



RULES Under 10's, Under 12's, Youth's & Open's 2026-2027

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Insurance & Liability

- Greta Branxton Touch Football Association does not accept any liability for any injury, loss or damage when participating in any competition. It is highly recommended all participants to have their own private insurance.
- Players are solely responsible to record any injuries occurred during the game on the provided injury report forms and submit them to the Greta Branxton Touch Football Association Committee.

1 The Field Of Play

- 1.1 The field of play is rectangular in shape as outlined with markers/cones and painted lines.
- 1.2 Markers, cones, or corner posts placed on the junction of the sideline and try line are deemed to be out of the field of play.
- 1.3 The field of play boundary lines are deemed to be out of play. Play becomes dead when the ball or a player in possession touches the ground on or over a sideline or dead ball line.



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2 Player Registration

- 2.1 Participating players are to be registered with Greta Branxton Touch Football Association prior to taking the field.
- 2.2 Once registered to a team, a player must play with that team and that team only for the entirety of the applicable competition. Applications for clearances to a different team for extenuating circumstances may be made to the Greta Branxton Touch Football Association, with each case being treated on its merits. For the case of 2 or more grades in the same competition, for registration purposes these are considered to be the same competition.
- 2.3 Teams playing unregistered players are liable to forfeit any match in which unregistered players have competed. Other penalties may apply:
 - a. **Junior competitions** - such as bans.
 - b. **Senior competitions** - such as bans and fines, including deductions from team bonds (team bonds only applicable in senior competitions).
- 2.4 No player registrations will be available or accepted after:
 - a. **Junior competitions** - the registration cut-off date, or when player registration numbers have reached capacity. The only exception to this will be if any registered player withdraws from the competition, then players from a wait list will be offered the opportunity to take the spot of the player(s) who withdrew.
 - b. **Senior competitions** - the completion of round three (3), except for in cases of extenuating circumstances where teams have limited players available due to individuals that are no longer fit to play for the remainder of the season (including finals). A request needs to be made in writing and will be assessed by the Greta Branxton Touch Football Association committee on a case-by-case basis.

3 The Ball

- 3.1 The game is played with an oval, inflated ball of a shape, colour and size as supplied by Greta Branxton Touch Football Association.
- 3.2 The ball shall be inflated to the manufacturers' recommended air pressure.
- 3.3 The referee shall immediately pause the match if the size and shape of the ball no longer complies with clauses 3.1 or 3.2 to allow for the ball to be replaced or the issue rectified.
- 3.4 The ball must not be hidden under player attire.



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4 Playing Uniform

- 4.1 Participating players are to be correctly attired in matching team tops:
- Junior competitions** - these are supplied by the Greta Branxton Touch Football Association through the registration process prior to the commencement of the season.
 - Senior competitions** - these are not supplied by the Greta Branxton Touch Football Association. Teams are given until the commencement of round four (4) to acquire matching team tops. After commencement of round four (4) teams will be penalised 1 point (try) per player who takes the field outside of the matching team attire. The referee will take note on the scoresheet for each fielder player who is not in the required team attire. Team managers / captains can apply for an extension during cases of extenuating circumstances with a written submission to the committee which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Supporting documentation may be requested by the committee as part of the assessment.
- 4.2 Playing uniforms consist of shirt, singlet, shorts and/or tights and socks.
- 4.3 All players are to wear a unique identifying number, clearly displayed on the rear of the playing top.
- 4.4 Hats or caps are permitted to be worn during a match provided they are safe.
- 4.5 Safe footwear must be worn.
- 4.6 Light leather or synthetic boots with soft moulded soles are permitted.
- 4.6.1 Shoes with screw-in studs are not to be worn by any player or referee.
- 4.7 Players are not to participate in any match wearing any item of jewellery, chain, identification band/bracelet or similar item that may prove dangerous. Any jewellery or other items that cannot be removed are to be safely covered or taped to the satisfaction of the referee.
- 4.8 Long (extend beyond the finger flesh when viewed from the palm) or sharp fingernails are not allowed.
- 4.9 Referees and players may wear spectacles or sunglasses provided they are safe and securely attached.
- 4.10 Referees and players may wear sport monitoring equipment and medical supports such as knee or ankle braces provided, at the sole discretion of competition's controlling body, the items are not dangerous.



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5 Team Composition

5.1 A team consists of a maximum of sixteen (16) players, no more than the specified number below of whom are allowed on the field at any time.

- a. **Junior competitions**
 - Under 10's – eight (8).
 - Under 12's – seven (7).
 - Youths – seven (7).
- b. **Senior competitions** – seven (7).

