



## **NSW SENIOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – 2021**

### **CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

#### **COVID-19 Safety Plan**

This tournament will be run to our approved Covid 19 Safety Plan. The Coffs venue has been segregated into Zones 1 to 5 (see map) & two sessions A.M. & P.M. We must observe the NSW Government Public Notice Health Order of no more than 3000 in a gathering with the condition of a person per 2 square metres in the area. This means each zone must be monitored to adhere to the public order notice. A safe number is no more than 1000 in each zone. Going on past senior tournaments we do not envisage the number of team spectators being an issue.

Age divisions have been allocated a zone & session and are required to go straight to the zone. Do not arrive on the fields before 45 minutes to kick off. Arrive ready to play. Teams will hand in their registration & spectator form to the staff member in an orange vest in the middle of the zone before their first game. Teams are to remain in their zone until they have completed their last game of the day then vacate asap. Teams can have three officials on the sideline, e.g., coach, assist, manager.

Referees will have hand sanitizer and players will be required to sanitize their hands before taking the field. Players who cannot use alcohol-based sanitizer need to bring their own and use it in front of the referee.



The balls will be replaced or washed for each session. All tags will be replaced after each session.

Any player that has symptoms must stay away from the tournament & their team. Any player that has visited a government acknowledged hotspot must stay away and get tested. Hotspots will be continually announced by AO as the tournament nears.

***Back to original Conditions of Entry. There have been some additions so please read especially in Behaviour.***

1. The Tournament will be run under the auspices of Australian Oztag who will appoint a Tournament Director. The Director, Bill Harrigan, will be tasked with the general running of the competition within the guidelines of the Conditions of Entry and the Directors Responsibilities Document.
2. The Referees Director, Garth Widdowson, will be appointed and responsible for the appointment of referees, refereeing disputes and any on-field issues relating to officials.
3. Teams eligible for entry, are those representing associations as identified by Australian Oztag.
4. Team registration form MUST be handed into Tournament staff member prior to the team's first game. Failure to do so will result in a 3 try deduction for each game it is outstanding. **A staff member will be located in the middle of each zone.**
5. All teams must abide by the Code of Conduct and Rules set by Australian Oztag.



6. All players must be current registered Australian Oztag Players and meet the criteria within the Player Eligibility Policy. Any breach of this could result in team disqualifications. **Eligibility is still sanctioned from original dates in March.**
7. Players may only play in one division unless authorised by the Tournament Director. Any breach of this could result in team disqualifications.
8. A maximum of 16 players per team and 18 players per team in the Men's 40, 45, 50, 55, 60's, Women's 30's, 40's & Mixed Senior divisions will be allowed to participate in the tournament. All 18 can play in any game. **All players must meet the requirements of the age division. EXCEPTION: During the transition stage of the new Womens 30's & 40's they will be allowed 2 women under the age by no more than 2 years to play in that division.** All under age divisions must be that age stipulated at the start of the tournament. **Eligibility is still sanctioned from original dates in March.**
9. Forfeiting Teams: - If a team forfeits it will be automatically disqualified from the tournament and incur a \$500 fine for the region. Extenuating circumstances may be considered.

#### **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

10. See Eligibility Policy. Proof of age (licence, Birth certificate or passport) for the Overs age divisions must be supplied upon request. Each player in these divisions must have turned the age by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of that year. Each player in the under 20's divisions must be 20 or under on the first day of the tournament. Mixed Senior's: Women must be 30 and over. Men 33 & over.



11. **NOTE:** To be eligible to play in a Senior domestic competition a player must be 15 years of age. ( Australian Oztag policy )
12. If a Coach plays a player not eligible the coach, manager & player will be disqualified and all of the above will be suspended for a period of 12 months & the Association/Region will also be fined as indicated in the Player Eligibility Policy. **THE ONUS IS ON THE COACH AND MANAGER TO ENSURE ALL PLAYERS ARE ELIGIBLE. Be sure to obtain a copy from your association.**
13. Proof of age (Licence, Birth certificate or passport) must be supplied upon request. **If proof cannot be produced at the time the player will stand down from the tournament.**

#### **TEAM UNIFORM**

14. On field uniforms bearing the Oztag logo must be purchased & supplied through “Oztag Equipment Supplies” (OES) & will be the only shorts/tights & tops permitted to be worn by players.
15. No football boots with screw in studs or cleats will be permitted. Molded sole boots (blades accepted), gym/runners are allowed.
16. No Jewellery. Studs only in ears.
17. Hard peak baseball caps need to be turned backwards during play.
18. No fit bits, wrist bands or similar unless taped up so no edges are exposed.

