



# MFTFA 2020

## SEASON 2 By-

## Laws

### **By-Law 1 – Rules of Play, Teams and Officials**

- a) The Macksville Falcons Touch Football Association Inc. (hereafter known as “MFTFA”) Season 2 (Summer) Competition (hereafter known as the “Competition”) will be conducted under the Touch Football Australia (TFA) Rules, 8th Edition and Amendments. Subsequent sub-sections specify supplementary competition by- laws and procedures to be applied by MFTFA. All teams participating in any TCHTA competitions agree to be bound by TFA and MFTFA rules and procedures. The Competition will be administered by the MFTFA General Committee (hereafter known as the “Committee”).
- b) The competition will be based on a Team concept and all players that participate must be a member of one of the MFTFA registered teams.
- c) All teams MUST have a nominated Team Contact who is over the age of 18. The Team Contact is responsible for Team Nomination, Player Registration, and all matters relating to abiding by the provision of these By-Laws.
- d) The Team Contact will be the first contact regarding any matter relating to administration of the competition, including disciplinary matters
- e) All members of the Association are to abide by these By-Laws and the playing rules of TFA
- f) In addition to the penalties outlined in the TFA Playing Rules for breaches of playing rules the following penalties will apply:
- Third Forced Substitution in any Season Automatic one match suspension from playing in any Division
  - Any further forced substitution after the third forced substitution. Automatic 2 match suspension from playing in any division. Citation/Report
  - Second period of time removal in season. Automatic 1 match suspension from playing in any division.
  - Any further Period of Time removal .Two match suspension from playing in any division. Citation/report

## **By-Law 2 – Competition Structure, Rounds and Finals**

- a) The Divisions in the Competition will be:
- Year 3 and Under
  - Year 4-6
  - Year 7-8
  - Mixed Open
- b) A minimum of four (4) teams is required to constitute a Division. Where a Division contains four (4) or less nominated teams by the close of nominations, the Association may choose to combine that Division with the closest Division of a similar age/ability. The Association will determine the format of finals for all Divisions.
- c) Where a Division contains more than 10 teams then that Division may be further divided into Grades. Teams will be allocated into Grades at the discretion of the Committee.
- d) Where a Grade contains more than 10 teams then that Grade may be further divided into Pools. Teams will be allocated into Pools at the discretion of the Committee.
- e) The Association reserves the right to move teams within Grades/pools. Any points accumulated by a team prior to the move will be carried into the new Grade/pool.
- f) The number of competition Rounds shall be determined by the number of weeks of the competition and no catch-up matches shall be held.
- g) Competition dates and Finals date for 2020 Season 2 are as follows:  
Commencement of Competition: 17/09/2020 Semi-Finals: 25/02/2021 Grand Final 4/03/2021
- h) All Semi-Finals and Finals will be played on the Finals date
- i) Only teams who make Semi Finals and the Grand Final will play on Finals nights.
- j) A player must have played a minimum of five (5) matches for a team to qualify to play in that team for the finals series.
- k) 'Byes', 'Wash-Outs' and 'Forfeits For' can also count as matches played provided that the player has played at least one match for that team prior to the 'Bye' or 'Wash-Out' occurring.
- l) Match duration:
- Division/ Game duration/ Half time. Mixed Open/ 2 x 20 minutes/ 5 minutes. Year 7-8 /35 minutes/ Nil.  
Year 4-6/ 35 minutes/ Nil .Year 3/ 30 minutes/ Nil.
- m) The Committee reserves the right to alter match durations and timeslots as required.
- n) In the case of a final series match where a decision is required, if the match is drawn at the time of the

stoppage when the final siren sounds a drop-off will occur. TFA Edition 8 Drop-Off rules will apply .

### **By-Law 3 – Team nomination, Player eligibility and registration and Team Bond**

a) Team nominations must be received no later than one (1) weeks prior to the commencement of the Competition season. Team Contacts must inform the Committee of their team colours.

b) Players must be registered before the commencement of their first game in the Season

c) The Team Bond must be paid no later than one (1) weeks prior to the first round of the Competition. The team bond or remaining part can be refunded at the completion of the season on request. The team contact as mentioned in By Law 1 © is responsible for the payment of the team bond. The team contact must supply their correct personal details at the time of nominating the team The team bond or remainder of the team bond will only be returned only to the team contact that nominated the team for the competition. The team bonds or remainder of it will be returned to the team contact commencing 1 week after the completion of the Grand Final. Team contacts can request return of the bond or portion remaining after 1 week has elapsed after the Grand Final has been played. Requests to return the team bond will not be accepted after 1 month has elapsed after the Grand Final has been played.

d) Player registration cost and Team Bonds are set as follows:

Division/ Player Registration / Team Bond. Mixed Open/ \$90/ \$200. Year 7-8/ \$60/ \$200. Year 4-6 /\$60/ \$200  
.Year 3/ \$60/ Nil )

When the Team Levy falls below \$100 it must be refreshed (taken back up to \$200) before team may play another game.