Ruling = A penalty awarded to the non-offending team at the time the offence is identified seven (7) metres infield on the halfway line or the position of the ball, whichever is the greater advantage.

5.2 Teams may have additional players beyond sixteen (16) initially registered in cases of extenuating circumstances where individuals are no longer fit to play for the remainder of the season (including finals). This request needs to be made in writing and will be assessed by the Greta Branxton Touch Football Association committee on a case-by-case basis.

5.3 A team must have a minimum of five (5) players on the field for a match to commence or continue, except during a drop-off.

5.4 Where the number of players on the field from one team falls below five (5), the match is to be abandoned and the non-offending team is to be declared the winner.

5.4.1 This does not apply for players sent to the sin bin.

5.5 There is no minimum male or female requirement, however a maximum number of males allowed in the field of play is:

- a. **Junior competitions**
 - Under 10's – six (6).
 - Under 12's – six (6).
 - Youths – four (4).
- b. **Senior competitions** – four (4).



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6 The Tap

- 6.1 The tap is the method of commencing the match, recommencing the match after half time and after a try has been scored. The tap is also the method of recommencing play when a penalty is awarded.
- 6.2 The tap is taken by:
- Placing the ball on the ground at or behind the mark.
 - Releasing both hands from the ball.
 - Tapping the ball gently with either foot or touching the foot on the ball, however the ball must not roll or move more than one (1) metre in any direction and must be retrieved cleanly, without touching the ground again.
- 6.3 The player may face any direction and use either foot.
- 6.4 Provided the ball is at the mark, the ball does not have to be lifted from the ground prior to a tap being taken.



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7 Commencement & Recommencement Of Play

- 7.1 The referee is responsible to mark all players attendance on the supplied scoresheet prior to the commencement of the match, or during half time if players arrive late. If a player's name does not appear on the scoresheet the referee is to write it in so the Greta Branxton Touch Football Association committee can investigate.
- 7.2 The referee is to hide a whistle in one hand behind their back and have the captain from each time decide on opposite answers. The winning captain's team will have the choice of the direction the team wishes to run in the first half, OR the choice of which team will commence the game with a tap. The losing captain's team will have the remaining choice.
- 7.3 A player of the attacking team is to commence the match with a tap at the centre of the halfway line following the indication to commence play from the referee.
- 7.4 For the recommencement of play following a half time break, teams shall change directions and the team not commencing the match with possession is to re-start the match with a tap.
- 7.5 For the recommencement of play following the scoring of a try, the team against which the try was conceded will recommence play with a tap.
- 7.6 A tap may not be taken until all attacking players are in an onside position.

Ruling = The player will be directed to return to the mark and to take the tap again.

- 7.7 A tap may not be taken until at least five (5) defending players are in an onside position or unless directed to so by the referee. Where the number of players on the field from the defending team falls below five (5), all players must be in an onside position for a tap to be taken unless directed to do so by the referee.

Ruling = The player will be directed to return to the mark and to take the tap again.

- 7.8 The tap to commence or recommence play must be performed without delay.

Ruling = A penalty to the non-offending team at the centre of the halfway line.



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8 Match Duration & Game Days

- 8.1 A match is 40 minutes in duration, consisting of two (2) x 20 minute halves with a two (2) minute half time break.
- 8.2 There is no time off for injury during a match.
- 8.3 When time expires, play is to continue until the next touch or dead ball and end of play is signalled by the referee.
 - 8.3.1 Should a penalty be awarded during this period, the penalty is to be taken.
- 8.4 All regular season, semi-finals and preliminary finals games are held on a Wednesday.
- 8.5 The grand final day and date will be stipulated at the commencement of each season.

9 Possession

- 9.1 The team with the ball is entitled to six (6) touches prior to a change of possession.
- 9.2 On the change of possession due to an intercept, the first touch will be zero (0) touch.
- 9.3 Following the sixth touch or a loss of possession due to any other means, the ball must be returned to the mark without delay.

Ruling = A deliberate delay in the changeover procedure will result in a penalty awarded to the non-offending team ten (10) metres forward of the mark for the change of possession.

- 9.4 If the ball is dropped or passed and goes to ground during play, a change of possession results.

Ruling = The mark for the change of possession is where the ball makes initial contact with the ground.

- 9.5 If the ball, while still under the control of the half, contacts the ground in the in-goal area, possession is lost.

Ruling = Play will restart with a rollball at the nearest point seven (7) metres from the try line.

- 9.6 If a player mishandles the ball and even if in an effort to gain control, the ball is accidentally knocked forward into any other player, a change of possession results.



