○ Under 15s – Boys and Girls Competitions	-	Born 2011 or 2012
○ Under 17s – Boys and Girls Competitions	-	Born 2009 or 2010

- 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.

UNDER 7S AND 9S – PLAY FOR FUN POLICY

Maitland Touch Association promotes a “Play for Fun” approach for all Under 7s and Under 9s competitions. These divisions are non-competitive:

- No scores are recorded
- No finals are held
- Coaches/managers assist with refereeing and on-field development
- Modified rules to support learning and enjoyment (e.g. ball dropped = touch made and roll ball)

TEAM COMPOSITIONS

TEAM NUMBERS >	On the field	Min. Registered	Max. Registered*	Max. Rep Players**
U7s & U9s	5	8	10	3
U11s - U17s	6	9	12	4

- A minimum of four (4) players are required to begin a match.

* If you wish to register additional players, please contact admin@maitlandtouch.com.au

** Based on 2025 rep teams. Teams exceeding rep players will not be accepted, or may be moved to an older division.

- **NO TEAM WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE REQUIRED MINIMUM NUMBER OF REGISTERED 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 from 5pm** as per the table below:

2026 JUNIOR COMPETITION DATES	
Round 1	Thursday 15 October
Round 2	Thursday 22 October
Round 3	Thursday 29 October
Round 4	Thursday 5 November
Round 5	Thursday 12 November
Round 6	Thursday 19 November
Round 7	Thursday 26 November
NO GAMES – Senior State Cup	Thursday 3 December
Round 8	Thursday 10 December
Grand Finals	Thursday 17 December

DIVISIONS & FINALS

- In 2026, MTA will again offer **divisions in larger age groups** where multiple pools are usually required. When registering a team, you will be required to select a preference of **Novice, Intermediate, or Experienced**.
- These selections will serve as a **guideline only** for MTA when forming divisions. Final team placements will depend on the number of registrations and whether multiple divisions are feasible.
- At the conclusion of round games, the **top two teams on the ladder** will go directly into the **Grand Final**.

UNREGISTERED PLAYERS

- Only registered players are allowed to take the field. **No substitutes or fill-ins are permitted.**
- Players **must be registered in each team** they play for. If a player plays for a second team without being registered in it, that team will forfeit the match and may lose competition points at MTA's discretion.

UNIFORMS AND ATTIRE

It is the responsibility of each Team Manager to ensure their team complies with all uniform and attire requirements outlined in the rules. Specifically:

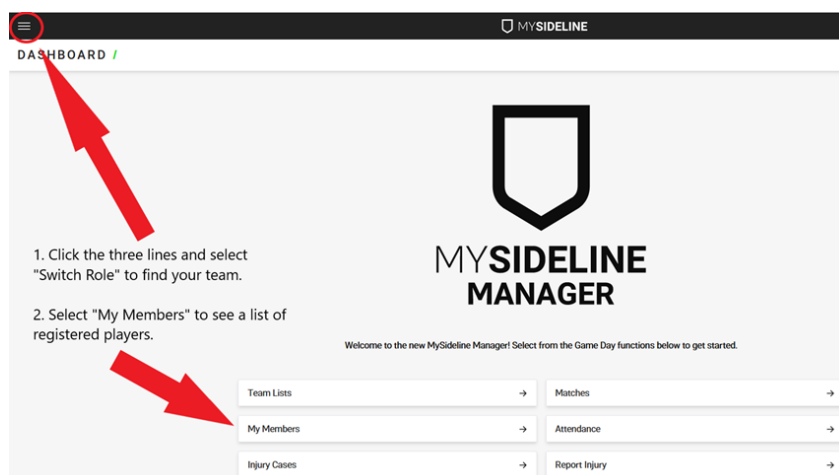
- **Playing Singlets:** Each registered junior participant will receive an official MTA playing singlet. Teams will be assigned a jersey design, and Team Managers will be notified of collection dates and times.
- **Mandatory Use of MTA Singlets:** All teams must wear the provided MTA singlets during games. This requirement is part of our sponsorship agreement and ensures every participant receives a uniform. **External jerseys are not permitted.**
- **Jewellery & Fingernails:** All jewellery must be removed before play. Fingernails must be short and smooth.
- **Footwear:** Players must wear shoes without screw-in studs or cleats. Acceptable footwear includes joggers and moulded football boots. Metal studs and playing barefoot are strictly prohibited.

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

TEAM MANAGER ACCESS

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.



REFEREES COURSES

- MTA will conduct an Affiliate level (beginners) referee course for those interested on Sunday 11 October.
- Course venue, times, costs, and further details will be posted on our social pages and website shortly.
- 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 four (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
Phone: 0408 757 058
Email: admin@maitlandtouch.com.au

ADDITIONAL RULES *NEW*

- MTA use the game rules outlined in the [Touch Football Australia 8th Edition Rule Book](#).
- **MERCY RULE: If a team falls behind by 6 points, they may add one extra player to the field.** This player must be removed once the score difference reduces to 4 points.
 - This rule helps balance games between stronger and weaker teams, making matches more enjoyable and supportive of player development.
 - We ask all managers, coaches, and spectators to respect this rule, and encourage all to keep the focus on fun, fairness, and friendship.
- MTA also has by-laws, policies, and procedures that must be followed. These are available on our website and may be updated without notice. They help protect our club and support smooth day-to-day operations.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- If inclement weather is present or predicted on game day, please refer to the MTA social media pages for advice on game cancellations.
- MTA reserves the right to reschedule (or not reschedule) 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.

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.

CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS ***NEW***

- MTA operates under [TFA's disciplinary regulations](#) and Codes of Conduct.
 - These documents reference players, referees, coaches, and spectators.
- **ALCOHOL and/or SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED** at Maitland Touch events.



Members found to be in breach of the above may be prohibited from attending and/or participating in MTA competitions and events.