



Australian Invitational Challenge (AIC)

When: 1st - 4th August 2024 (4 Days)

**Where: C-Ex International Stadium
Stadium Drive
Coffs Harbour, NSW, Australia**

This event is sanctioned by the International Tag Federation (ITF)

Preliminary Brief No 1- Thursday 25th January 2024

Foreword

This is the initial Brief for the ITF's Australian Invitational Challenge – Australia (AIC)

The tournament is an international event sanctioned by the ITF for Australian residents only representing their heritage & countries.

The tournament is to provide players/teams the opportunity to represent their heritage and improve their ability on the international stage in preparation for the next Tag World Cup.

The tournament will be played at C-Ex International Stadium Coffs Harbour, NSW commencing on Thursday, August 1st and concluding on Sunday 4th August 2024 (Thursday to Sunday). An after-tournament celebration party will be held on the Sunday evening.

1. ITF Executive

ITF Members and Associate members located only in Australia, are invited to participate in the tournament (by invitation only) with the objective to challenge the Australian teams & identify the AIC Champion Nation in each division.

2. Outline Timetable

1. Opening Ceremony Thursday 1st August 2024. Time TBA
2. National teams are expected to march & attend in dress uniform.
3. Players playing in the opening games are welcome to march in their playing strip.
4. Coaches/Managers meeting Thursday 1st August Time TBA in Stadium
5. Day 2 Friday 2nd August, approx. 10.00am start.
6. Day 3 Saturday 3rd August approx. 8.30am start.
7. Day 4 Sunday 4th August, approx. 8.30am start.
8. Medal Presentation will be held after each final.



9. Official AIC After Party. Venue: My Club C-Ex Coffs.

Players, coaching staff & referees will be encouraged to participate in the opening ceremony and final presentation, and then onto the official after party.

3. Proposed Playing Divisions

Divisions offered:

1. Boys & Girls 16's & 18's.
2. Men's – 20, Opens, 30, 40, 45, 50, 60.
3. Women's – 20, Opens, 27, 37, 47.
4. Mixed – 20, Opens, Seniors (M35/W30).

Age eligibility for Australian teams is based on age selection from the Australian Championships in November 2023. Therefore, a player selected for the Men's 20's may turn 21 before the tournament in August 2024.

This policy will be applied to players from all nations. To clarify, a player if eligible for an age division in November 2023, they are therefore eligible for that division at the AIC in August 2024.

4. Fees.

Participation in the AIC is dependent upon full payment of the player entry fees and the Nations Associate Annual Membership Fee by the closing date: **1st May 2024**.

Player Fee: \$100 per player (incl. GST).

The **Associate Annual Membership Fees** to the ITF are also required and payable at that time: \$100 per team to a maximum of \$500 per Exile/Heritage Nation (incl. GST).

Nominations are open, see the following Link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cmiZR0XpuooriCYcX6Jn4xUrvS8oM3YMI57yt-NzfrY/edit>

Nominations close on 18th March 2024.

<p>Late withdrawal from the AIC (after 30 June 2024) will result in the forfeiture of entry fees paid.</p>



5. Rules of the Game

The ITF International rules will be used for matches.

6. Conditions of Entry

The Conditions of Entry document will be released to delegates including Code of Conduct etc upon nomination. Delegates are required to sign off on compliance items as required under the tournament rules and including those set out in this document.

This document will be referred to in the Coaches meeting.

7. Playing Uniforms & Off Field gear/merchandise

As noted, the Australian International Challenge is an ITF accredited event.

The ITF is a non-for-profit entity promoting Tag worldwide and is funded via membership and player registration fees together with license fees on playing uniforms for the use of logos.

Without this funding, the ITF would not be able to host these special event tournaments.

ON-FIELD UNIFORMS

Accordingly, as a condition of entry, Heritage and Exile teams are required to play in ITF approved on-field uniforms featuring the official logos and trademarks. All on field kit must be manufactured by an ITF accredited manufacturer.

The ITF has accredited Oztag Equipment Supplies (OES) to provide the playing uniforms for this Australian based event.

Please note that all playing uniforms will be inspected on the first day of the tournament. If there is a breach of this policy, teams will forfeit all rights to participate, and fees paid will not be refunded.

The ITF and logo and tournament logo (AIC) are to be displayed on all playing gear. These logos are licensed from the ITF and subject to usage fees. The logo usage fees will be included in the price of the uniforms purchased via OES.