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10 The Touch

10.1 A touch may be made by either a defending player or a player in possession. A touch is defined as any contact between the player in possession and a defending player. A touch includes contact on the ball, hair or clothing and may be made by a defending player or by the player in possession.

10.2 A defending player may not claim a touch if contact has not been made.

10.2.1 If a player claims a touch has been made, but the referee is unsure the touch will count.

Ruling = A penalty to the attacking team at the point of the infringement and the offending player sent to the sin bin.

10.2.2 If a player claims a touch has been made and then subsequently calls a 'no-touch', and the referee believes that there has been a break down in play it will be considered a "phantom tag".

Ruling = A penalty to the attacking team at the point of the infringement.

10.3 Players of both defending and attacking teams are to use the minimum force necessary to make a touch. Players must ensure that the method employed in making a touch does not pose an unnecessary risk to player safety.

Ruling = A penalty to the non-offending team at the point of the infringement.

10.4 If the ball is accidentally knocked from the hands of a player in possession during a touch, the touch counts and the attacking team retains possession.

10.5 The defending player must not deliberately knock the ball from the hands of a player in possession during a touch.

Ruling = A penalty to the attacking team at the point of the infringement.

10.6 A player must not pass or otherwise deliver the ball after a touch has been made.

Ruling = A penalty to the defending team at the point of the infringement, or if in-goal at the nearest point seven (7) metres from the try line.

10.7 The half may pass or run with the ball but cannot get touched while in possession of the ball.

Ruling = A change of possession occurs at the point of the touch, or if in-goal the at the nearest point seven (7) metres from the try line.

10.8 If a touch is made in the in-goal area before the ball is grounded, the player in possession is to perform a rollball seven (7) metres from the team's attacking try line, provided it is not the sixth touch and the player is not half.

10.9 If a player in possession is touched while on or behind their defending try line, the touch counts and once the referee sets the mark seven (7) metres directly forward of the contact point from the defending team's try line, a rollball is performed.



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10 The Touch - continued

- 10.10 If a player in possession intentionally makes a touch on an offside defender who is making every effort to retire and remain out of play, the touch counts.
- 10.11 If a touch is made on a player in possession while the player is juggling the ball in an attempt to maintain control of it, the touch counts if the attacking player following the touch retains possession.
- 10.12 If a player in possession is touched and subsequently makes contact with either the sideline, a field marker or the ground outside the field of play, the touch counts and play continues with a rollball at the mark where the touch occurred.
- 10.13 When a player from the defending team enters its defensive seven metre zone, the defending team must move forward at a reasonable pace until a touch is imminent or made.

Ruling = A penalty will be awarded to the attacking team at the point of the infringement.

- 10.14 When a player in possession enters the defending teams' seven metre zone the defending team is not obliged to move forward but cannot retire back towards their try line until a touch is imminent or made.

Ruling = A penalty to the attacking team at the seven (7) metre line in line with the point of the infringement

11 Passing

- 11.1 Passing is the act of changing possession between individual attacking players by propelling the ball laterally and/or backwards and may include a flick, knock or throw.
- 11.2 A player in possession may not kick, pass, flick, knock, throw, hand-off or otherwise propel the ball in a forward direction, either intentionally or otherwise to another player.

Ruling = A penalty will be awarded to the defending team at the mark where the ball was propelled forward unless advantage is applied.

- 11.3 A player in possession may not intentionally kick, pass, flick, knock, throw, hand-off or otherwise propel the ball in a forward direction over an opposition player and regain possession.

Ruling = A penalty will be awarded to the defending team at the mark where the ball was propelled forward.



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12 Ball Touched In Flight

- 12.1 If a player from the defending team deliberately makes contact with the ball in flight and the ball goes to ground, the attacking team retains the ball and the touch count restarts as zero (0) touch.
- 12.2 If a player from the defending team deliberately makes contact with the ball in flight and the ball is retrieved by an attacking player, without touching the ground, play continues and the next touch is zero (0) touch.
- 12.3 If a player from the defending team deliberately makes contact with the ball in flight, propelling it forward and an attacking player, in an attempt to regain possession, drops the ball, the attacking team retains possession and the touch count restarts as zero (0) touch.
- 12.4 If a player from the defending team deliberately makes contact with the ball in flight, propelling it towards the defending team's dead ball line and an attacking player, in an attempt to regain possession drops the ball, a change of possession occurs.
- 12.5 If a player from the defending team unintentionally makes contact with the ball in flight and the ball goes to ground, a change of possession occurs.
- 12.6 If a player from the defending team unintentionally makes contact with the ball in flight and the ball is retrieved by an attacking player, play and the touch count continues.
- 12.7 A player from the attacking team cannot pass the ball into a defending player intentionally seeking a rebound or a restart of the touch count.

