

ALBANY TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

North Albany Football Club, Troode St, Collingwood Park, Albany
PO Box 1840, Albany WA 6331

Email: albanytouchfooty@live.com.au

BY-LAWS

1. Interpretation

- 1.1. The Touch Football Australia Playing Rules shall apply unless otherwise provided for in these By-Laws.
- 1.2. Day to Day interpretation of these By-Laws shall be at the responsibility of the most senior official present on the field (i.e. referee).

2. ATFA Committee

- 2.1. All ATFA Committee positions are unpaid, voluntary positions.
- 2.2. Committee positions are nominated for, and filled, as required at the Annual General Meeting which is held at the end of each playing season in compliance with the ATFA Constitution.
- 2.3. New ATFA members that are interested in joining the Committee are encouraged to contact the Committee throughout the year for more information.
- 2.4. The ATFA Committee is responsible for administering the objects of the Association in an equitable, transparent and efficient manner in the best interest of all of its members.

3. Nomination

- 3.1. Teams must be registered and have paid the registration fee by the date indicated by the Albany Touch Football Association (ATFA) Committee.
- 3.2. Failure to pay the registration fee may result in team replacement or a withholding of premiership points towards the ladder. Points are not redeemable.
- 3.3. Registration forms must be fully completed. It is the team captain's responsibility to take ownership of the teams financial responsibilities as well.

4. Registration

- 4.1. Each team must register all players prior to the commencement of the first round.
- 4.2. A player is not permitted to register in more than one team. Players are permitted to "fill in" for other teams on the same night as long as they are not playing in a grade lower than the grade they are registered and are approved by the referee and the Captain of the other team.
- 4.3. New players may be introduced at anytime during the season provided they comply with By-Law requirements. The ATFA Committee must also be notified of this introduction.
- 4.4. New players introduced during the last three (3) matches of the season must be registered but are not eligible for finals match selection.
- 4.5. Players must be a minimum of 14 years of age for all Senior Teams, unless a parent or guardian is on the same team, then a player must be a minimum of 13. Junior Teams may have players a minimum of year 9 high school students playing without a parent. Junior teams must have adequate adult supervision.

5. Transfers

- 5.1. A player may transfer from one team to another team only once during the season provided that:
 - Such a player is financial with and does not possess any assets of the team from which the player is transferring.
 - Transfers are presented to the ATFA Committee in writing before the night of the player playing for the new team.
- 5.2. Disputes on clearances will be heard upon request by the ATFA Committee.

6. Eligibility of Players

- 6.1. Penalty for including the names of players who are not present and ready for play in the match is loss of all premiership points accrued for that match.
- 6.2. Late arrivals of players who are ready to play may have their name included on the official score sheet, or during the play without penalty (as long as play has already commenced). Should it be discovered during the course of a match that the name of an on-field player does not appear on the scoresheet, this players name may be added without penalty.
- 6.3. A substitute player who is present and ready to play but does not actually participate in the match shall be considered a legal player.
- 6.4. Whilst the ATFA Committee recognises the need for teams to introduce new players during the season, they reserve the right not to allow teams to increase their playing strength beyond the compatibility of the grade in which they play, by introduction of such players.

7. To Play

- 7.1. A team must have a minimum of four (4) registered players entered on a scoresheet who are ready to take the field at the commencement of the game.
- 7.2. The maximum number of males allowed on the field for a team at any time is three. The minimum number of males required on the field for a team at any time is one.
- 7.3. Any variations to rule 7.2 for junior teams must be requested in writing to the ATFA Committee.
- 7.4. A scratch match may be played if the teams involved so desire. If it is the last game of the night then no referees will be provided.
- 7.5. In case of doubt, clarification may be requested through the team captain and only through him/her in a sportsperson like conduct. This can be done at half time or at the end of the match but not during.
- 7.6. Participants must behave respectfully and courteously to the referees, other officials, opponents, team mates and spectators. No foul language under any circumstances shall be displayed on the field. Players may be asked to leave the field if foul language continues. Players may be suspended due to this misconduct.

8. Team Responsibilities

- 8.1. The team will be held responsible for the conduct of its members and spectators. Further, teams are expected to conduct themselves in keeping with the ethos of participation, enjoyment and healthy competition. Spectators can be sent from the Grounds. Due to this, the game can be called off and considered a forfeit.
- 8.2. No participants can wear jewellery, pins, or other dangerous items. Fingernails may be taped or cut at the discretion of the referees.
- 8.3. Any player/spectator deemed under the influence of drugs/alcohol (other than prescribed medication) shall be denied entry to the playing area and will be subject to report. Any player/spectator that does not leave the field when asked can cause the game to be cancelled or for the opposing team to receive tries/points.