Logo Specifications

The ITF logo must be placed on the right shoulder of the shirt or right-side waist of the singlet. The ITF tournament logo (AIC) must be placed on right chest and the nations logo on left chest of all playing tops.

The AIC tournament logo must be on the right-side leg of all playing bottoms and ITF logo on the right rear of all playing bottoms.



Numbers on the back of the playing top must be clear to read with a height no greater than 20cm. Only numbers between 0 and 99 are to be used.

Tag shorts

Tag shorts must meet ITF guidelines with material approved by ITF tournament representatives. The Australian based accredited supplier is Oztag Equipment Supplies (OES).

If there is a breach of this policy the team will forfeit all rights to participate, and fees paid will not be refunded.

Uniform orders must be completed & paid for through the OES account platform.

Lisa Manu (OES) will organize a link for each nation. Please note Delegates are the only authorised persons to liaise with Lisa at OES.

OFF FIELD MERCHANDISE

ITF has accredited OES to supply off field merchandise incorporating ITF and AIC logos for this tournament.

The logo usage fees will be accounted for and included in the price of merchandise purchased via OES.

Playing uniforms and merchandise orders must be submitted to OES by 1 May 2024.

No orders will be accepted after this date.

8. National Team Ceremony Protocols

Each nation will be required to supply 2 flags. One will be on display for the duration of the tournament and the second flag is for the nation to carry in the opening ceremony. The display flag dimensions should be approximately 1900cm x 900cm. The flag the team carries can be the same size or smaller.

The ITF will require the display flag by 12pm Thursday 1st August 2024. This can be delivered to the stadium or make arrangements to deliver the flag to the Oztag office by Friday 26th July. The Nations flag for the opening ceremony will be the Nations responsibility to have at the opening. It will be their choice as to how they display this flag. E.g. A player carrying the flag on a pole or players holding the flag.

All Nations are required to participate in the Opening Ceremony.

All Nations are required to wear appropriate team uniform to the Opening Ceremony.

All Nations are invited to attend the official after party function on Sunday evening at



the C-Ex Coffs, MYCLUB. This will be a ticketed event. Details to follow.

9. Nations squad numbers

National squads can register a maximum of 18 players per team.

Teams can play all 18 players per game.

Nations are allowed 2 non-heritage players on the proviso they are filling the team. Heritage players must be selected before non-heritage. You cannot select 2 non-heritage and leave 2 heritage players out of the squad. If there is a breach of this policy the team may be disqualified, and the coach will be dismissed.

10. Haka / Challenges

Team Hakas or Challenges at this stage will be permitted in all games but must be completed before the siren to commence the game sounds. We will propose there be 8 minutes between games if time allows. This will allow sufficient time to complete hakas. If not completed a one try penalty will be awarded.

Team Haka's or Challenges will be permitted before Quarters, Semis or Grand Finals.

A secondary siren will sound at the four minute mark before kick-off to allow teams to get their timing right for Hakas/Challenges.

Music will be turned on 30 seconds before the siren sounds for the kick-off.

Team Challenges must not encroach beyond the halfway line. Opposing team will stand on their 10-metre line.

Teams are NOT to move forward in an aggressive manner.

Any team that moves over the halfway line will forfeit one try to the opposition.

All team Challenges must be treated with respect and dignity.

11. Official National Logos

All Nations must supply their official logos to OES. Please send them as soon as possible. Please supply logos in high resolution jpg formats or AI or pdf file formats.

lisa@oztagequipmentsupplies.com

12. Accommodation

Most Nations by now should be booking their teams into the many options that are available in Coffs Harbour. Council have advised all Hotels, Motels etc. to ensure all



prices are competitive and cost conscious.

If you would like help with your accommodation bookings, you can contact:

Cheryl

Coffs Visitors Centre

Address: 351 Pacific Hwy, Coffs Harbour New South Wales 2450

Phone: 02 6648 4990

www.coffsc Coast.com.au

13. Insurance

Australian based Oztag registered players will be covered under the same conditions as Oztag players currently receive.

Accordingly, unless your Nations players are confirmed registered Oztag players they will not be able to compete. Delegates will be responsible to acknowledge this condition when submitting their nomination form.

We encourage all players to have private health insurance & income protection. We also encourage the wearing of mouth guards.