Ruling = A penalty to the defending team at the point of the pass.



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13 The Rollball

13.1 The attacking player is to position on the mark, face the opponent's try line, make a genuine attempt to stand parallel to the sidelines, place the ball on the ground between the feet in a controlled manner and:

13.1.1 step forward over the ball; or

13.1.2 roll the ball back between the feet no more than one (1) metre; or

13.1.3 pass a foot over the ball.

Ruling = A change of possession to the defending team at the point of the infringement.

13.2 A player must perform the rollball on the mark.

Ruling = A penalty to the defending team at the point of the infringement.

13.3 A player must not perform a voluntary rollball.

Ruling = A penalty to the defending team at the point of the infringement.

13.4 A player must not delay in performing the rollball.

Ruling = A penalty to the defending team at the point of the infringement.

13.5 A player may only perform a rollball at the mark under the following circumstances:

13.5.1 when a touch has been made; or

13.5.2 when possession changes following the sixth touch; or

13.5.3 when possession changes due to the ball being dropped or passed and goes to the ground; or

13.5.4 when possession changes due to an infringement by an attacking player at a penalty, a tap or a rollball; or

13.5.5 when possession changes after the half is touched or when the half places the ball on or over the try line; or

13.5.6 in replacement of a penalty tap; or

13.5.7 when so directed by the referee.

13.6 A player is to perform a rollball seven (7) metres in-field under the following circumstances:

a. when a change of possession takes place due to a player in possession making contact with the sideline or any ground outside the field of play, prior to a touch being made; or

b. when the ball not in possession of a player makes contact with the sideline or any ground outside the field of play.

13.7 A player may not perform a tap in replacement of a rollball.

Ruling = The offending team must return to the mark and perform the rollball.



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13 The Rollball - continued

- 13.8 An attacking player, other than the player performing the rollball, may receive the ball at the rollball and shall do so without delay. That player is referred to as the half.
- 13.9 The half may control the ball with a foot prior to picking up the ball.
- 13.10 A player ceases to be the half once the ball is passed to another player.
- 13.11 Defending players are not to interfere with the performance of the rollball or the half.

Ruling = A penalty to the attacking team at a point ten (10) metres directly forward of the infringement.

- 13.12 Players of the defending team must not move forward of the onside position until the half has made contact with the ball, unless directed to do so by the referee or in accordance with 13.12.1.
 - 13.12.1 When the half is not within one (1) metre of the rollball, onside players of the defending team may move forward as soon as the player performing the rollball releases the ball. If the half is not in position and a defending player moves forward and makes contact with the ball, a change of possession results.
- 13.13 If in the act of performing the rollball, the attacking player makes contact with the sideline or any ground outside the field of play a change of possession will occur with the rollball to be taken seven (7) metres in field.
- 13.14 After a touch is made within seven (7) metres of the try line, an attacking team is permitted to bring the rollball back, but it still needs to be within seven (7) metres of the try line and at the point directly in line with where the touch was made.



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14 Scoring

14.1 A try is worth

- a. **Junior competitions** - two (2) points if scored by a female or one (1) point if scored by a male.
- b. **Senior Mixed competitions** - two (2) points if scored by a female or one (1) point if scored by a male.
- c. **Senior Men's and Women's** - one (1) point.

14.2 A try is awarded when a player, other than the half, places the ball on or over the try line without being touched.

14.3 In attempting to score a try, a player must have control of the ball prior to placing it on or over the try line.

14.4 If a player places the ball on the ground and releases it short of the try line while attempting to score a try, the player is required to perform a rollball to restart play and a touch is counted. If a player does not release the ball from their hands, the match continues and no touch is counted.

14.5 At the end of play the team that has scored the most points is declared the winner. In the event of neither team scoring, or in the event of both teams scoring the same number of points, a draw is declared (except for finals games).

14.6 Once a player in possession of the ball crosses over the attacking try line the ball cannot be passed to another player

Ruling = A change of possession occurs at the nearest point at the nearest point seven (7) metres from the try line.



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15 Offside

15.1 At a rollball, all players from the defending team must retire a distance of seven (7) metres or to the defending try line as indicated by the referee.

Ruling = A penalty to the attacking team at the point of the infringement or seven (7) metres out from the try line directly in line with the infringement if the infringement was committed within seven (7) metres of the defending try line.

15.2 At a tap, all players from the defending team must retire a distance of ten (10) metres from the mark or to the defending try line as indicated by the referee.