#### **COACHES UNIFORM**

19. Coaches and team officials must be in a team shirt to stand with the team. Teams are restricted to three officials on the sideline.
20. **All officials must be wearing enclosed footwear**



## **GENERAL RULES**

- 21.** The official Rules of Oztag will be used during this Tournament.
- 22.** General play kicks that run dead will re-start play with a tap kick 10 metres out. The first tag will be counted as a zero tag.
- 23. MERCY RULE:** When a team scores and leads by 10 points the opposition will start play with a tap kick centre field on the halfway line. If the team trailing, score and the deficit remains 10 or more, they will still recommence play with a tap kick in the centre of the halfway.
- 24. Kick Offs - 50/10.** If the team kicking off kicks the ball into touch within ten metres of the try line or in general play kicks a 50/10, they will receive a tap kick ten metres in from touch ten metres out from the try line.
- 25.** All games will be 30 minutes. 15 minutes each way, with a 2-minute break at half time with 3 minutes between games. Teams must be at the field ready to play at least 5 minutes prior to the end of the last game. Games will run strictly to the allocated times of the draw. During finals, the Tournament Director may find it necessary to hold up games due to extra time.
- 26.** The Tournament Director may also find it necessary to add time to a game if a long injury occurs and impacts on the game & result especially when the injured player is in the team currently in front.
- 27.** Teams should take the field during the 2-minute warning music and be ready for the kick off siren, which will be one long blast. In some instances, the 2-minute warning music may be reduced to 1 minute after an extra time game. The ground announcer will announce a 1-minute warning over the P.A. system. A team will require 5 players to start the game. The referee will whistle the start of the game after hearing the siren.



- 28. If a Team is on the field and ready at the kick off whistle and the opposition is not ready the ready team will receive a try, one (1) point. The kick-off will remain the same. Teams not ready to commence play within 5 minutes of the start siren may forfeit the game.**
29. Unlimited interchange rule applies. **Except in extra time.**
- 30. Interchange can only be made when your team is in Attacking Mode.**
31. Coach, manager and players not involved in an interchange must stay behind the 2-metre line.
32. All interchange except at a stoppage of play must be made from the touch line. Stoppages: Try, injured person where referee stops play. Ball into touch or dead in goal.
33. Only eight (8) sets of tags will be issued per team per game.
34. A ground official will ensure the interchange policy is adhered to. They will only warn you so much before informing the referee. The referee will give you a final warning.
35. A further breach may result in a penalty being awarded on the 10-metre mark, centre field from the offending team's try line.
- 36. Any player deliberately kicking the ball away to waste time should be sin binned and the penalty given 10 metres out from their try line. The team receiving the penalty will be allowed to finish the set regardless if the siren sounds.**
37. EXTRA TIME will be played during the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Final series. (see 40, 42.) Golden Try will be played. Mixed divisions will have a minimum of 2 females in the five players.



- 38.** NO INTERCHANGE in EXTRA TIME. (If a player is injured and requests to be replaced, the opposition must also be given the opportunity to replace one of their players, of the same gender as the injured player, at the same time of the injury replacement)
- 39.** The highest qualifying team into the finals will receive the tap off and choose the direction the team will run. If a try is scored in the first set of six tags the opposition will be given the same opportunity. (Right of Reply)
- If the opposition score, the right of reply is repeated until a winner is declared or 5 minutes elapse. (see point 40)
- 40.** Extra Time in QF & SF will be capped at 5 minutes. The ground official supervisor will keep the time. If there is no result after 5 minutes the highest qualifying team will advance through.
- 41.** **The ground official will remain at the halfway line and will count down each minute loud enough for the team officials to hear him. He will announce 30 seconds left then move into a position so the referee will hear him call time. The ground official will place himself to never intrude on the game. From 10 seconds he will count down loudly, finally calling TIME REF.**
- 42.** **Grand Finals have no time limit and will play until there is a winner.**

#### **POINTS SYSTEM**

- 43.** WIN = 2 POINTS
- 44.** DRAW = 1 POINTS



FORFEITING Teams will be reviewed and may be disqualified from future tournaments. The team receiving the forfeit will be given an average on for and against.