(see By Law 6 and Schedule 1 for list of fines that will be removed from team bond).

e) All players must register and pay on line. Player registration cost must be paid on line at the time of registration by credit card. The online bank fee will be added at the time of payment and must be met by the player. No other method of payment for player registration will be accepted. Team bonds can be paid by bank transfer to Macksville Falcons TFA.

g) Player eligibility for each Division is as follows:

Division Eligibility

Mixed Open Must be entering High School in the competition  
season

Year 7-8 Must be in Year 7 or 8 at the beginning of the  
season

Year 4-6 Must be in Year 4, 5 or 6 at the beginning of the  
season

Year 3 Must be in Year 3 or under at the beginning of the season and must be a minimum  
of 5 years old at the beginning of the season.

h) Junior players are able to play in one junior division team and 1 Mixed Open divisions  
team. A separate registration and payment must be made for each team provided that they  
satisfy the age requirements.

i) Players may only register into and play in 1 team in the Mixed Open divisions. A  
player who

wishes to play in more than one team in the Mixed Open Divisions MUST apply to MFTFA prior to  
registering. Their application will be considered taking into account their level of skill and ability and the  
effect they will have on other players and teams in the division applied for.

j) Players wishing to transfer between teams must provide a request to the Committee via email  
before playing with a new team. Players are not to play with the new team until approval has been given  
by the Committee

**By-Law 4 – Playing uniforms and Attire**

a) All teams will be recognised by their team colours.

b) Each team is to supply their own uniform to their players. Playing shirts must be uniform and numbered.  
Taped numbers will not be permitted. Players not appropriately uniformed will not be allowed to take the field  
of play.

- c) Shirts, singlets and bodysuits must have numbers which are to be regulation size. Regulation size is 16cm for a number on the back of a shirt.
- d) Teams must be in uniform before the commencement of Round 3. Teams not in uniform by Round 3 may not take the field and may incur a penalty.
- e) All players must wear shoes as per TFA rules. Footwear with screw in studs are not permitted. Molded soles are permitted so long as the studs/cleats are no longer than 13mm (measured from the sole).
- f) Players and/or referees may wear glasses, hats and/or medical supports if they do create a danger to other players. The Committee will have discretion over what constitutes a danger to other players
- g) Any fibre-glass, plaster-of-Paris, or solid fixtures of a medical nature cannot be worn while playing or refereeing.
- h) Players are not to participate in any match while wearing any items of jewelry. If items of jewelry are unable to be removed then the item must be taped and secured.
- i) Long or sharp fingernails must be trimmed or taped.

## **By-Law 5 – Number and Combination of players**

a) Maximum number of players:

Division/ On the field /Take the field in any given round / Registered to play in the team.

Mixed Open 6 /18/ 18

Year 7-8 6 /18 /18

Year 4-6 6/ 18/ 18

Year 3 5/ 18/ 18

b) Combination of players:

Division/ On the field

Mixed Open At least one (1) male and one (1) female player on the field always. No more than three (3) males on the field at any time

Year 7-8 Any combination of player

Year 4-6 Any combination of player

Year 3 Any combination of player

c) The minimum number of players required by a team to start a match is four (4).