Ruling = A penalty to the attacking team at the point of the infringement or on the ten (10) metre line directly forward of the infringement.

15.3 When a rollball occurs within seven (7) metres of the defending team's try line, or a penalty tap within ten (10) metres of the defending team's try line, all players from the defending team must have both feet on or behind their try line and no other part of the body in contact with the ground forward of their try line.

Ruling = A penalty to the attacking team seven (7) metres out from the try line directly in line with the infringement.

15.4 After effecting the touch, the defending player must retire the required seven (7) metres or to the defending try line as indicated by the referee without interfering with the attacking team.

Ruling = A penalty to the attacking team ten (10) metres forward of the infringement or seven (7) metres out from the try line directly in line with the infringement if the infringement was committed within seven (7) metres of the defending try line.



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16 Obstruction

16.1 A player in possession must not run or otherwise move behind other attacking players or the referee in an attempt to avoid an imminent touch.

Ruling = A penalty to the non-offending team at the point of the infringement.

16.2 The player in possession is not to hold or otherwise impede a defending player in any way.

Ruling = A penalty to the non-offending team at the point of the infringement.

16.3 An attacking player in support of the player in possession may move as necessary to achieve a supporting position but must not grab, hold, push or otherwise deliberately interfere with a defending player attempting to make a touch.

Ruling = A penalty to the non-offending team at the point of the infringement or seven (7) metres out from the try line directly in line with the infringement if the infringement was committed within seven (7) metres of the defending try line.

16.4 Players in the defending team may not obstruct or interfere with an attacking player.

Ruling = A penalty to the non-offending team at the point of the infringement or seven (7) metres out from the try line directly in line with the infringement if the infringement was committed within seven (7) metres of the defending try line.

16.5 Should a supporting, attacking player cause an apparent and involuntary or accidental obstruction and the player in possession ceases movement to allow a touch to be made, the touch is to count.

16.6 If the referee causes obstruction on either an attacking player or a defending player including when the ball makes contact with the referee, play should pause and recommence with a rollball at the mark where the interference occurred and the touch count remains unchanged.



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17 Interchange

17.1 Players may interchange at any time.

17.2 There is no limit to the number of times a player may interchange.

17.3 Interchange players must remain outside the field of play and shall not hinder or obstruct play.

17.4 Interchanges may only occur after the player has left the field of play.

17.5 Players leaving or entering the field of play shall not hinder or obstruct play.

Ruling = A penalty to the non-offending team at the point of the infringement.

17.6 Players entering the field of play must take up an onside position before becoming involved in play.

Ruling = A penalty to the non-offending team at the point of the infringement.

17.7 When an intercept has occurred or a line break made, players are not permitted to interchange until the next touch has been made or ball becomes dead.

Ruling A = If a player enters the field of play and prevents the scoring of a try, a penalty try will be awarded and the offending player sent to the sin bin.

Ruling B = If a player enters the field of play but does not impede the scoring of a try the offending player will be sent to the sin bin.

17.8 Following a try, players may interchange at will, but must do so prior to the tap being taken to recommence play.



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18 Penalty

18.1 A penalty tap must be performed as outlined in the "The Tap" section of the rules.

Ruling = The referee will instruct the offending team to return to the mark and perform the tap again.

18.2 For infringements that occur within the field of play more than seven (7) metres from any try line, the mark for the penalty tap is at the point of infringement unless otherwise indicated by the referee.

18.3 For infringements that occur within seven (7) metres of any try line, the tap must be taken seven (7) metres out from the nearest try line.

18.4 For infringements that occur beyond the field of play or in the in-goal area the mark is seven (7) metres infield from the sideline, or directly forward of the infringement seven (7) metres from the try line nearest to the infringement or at a position indicated by the referee.

18.5 The mark must be indicated by the referee before a penalty tap is taken.

18.6 The penalty tap must be performed without delay after the referee indicates the mark.

Ruling = A penalty to the non-offending team at the point of infringement.

18.7 A player may perform a rollball instead of a penalty tap and the player who receives the ball does not become the half.

18.8 A penalty try is awarded if any action by a player, team official or spectator, deemed by the referee to be contrary to the rules or spirit of the game clearly prevents the attacking team from scoring a try.

19 Advantage

19.1 Where a defending team player is offside at a tap or rollball and attempts to interfere with play, the referee will allow advantage or award a penalty, whichever is of greater advantage to the attacking team.

19.2 Should the attacking team in the act of taking the advantage subsequently infringe, the ruling on the initial infringement will apply.