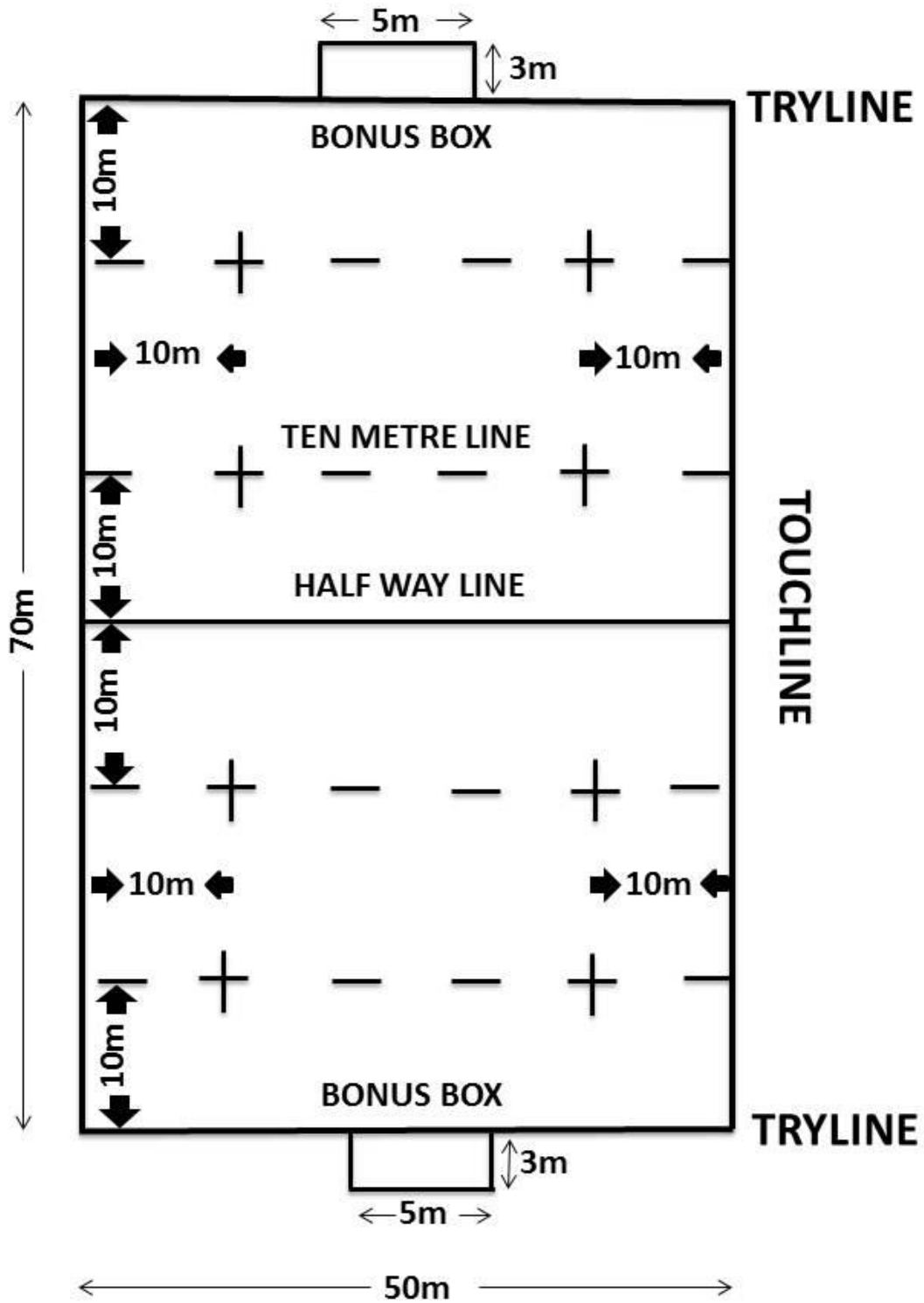
14. Information about Coffs Harbour

www.coffsc Coast.com.au for further information about the region



15. Tag Field Specification

TAG PLAYING FIELD





16. ITF AIC 2024 CONFIRMED TEAMS & GRADES.

Will be confirmed after nominations close.

17. International Tag Eligibility

The player must be a registered Australian based Oztag player playing in a domestic competition or have played in Summer 23/24.