## **By-Law 6 – Byes, Forfeits, and Withdrawals**

a) Teams on a bye will be counted as a match played and normal rules will apply to the players in that team as if the match had been played.

b) Teams should attend their playing field, five (5) minutes before the commencement of their match. Any team that cannot field a team with at least the minimum number of players after five (5) minutes of the siren going will be required to forfeit. During the five minute periods a score of one touchdown will be added to the opponents score for every minute there is not the required number of players on the field, up to a maximum of five touchdowns. The score for a Forfeit match shall be 5-0 against the forfeiting team

c) A Forfeit will incur a \$90 penalty against their team bond unless the Competitions Manager is notified before midday on the day of competition.

d) Any team that forfeits two (2) matches shall be required to “show cause” to the Association as to why they should not be removed from the competition.

e) Any team that forfeits three (3) matches without good reason shall be immediately removed from the competition.

f) If a player withdraws from the competition before the third week of the competition they MAY

be eligible for a pro-rata refund of Registration fees.

g) If a player withdraws from the competition after the third week of the competition they will not be eligible for a refund of Registration fees.

h) In the case of a forfeit the non-offending team will be counted as a team on a bye and any rules associated with a bye team will apply. Non-offending teams will not be required to mark their team sheet if the forfeit results in no match being played. However, all registered players will be recorded as playing.

### **By-Law 7 – Provision of Referees**

a) The MFTFA Director of Referees, or a delegated representative, will prepare the allocation of referee each week. Referees will be allocated to games based on Badge Level and experience.



b) Any referee that cannot attend the match they have been appointed to referee is required to notify the Director of Referee, or their representative, as early as possible after they are aware they cannot fulfil their refereeing commitments. If no notification is received a penalty may apply.

## **By-Law 8 – Team Sheet and Score Card**

- a) Team Contacts must ensure the Team Sheet is completed with shirt numbers and signatures before the commencement of each game.
  
- b) If players arrive late for a game it is the Team Contacts responsibility to ensure those players complete the team sheet before they take the field.
  
- c) Failure to ensure the Team Sheet is properly presented will result in a warning and a deduction from the Team Bond
  
- d) The Team Sheet must be checked by the Team Contact at the end of the game to ensure all players have signed and numbers are correct. Failure to do so may result is a deduction from the Team Bond.
  
- e) The Score Card must be checked and signed by each Team Captain at the end of the match to verify player numbers, before the sheet can be submitted to administration.
  
- f) Team Sheets may not be changed after they have been submitted.

## **By-Law 9 – Scoring, Competition Points and Ladder Position**

a) Each touchdown scored shall be worth one (1) point in all divisions.

b) Each team receives:

Win/Bye 3 competition points

Draw 2 competition points

Loss 1 competition point

Forfeit 0 competition points

c) Nominations received after the competition commences will be taken as a Forfeit Team and receive 0 competition points and 0 touchdowns 'FOR' and 5 touchdowns 'AGAINST' for the matches missed.

d) In the case of equal points at the end of the round matches the final team will be decided by 'FOR and AGAINST' touchdowns.

e) In the case of a team forfeiting, the forfeiting team will be allocated 0 points f) If a team is not in attendance after five (5) minutes has expired, the match is deemed a forfeit.

The offending team is penalised one touchdown after the first minute and every minute thereafter up to 5 minutes.

## **By-Law 10 – Match procedure for all Teams and Referees**

- a) Prior to the commencement of the game the referees are to determine the Team Captain (s).
- b) Referees then check shoes, fingernails and jewelry of all players.
- c) Team Contacts are to bring to the referees' attention any doubts they may have with the validity of the opposition team (e.g. not in uniform, illegal player etc.). Referees are to mark on the back of the scorecard any concerns and after the match bring to administration's attention.
  - d) A coin toss is made (or alternative), players shake hands, interchange players, coaches and managers move to the interchange box in readiness for the match to commence.
  - e) At the completion of the match the captains check each other's team sheet to ensure that they agree with the players marked. If in agreement both coaches sign the bottom of the team sheet.
- f) If there is no protest on the match, captains are to sign the scorecard.
- g) If there is a protest on the match (e.g. score incorrect, etc.) the protesting Team Contact is not to sign the scorecard. The captain should immediately speak to an official from the Association to obtain a protest form. The completed form should be submitted as per BY-LAW 12.a).