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20 Misconduct

20.1 Misconduct warranting a penalty, forced interchange, sin bin or dismissal includes:

- 20.1.1 Continuous or regular breaches of the rules;
- 20.1.2 Swearing towards another player, referee, spectator or other match official;
- 20.1.3 Disputing decisions of referees or other match official(s);
- 20.1.4 Using more than the necessary physical force to make a touch;
- 20.1.5 Poor sportsmanship;
- 20.1.6 Tripping, striking, or otherwise assaulting another player, referee, spectator or other match official; or
- 20.1.7 Any other action that is contrary to the spirit of the game.

21 Forced Interchange

21.1 Where the referee deems it necessary to implement a forced interchange following an infringement, the referee is to stop the match, direct the ball to be placed on the mark, advise the offending player of the reason for the forced interchange, direct that player to leave the field of play, display the relevant signal and award a penalty to the non-offending team.



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22 Sin Bin

- 22.1 Any player sent to the sin bin will remain off the field for a duration of five (5) minutes, or any remaining time left in the match if left than five (5) minutes is remaining.
- 22.2 Any player sent to the sin bin must stand off the field nearest to the scoresheet.
- 22.3 The team with the player sent to the sin bin will remain a player short on the field until that time has elapsed as the player is counted as a player on the field of play and cannot be replaced or interchanged.
- 22.4 The on-field referee will indicate the commencement and the end of the sin bin time.
- 22.5 The player sent to the sin bin cannot return to the field of play until directed to do so by the referee. The on-field referee is required to indicate the commencement and the end of the sin bin time.

23 Dismissal

- 23.1 A player or official dismissed for misconduct is to take no further part in that match and is to move to and remain outside the field of play for the remainder of the match.
- 23.2 The dismissed player or official cannot be replaced.
- 23.3 The dismissed player or official shall receive an automatic two (2) round suspension, inclusive of the round of the dismissal. The suspension will apply to all Greta Branxton Touch Football Association matches, regardless of the team, grade, or division. The suspension will have immediate effect and will only apply to played rounds (bye rounds and washed-out rounds are not considered played rounds for suspensions). For example, if the dismissal is during a junior game and the same person is involved in a senior game on the same day, they will be unable to play that game AND will be unable to play the following round. A player or official dismissed for misconduct is to take no further part in that match and is to move to and remain outside the perimeter for the remainder of the match.



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24 Drop-Off

24.1 Should a winner be required in drawn matches (such as finals games), the following drop-off procedure is used to determine a winner.

24.1.1 Each team will reduce their on-field team to four (4) players and within 60 seconds take up a position to restart play from the halfway line, defending the same end of the field as at the end of play.

24.1.2 The drop-off commences with a tap from the centre of the halfway line by the team that did not commence the match with possession.

24.1.3 The drop-off will commence with a two (2) minute period of extra time.

24.1.4 Should a team be leading at the expiration of the two (2) minute period of extra time then that team will be declared the winner and match complete.

24.1.5 Should neither team be leading at the expiration of two (2) minutes, a signal is given and the match will pause at the next touch or dead ball. Each team will then remove another player from the field of play.

24.1.6 The match will recommence immediately after the players have left the field at the same place where it paused (i.e. the team retains possession at the designated number of touches, or at change of possession due to some infringement or the sixth touch) and the match will continue until a try is scored.

24.1.7 There is no time off during the drop-off and the clock does not stop at the two (2) minute interval.

24.1.8 Substitution during the drop-off is permitted in accordance with normal interchange rules.

24.2 Mixed gender teams may have no more than (2) males on the field during the drop-off.

24.2.1 In the case of a male player serving time in the sin bin at the commencement of the drop-off the offending Team will start with no more than one (1) male on the field.

24.2.2 Where a male player has been dismissed for the remainder of the match, the offending team will be permitted to have no more than one (1) male on the field for the duration of the drop-off.



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24 Drop-off - continued

- 24.3 At the commencement of the drop-off, if there is a player serving time in the sin bin and is yet to complete the required time, their team commences the drop-off with one (1) less player on the field than their opposition and continues to play with one (1) player less until the sin bin period has been completed.
- 24.4 At the commencement of the drop-off, if a team has had a player dismissed for the remainder of the match that team continues to play with one (1) player less than the opposition team for the duration of the drop-off.
- 24.5 For the avoidance of doubt for clauses 24.3 and 24.4 the non-offending team will retain a numerical advantage on the field of play during the drop-off.