A player is eligible to play Internationals for: -

- (a) the country in which they were born.
- (b) the country in which either of their parents or any of their grandparents, great grandparents were born.

A player who is eligible to play for more than one country shall be entitled to select the country they wish to play for.

The burden of proof in establishing eligibility is on the player and the Delegate of the National Team they wish to represent. If a player plays for a National Team which the player is not eligible to represent, both the player, delegate and the National Team which selected them shall be guilty of misconduct.

Where a player considers that they are eligible to join a National Team on the basis of Rule 17(b) above, before they first join the team, they should provide proof of their eligibility to the National Team wishing to select them.

In the case of eligibility under Rule 17 (b) the player should provide the National Team with a copy of the relevant birth certificate and/or passport stating place of birth.

Where a player is not able to provide a copy of the relevant birth certificate and/or passport, the matter shall be referred to the tournament director and the player shall only be entitled to represent the National Team if they, the Delegate or the National team can provide satisfactory evidence to the TD that the player is eligible to do so. Affidavits by a player will not be considered as satisfactory evidence.

National Teams shall, promptly upon request, provide the TD with a copy of any evidence they have relied on pursuant to Rules above. Where a National Team fails to do so, or the TD do not consider the evidence satisfactory, the relevant player shall not be entitled to represent the National Team.

All Players participating in any sanctioned international event will be required to bring proof of Heritage or Ancestry and if requested provide proof of eligibility if a protest is lodged.

- (a) Failure to provide evidence of legitimate eligibility for the given national team selection may compromise the team's status in the tournament by way of loss of points, disqualification or expulsion from the tournament.



It is very important all participants abide by all of the conditions pursuant to this policy. A point to note during random checks in the 2015 TWC a player was found to be non-eligible and was rejected by the ITF & disqualified from the tournament.

18. ITF Codes of Conduct

As a representative player, coach, referee and participant at the upcoming ITS strict codes of conduct will be expected by all individuals who will represent their Nation and the game of Oztag.

Any player who breaches these codes or brings the sport, their Nation and the ITF into disrepute will be dealt with by the ITF Board, depending on the severity of the matter.

There is a No Strike Policy. See Conditions of Entry.

19. Player poaching from other nations

Once a player has been selected for a national team and signs the team registration form, they are committed to that team. They will not be permitted to leave and decide to move to another nation. If they choose not to play, they forfeit all uniform rights and monies already paid to that team. They will not be refunded. Their uniform will also become the property of the team they have left.

Coaches and Managers are not to approach players from other national teams once the player has committed to the team.

Any ITF players or members who breach the Codes of Conduct during the lead up to the AIC 2024 can be suspended or removed from the squad indefinitely. It is the player's responsibility to always follow the Codes of Conduct before during and after the AIC 2024.

20. Tents and Site Maps

Tents can be hired and will be directed to a position in the venue.

21. Physiotherapist/Rub Downs/Ice Baths

HOYS will be located beside the main grandstand. HOYS has ice baths, a full recovery service, massage & strapping.

Teams or individuals can book the full recovery service or simply turn up for a massage or strapping.

If a nation/teams want to organise their own Ice bins/baths at their team sites they will require authorisation from the tournament director.

22. Live Scoring and Streaming

Live results will be accessible through our social media outlets. Live streaming of the



opening ceremony and some games is currently being negotiated.

23. Team Photos

Teams who would like a team photo should book with Ian Bennett on 0415231624 or email: ieb@ibimages.com

24. Food Vendors

These will be located throughout the venue.

25. Rubbish/Waste Bins

Bins will be allocated throughout the stadium, but it is each teams responsibility to keep your designated areas clean at all times.

26. Weather Policy

A weather policy will be on hand for wet and heat conditions. This policy will be sent out and can be located on our social media.

27. Registration Forms

Team registration forms must be completed and submitted before the closing date/time. TBA.

28. Stadium Venue

All fields within the venue will be closed until the tournament begins Thursday night. Therefore, no training will be allowed on the venue fields. For those who think this is harsh please consider the ITF want the fields in the best condition they can be for the tournament.

29. Working with Children (WWC)

Persons working with Children under 18 are required to have a valid WWC certificate. The nominated delegate will be required to provide these documents at registration noting it can take 4 weeks to obtain this certificate.

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-for-a-working-with-children-check>

30. Have Fun

COMPULSORY