9. Referees

- 9.1. Referees can nominate to be members of the ATFA without being a member of a team. No membership fees apply, however all member benefits will apply, including insurance. Relevant nomination forms must be completed.
- 9.2. All teams are responsible for providing a referee or referees each week. The team allocated referee must report to the ATFA Committee member on duty 5 minutes prior to the commencement of the game start time. Failure to comply will result in loss of premiership points. Teams captains are responsible for finding their own fill-ins if the team's referees are not available. Premiership points may be deducted in accordance with the ATFA's Failure to Supply a Referee Guidelines.
- 9.3. The ATFA Committee will ensure 48 hours notice is provided to teams that are required to provide more than one referee on any given week.
- 9.4. Responsibility of the referee/s are:

Prior to the match:

- Report to ATFA Committee member on duty for ground allocation, payment and signature.
- Ensure all players are wearing correct uniform.
- Check all players' nails and jewellery.
- Ensure scoresheets are filled out in full.
- Apply and inform both teams about late points/tries and uniform penalties.

During the match

- Sanction misconduct and delays.
- All faults and play.
- Record all tries against appropriate players on scorecards.

After the match

- Complete best on ground votes on score cards (1, 2, and 3).
 - Sign the score card.
 - Notify the ATFA Committee of any misconduct or injuries and complete any necessary paperwork.
- 9.5. The referee's decision is final. He/she shall not permit any discussion about his/her decision. However, at the request of the team captain, he/she will give an explanation on the application of interpretation of the rules he/she has based his/her decision on. The explanation can only occur at an appropriate break in play.

10. Team Captain

10.1. Responsibilities of the team captain are:

Prior to the match

- Complete the scoresheet with full names
- Represent team in coin toss
- During the match:
- To ask for an explanation of a rule interpretation (at half time or after match)
- To ask authorisation to change uniforms, equipment

After the match:

- Thank referee and the other team
- Sign the score card

11. Team uniforms

11.1. All players in each team are required to present themselves in conforming uniforms for each match. Uniforms are to have the same colour top. Same colour bottoms are not compulsory but recommended. Bottoms may include shorts, skirts or track pants. No low cut or revealing tops permitted.

11.2. Failure to comply will result in a loss of two tries for one or more players out of uniform for the game. The referee will use their discretion with regards to suitability.

11.3. Three weeks grace will be allowed from the commencement of the season for players to procure conforming uniforms. After this period, players not in correct uniform will be penalised as per section 11.2.

11.4. New players joining a team will be given one week to produce a conforming team uniform.

11.5. Any teams replacing another team during the season in progress will be given two weeks to comply with conforming uniforms.

12. Illegal Players

12.1. The penalty for playing illegal players is automatic forfeiture of the match in which the offence occurred.

12.2. Illegal players will be defined as follows:

- Non registered players by the third playing fixture, unless approved by the ATFA Committee
- Players failing to pay the appropriate registration fee
- Players under suspension
- Players participating under an assumed name
- Non observance of transfer regulations
- Non observance of qualification criteria for finals matches

12.3. A player who knowingly plays under an assumed name, or a coach who plays a player under an assumed name, may be reported for misconduct to the ATFA Committee. From this a penalty will be delivered.

13. Timing

13.1. Games will be played on a time limit of two x 23 minute halves with a four minute brake at half time.

13.2. A one minute warning siren will sound before the start of the game.

13.3. The clock and siren will start at the stated time whether teams are ready or not.

14. Premiership Points

14.1. Premiership points are as such

- Win 3 points
- Bye 3 points
- Draw 2 point
- Loss 1 points
- Forfeit win 3 points
- Forfeit loss 0 points

14.2. Position on the ladder is determined by the total premiership points earned,

14.3. If two or more teams are on the same number of points,

- try difference (percentage) will determine their position
- If still equal, then it will be the team with the greatest number of wins
- If still equal, then it will be the team with the most wins over the other team(s) with the same amount of points, try difference and wins.

15. Finals

15.1. To participate in finals a player must be registered and have participated in a minimum of three games for that team.

15.2. Finals will be played as a knockout and may also involve consolation finals to determine the minor places.

15.3. In the event of a draw in any final match there will be a one minute break until overtime, which will be five minutes each way with no rest between

15.4. If a draw still occurs after this extra time a player is removed from each team and play will resume for a further two minutes of play. Players will continue to be removed every two minutes until teams are down to three players. The first team to score a try wins.