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25 Match Officials

- 25.1 The referee is the sole judge on all match related matters inside the perimeter for the duration of a match, has jurisdiction over all players, coaches and officials and is required to:
- 25.1.1 Adjudicate on the rules of the game;
 - 25.1.2 Impose any sanction necessary to control the match;
 - 25.1.3 Award tries and record the progressive score on the provided scoresheet;
 - 25.1.4 Record try scorers on the provided scoresheet;
 - 25.1.5 Maintain a count of touches during each possession;
 - 25.1.6 Award penalties for infringements against the rules; and
 - 25.1.7 Report to the Greta Braxton Touch Football Association committee any sin bins, dismissals or injuries to any participant sustained during a match.
- 25.2 Only team captains are permitted to seek clarification of a decision directly from the referee. An approach may only be made during a break in play or at the discretion of the referee.
- 25.3 Referees may be supplied by the association, and/or through a player duties roster. Both association allocated referees and duties allocated referees have the same jurisdiction and responsibility.
- 25.4 Referees are to wear the supplied referee shirts or supplied referee vests.
- 25.5 The referee is responsible to mark all players attendance on the supplied scoresheet prior to the commencement of the match, or during half time if players arrive late. If a player's name does not appear on the scoresheet the referee is to write it in so the Greta Braxton Touch Football Association committee can investigate.
- 25.6 Upon the conclusion of each game, the referee is to submit the finalised scoresheet showing the final score, try scorers and the 3 best and fairest players of the match (with 3 being the highest score) to the Greta Braxton Touch Football Association committee.



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26 Finals Structure & Eligibility

- 26.1 The exact structure of the finals series may change each season depending on the duration of the competition and the amount of registered teams.
- 26.2 Only players who have played and have been marked as attending on the scoresheet for a minimum of 25% of the seasons' completed matches are eligible to play in the finals series. Washed out, bye and abandoned games (with the exemption of games that have had at least half of the duration elapsed prior to abandonment due to natural events) are not considered completed matches.
- 26.3 Any registered player who is unable to compete in games during the course of the regular season due to injury, and as a result would not qualify for the minimum required completed games, can apply for an exemption with a written submission to the committee which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Supporting documentation may be requested by the committee as part of the assessment.

27 Abandoned Games

- 27.1 Games that have had at least half of the duration elapsed prior to abandonment due to natural events will be considered a completed match and the results at the time of abandonment shall count as the final result of the game.
- 27.2 In the event of games being abandoned due wet weather or due to any other event or reason, the games may not be rescheduled.
- 27.3 Any semi final or preliminary final games abandoned due to natural events, prior to at least half of the duration elapsing, will result in the team that finished higher in the regular season ladder being considered the winner.
- 27.4 Any grand final games abandoned due to natural events, prior to at least half of the duration elapsing, will result in both teams being considered equal winners.
- 27.5 Games postponed, but not abandoned due to natural events that can have at least half of the duration of the game completed prior to the scheduled finish time will be considered a completed match and the results at the scheduled finish time shall count as the final result of the game.
- 27.6 If a match is abandoned in any other circumstances not defined within the rulebook, Greta Branxton Touch Football Association committee in its sole discretion shall determine the result of the match.



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28 Extreme Weather Guidelines

Identify Hazard	Action Required
Limited Air Quality / Pollution Enforced by committee member/s	Communication of health management strategies. Warnings for Asthma sufferers.
Extreme Heat Enforced by committee member/s <i>(defined using BOM "feels like" temperature)</i>	36 degrees + Play postponed or cancelled. 31 – 35 degrees Play for all competitions (excluding Mini's) are reduced to quarters, with a minimum period of 2 minutes to facilitate a drink break. The game will resume from where the play was halted after for the first and third quarters. 30 degrees Communication of heat stress management strategies. Warnings of possible risk.
Heavy Rain Enforced by committee member/s	Play suspended until hazard clears. If it continues to rain heavily during that time, play will be suspended until further notice.
Extreme Cold Weather Enforced by committee member/s	When severe winter weather is forecast, weather reports and traffic conditions within the immediate area should be monitored, if the ground is slippery from frost, snow, rain or mud, or if the temp drops below 8 degrees, it is at the discretion of the controlling body to determine whether play should be suspended or cancelled until hazard clears.
Hail on Ground Enforced by committee member/s	Play suspended immediately until hazard clears. Refer to weather radar for official report. Shelter under canteen offered for participants, officials and spectators until cleared.