## **By-Law 11 – Interrupted matches**

a) Should a scheduled match be unable to continue due to injury or any other extenuating circumstance, the following shall be the policy:

i. Prior to first half the - match results in a draw

ii. After half time - the match score is to stand as it was when play stopped.

iii. In the case of a final series match where a decision is required, if the match is drawn at the time of the stoppage when the final siren sounds a drop-off will occur. The 8th Edition Drop-Off rules will apply.

b) If on a fixture day all matches are abandoned, the replaying of the round will be at the discretion of the Association Executive, though if the round is not replayed then all teams who were to play will receive two (2) competition points and will be allocated 'For/Against points of 5/5. Bye teams will receive the usual three (3) competition points and be allocated the usual 'For/Against points of 5/0.

c) If on a fixture day some matches are abandoned, then the following will apply:

i. For those matches that could be completed, teams will receive points as per the

scorecard; ii. For those matches that were abandoned during play, BY-LAW 11.a) will apply;

iii. For those matches that were abandoned prior to starting, points will be allocated

as per BY-LAW 11.b). iv. If a finals match is abandoned the team that was higher on the

ladder will be deemed the winner d) Where practical, the decision to cancel matches will be made at approximately 2.30pm on match day and if cancelled be advertised on the Association website and social media.

## **By-Law 12 – Protests, Reports and Disciplinary Regulations**

- a) All protests regarding breaches of by-laws are to be in writing, addressed to the Association Secretary and are to be submitted by the Team Contact on behalf of the team immediately following the match.
- b) Disciplinary Incident reports are to be submitted by the referee/participant/official immediately following the match.
- c) Further information can be submitted by email, to the Association within 48 hours.
- d) Protests regarding by-law violations will be addressed by the MFTFA Executive.
- e) Disciplinary Incidents will be addressed by the MFTFA Hearings Officer.
- f) In general reports lodged on match day/night will not be addressed before the next business day.
- g) Protests will only be heard regarding breaches of by-laws and no protests will be heard regarding the decision of referees.
- h) Protest forms, Disciplinary Incident forms and Supplementary Information forms are available from the competition Administration Centre.

### **By-Law 13 – Requests for Special Circumstances**

- a) Where there arises any special circumstance that is not already covered by these by-laws then a team may make application in writing to the MFTFA Executive Committee to have their situation considered.
- b) All requests must be submitted by the Team Contact
- c) Any requests under this by-law that apply to the finals series must be submitted to the committee by end-of-play two (2) weeks prior to the start of the final series.

## **Schedule 1 - Penalties for By-Law Violations**

The following penalties exist for violations of competition by -laws by players and teams.

Violation/ By-Law/Penalty

### **Team with players not in correct uniform**

BY-LAW 4.d) Players not in correct uniform may not take the field.

### **Team sheet not completed**

BY-LAW 8.a) Match to count as a forfeit by the offending team with the non-offending team counting as a forfeit win

### **Player playing for a team when unregistered**

BY-LAW 3.b) Loss of three (3) competition points by offending team. Game counts as forfeit for offending team and forfeit win for non-offending team. Team fined \$90 from team bond

### **Player playing when not qualified for finals**

BY-LAW 2.j) Match counts as a forfeit by the offending team.

### **Failure to notify MFTFA Competitions Manager of forfeit by set time**

BY-LAW 6.h) Loss of three (3) competition points.

Fine of \$90 from Team Bond

### **Team that forfeits three (3) matches without good reason**

BY-LAW 6.e) Removal from competition without refund of Registration fee or Team Bond.

### **Withdrawal of a team before Round 3**

BY-LAW 6.f) MAY be eligible for a pro-rata refund of Registration fees

### **Withdrawal of a team after Round 3**

BY-LAW 6.g) No refund of Registration Fee or Team

### **Bond Third Forced Substitution in any Season**

BY-LAW 1.f) Automatic one match suspension from playing in any Division

### **Any further Forced Substitution after the third Forced Substitution**

BY-LAW 1.f) Two match suspension from playing in any Division and Citation/Report

### **Second Period of Time removal**

BY-LAW 1.f) Automatic one match suspension from playing in any Division

### **Any further Period of Time removal**

BY-LAW 1.f) Two match suspension from playing in any Division and Citation/Report

### **Sent from Field for remainder of game**

BY-LAW 1.e) Automatic two match suspension from playing in any Division and Citation/Report

### **Failure to notify of inability to referee allocated game/s**

BY-LAW 7.b) Initial warning followed by fine equivalent to one game payment

## **Schedule 2 - Competition Dates Summary**

By-Law Date 22.7.2020



Team Nominations close By-Law 3a) 3/09/2020  
Team Bond due by 10/09/2020 By-Law 3c) and B

All players registered

By-Law 3b) Before they take the field for their first game

Season commences By-Law 2g) 17/09/2020

Semi-Finals By-Law 2g) 25/02/2021

Grand Finals By-Law 2g) 4/03/2021

**END**