16. Abandoned Games

16.1. The final outcome of an abandoned game will be decided upon by the referees on the field at the time.

16.2. If a team is unable to continue playing due to injury of a player that cannot be removed from the field, the game will be ended and the score will stand as it is at the stop of play.

16.3. If a team "chooses" to discontinue play although the game can continue after the injury, then the game will be called as a forfeit by this team. A win will be awarded to the opposition team. See Section 18 for information on forfeits.

17. Forfeits

17.1. Any team forfeiting twice in any one season may be withdrawn without notice at the discretion of the ATFA Committee. Partial refund of team registration fees may be requested by the team captain and will be considered at the discretion of the ATFA Committee.

17.2. The score for a forfeited game will be 5-0.

18. Fixtures

18.1. The ATFA Committee reserves the right to alter fixtures at any time. Teams will be notified with a minimum of 48 hours if there is a major change in fixtures. Circumstances may arise if a team is not able to play and the team on a bye is called in.

19. Protests

- 19.1. All protests are to be lodged in writing to the ATFA Committee on the day of notification. Teams that do not enter a protest on the day of notification of any offence, relinquish their rights for a protest.

20. Player Reports

- 20.1. Players and spectators shall be subject to report by the referee or by the ATFA Committee for any form of misconduct.
- 20.2. Misconduct shall include abusive language, unsporting conduct, rough play, resistance to obey or take reason from an official, striking and attempted striking.
- 20.3. Reported players will be required to answer allegations made, either by letter or appearing in person to the ATFA Committee.
- 20.4. Reported players and spectators will be advised of:
 - Date and incident report arose from
 - Date, time and venue of interview with the ATFA Committee
- 20.5. Non attendance to the interview or response in writing on the night of this offence (or the day to which they were informed of the offence) to the ATFA Committee shall be interpreted as an admission of guilt.
- 20.6. The ATFA Committee reserves the right to suspend or expel players or teams from the competition.
- 20.7. If a player is put on report, the official will notify the player immediately of this report in accordance with the ATFA Dispute Resolution process. The official will then explain to the player that if they disagree with the report, they are to see the ATFA Committee member on duty about it. If a feedback form is lodged about the incident, an ATFA Committee member will be in contact with them in the next seven days.

21. Player Suspension

- 21.1. If necessary, a player may be disqualified by a referee without warning, at any time during the course of a game. See Section 22 for more details.
- 21.2. If a player is disqualified from a game more than three times throughout the season, they will be suspended for the remainder of the current season.

22. Technical Fouls

- 22.1. A player can receive a technical foul by an official for any such actions as outlined in the Touch Football Australia Playing Rules.
- 22.2. In addition to 22.1 a player can receive a technical foul by an official for any of the following such actions:
 - Disrespectfully addressing or contact with an official
 - Using offensive language or gestures towards players, officials or spectators
 - Baiting an opponent
 - Deliberately delaying the game

23. Working With Children Checks

- 23.1. All ATFA Committee members and officials (referees, coaches etc) must have a valid Working With Children Check (WWCC).
- 23.2. The ATFA will pay the application fee for a volunteer WWAA for its Committee members and officials.

24. Insurance

- 24.1. All registered members are covered by the ATFA Sports Insurance Policy.
- 24.2. All members are responsible for their own insurance for property damage.
- 24.3. All injuries must be reported to the ATFA Committee Member on duty on the night.
- 24.4. An Incident Report Form must be completed by the injured member or authorised representative.
- 24.5. All insurance procedures as detailed by Touch Australia and the insurance provider must be followed.
- 24.6. It is not the responsibility of the ATFA Committee to complete necessary paperwork on behalf of members

25. Member Protection Policy

- 25.1. The ATFA has adopted the Touch Football Australia Member Protection Policy June 2012.

26. North Albany Football Club Social Membership

- 26.1. Member of the ATFA are also eligible for free Social Membership of the North Albany Football Club. Necessary application forms must be completed.

27. Life Membership

- 27.1. Nominations for Life Membership of the ATFA may only be considered at an Annual General Meeting in accordance with the ATFA Constitution.
- 27.2. Once a member has been accepted as a Life Member the following benefits will apply to that person:
 - Discount of \$100 off the team registration fee for a Life Member's team, essentially waiving part of the membership fee for a Life Member.
 - Free registration for up to one Touch Football WA accredited Referee Training Course held in Albany per year.