RULES Under 10's, Under 12's, Youth's & Open's 2026-2027

28 Extreme Weather Guidelines - continued

Identify Hazard	Action Required
<p>Lightning / Thunderstorm/s Enforced by committee member/s</p>	<p>When lightning is considered to be a possible or actual threat to a Touch Football game the following procedures are applicable:</p> <p>a) Observe the approaching storm clouds, the first flash of lightning or clap of thunder, no matter how far away should heighten lightning awareness.</p> <p>b) Method of determining the distance to the storm cell is to measure time elapsed from when lightning flash is observed and when the associated thunder is heard. The distance can be determined by using the following rule: Distance (Km) = time from observing flash to hearing thunder (in 3 seconds).</p> <p>In the absence of specific information from weather radar, a lightning location system, or specialised warning device then the 30/30 Safety Guideline should be used. 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:</p> <p>a) 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.</p> <p>b) For resumption of play/competition, it is recommended that people wait a minimum 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning or sound of thunder.</p>



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29 Forfeits

- 29.1 Team managers / captains are required to notify the Greta Branxton Touch Football Association of their teams intention to forfeit with at least four (4) hours notice prior to the scheduled commencement of the game.
- 29.2 Contact can be made as outlined in the "Association Contact Information" section of the rules, or through the competition's coordinator.
- 29.3 Failure to provide this notice may result in:
- a. **Junior competitions** - loss of competition points.
 - b. **Senior competitions** - loss of competition points and fines, including deductions from team bonds (team bonds only applicable in senior competitions).
- 29.4 Match scores and competition points are awarded as outlined in the "Competitions Points" section of the rules.

30 Duties (Senior Competitions Only**)**

- 30.1 Teams may be required to provide referees or scorers for games throughout the season as required.
- 30.2 Failure to provide referees or scorers may result in loss of competition points and fines as outlined in the "Team Bond" section of the rules.
- 30.3 When completing refereeing duties the jurisdictions and responsibilities outlined in the "Match Officials" section of the rules apply to the duties person.
- 30.4 The minimum age to complete referee duties is 16 years old, unless otherwise approved in advance by the Greta Branxton Touch Football Association committee.



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31 Team Bond (Senior Competitions Only)

- 31.1 A \$100.00 bond is required to be paid with each team registration. The team bond has been imposed due to teams not refereeing when nominated and, when forfeiting a game, providing less than the specified minimum notice as outlined in the "Forfeits" section of the rules. This leaves other teams without a game or referee. At the end of competition, the bond will be refunded to the team manager.
- 31.2 The fine structure is as below:
- 31.2.1 For the first offence - loss of \$25.00.
 - 31.2.2 For the second offence - loss of a further \$25.00.
 - 31.2.3 For the third offence - loss of the remaining bond money and possible suspension from the competition.
 - 31.2.4 The loss of two competition points for failure to referee will apply as well as the loss of bond money.
- 31.3 Continual breaches of playing rules or withdrawing from competitions can also result in fines towards the team bond.

32 Competition Points

- 32.1 At the end of the regular season the four (4) teams with the highest points will compete in the finals series. Teams with equal points will be positioned by their teams differential scores. Teams with equal points and equal team differential scores will be positioned with the highest "for" total score finishing higher on the ladder. If teams finish with equal points, equal differential scores and equal "for" scores a coin will be flipped to determine who will finish with the higher ladder position.
- 32.2 Points are awarded as outlined below:
- Win = 2 points.
 - Lose = 0 points.
 - Draw = 1 point.
 - Bye = 0 points.
 - Forfeit for (opposition of forfeiting team) = 2 points (and the match score equalling the average winning score of that round, rounded up if not a complete number).
 - Forfeit against (team forfeiting) = 0 points (and the match score to be zero (0)).



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33 Association Contact Information

The Greta Branxton Touch Football Association committee can be contacted through the below channels:

- ✚ Email: info@gretabranxtontouchfootball.com.au
- ✚ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gretabranxtontouchfootball>

Executive Committee 2026-2027

- ✚ President: Joshua Pescud – 0437 864 441
- ✚ Vice President: Rob Ayscough – 0419 168 208
- ✚ Treasurer: Mark Bercini – 0408 429 710
- ✚ Secretary: Kylie Watts – 0404 491 638

Committee & Competition Coordinators 2026-2027

Under 10's & Under 12's

- ✚ Kylie Watts – 0404 491 638
- ✚ Rob Ayscough – 0419 168 208

Youths

- ✚ Kylie Watts – 0404 491 638
- ✚ Mark Bercini – 0408 429 710 (men's & mixed)

Seniors

- ✚ Joshua Pescud – 0437 864 441 (men's & mixed)
- ✚ Kylie Watts – 0404 491 638 (mixed)
- ✚ Mark Bercini – 0408 429 710 (men's & mixed)

Referees Coordinators

- ✚ Cameron Charnock – 0480 191 970 (juniors)
- ✚ Craig Hamburger – 0407 482 810 (seniors)