### **REFEREES**

- 45.** REFEREES are not to be approached at any time by a coach, manager or parent unless your intention is to shake hands at fulltime and have something positive to say.
- 46.** On field refereeing complaints from teams should be directed solely to the Referees Director not the referee.
- 47.** If clarification is sought re a rule the coach should approach the ground official who can ask the referee or contact the referee's director.
- 48.** Any team official who verbally abuses a referee or yells at the referee with comments which are unacceptable or not in the true spirit of the game will be moved behind the ropes.
- 49.** Any spectator abusing a referee will be asked to leave the tournament. The spectator could jeopardise the team he/she is supporting.

### **SUSPENSIONS**

#### **Send Offs**

- 50. ZERO TOLERANCE, NO STRIKE POLICY.** Any Player who strikes or throws a punch first will be sent off and may be disqualified from the tournament. Any person who retaliates with a strike or punch will also be subject to disqualification or suspension from game/s.
- 51.** Anyone sent off for any other infringement will receive an automatic 1 game suspension. The suspension will carry over to future tournaments.





52. If there are extenuating circumstances eg: Serious nature of the offence, the Judiciary Chairman, Michael Buettner, may deem it necessary to impose a longer penalty. He may also reduce the penalty.
53. Associations/player/s may appeal the sentence. The Chairman will convene a judicial panel to hear the matter.
54. Suspensions can affect the player's ability to play in any Ozttag Competition.

#### **SIN BINS**

55. If a player is sin binned it is for a mandatory period of 5 minutes.
56. If a player is sin binned twice during the course of the game, he/she will take no further part in that game but can be replaced by another team member at the completion of the 5 minutes.

#### **RULES FOR PROGRESSING TO KNOCK OUT PHASE OF THE COMPETITION**

57. The following rules will apply if two or more teams finish on the same points within a division.
  - a. The total for and against points will determine which team has finished in a higher position.
  - b. If teams are still tied, the team with the most in the 'For' bracket will finish higher. If still the same go to point c & d.
  - c. If these teams played each other, the winner of that game will go through to the finals.
  - d. If these sides did not play each other, the team scoring the most tries in their first game will go through. If still tied most tries in the second game and so on until we get a result.



### **GROUND STAFF/GROUND OFFICIALS**

**58.** Ground staff can be identified by their staff shirts. They have been given a job to do so please abide by their instructions and show them the respect you would expect for yourself.

### **ASSOCIATIONS OFFICIALS**

**Each association may have 3 officials on the sideline with their team. Coach, manager and trainer. Everyone else is to be behind the ropes. If there is a need for a further person to be on the sideline, they must get prior permission from the Tournament Director. Must wear enclosed footwear. Officials are not permitted to call out anything to the referee.**

### **ALCOHOL**

**59.** No alcohol is to be brought into the grounds. This is a requirement of Council and an AO rule. If anyone is caught with alcohol brought into the venue it will be confiscated & they may be asked to leave and may face disqualification from future tournaments and also jeopardise their association's further involvement.

### **SMOKING**

**60.** C-ex Stadium is a smoke free facility and is governed by council regulations.

**61.** Fines are in place for breaches of this policy. Please refrain from smoking around the grounds and under the tents. Move to the car parks or designated smoking areas.



### **SPECTATORS**

62. Spectators are to remain in the zone of the team they are supporting. There is no walking between the fields on the main arena or the passage ways on the outer fields. Please abide by the Ground Officials instructions. (also see 69, 70.)

### **RUBBISH**

63. Every year plenty of time is spent by ground staff picking up rubbish left behind by players at the completion of play. Please take your empty water bottles and rubbish with you and place in a bin.

### **BEHAVIOUR**

64. Any unacceptable behavior whilst attending a tournament will be met with severe repercussions from Australian Oztag.
65. All players, coaches, managers, delegates and spectators who attend an Oztag Tournament are bound by Australian Oztag's Code of Conduct, which covers your behavior travelling to and from the tournament, at your own accommodation, whilst out and about and off the field at the venue.
- 66. In the past there has been poor behaviour at accommodation sites. A new policy has been given to hotel/resort managers. The managers have been advised to contact the tournament director immediately about poor behaviour and provide a written report asap. Players/teams may be dismissed immediately from the tournament for poor behaviour at accommodation.**



67. If a player/s continually question decisions or use unacceptable communications with the referee they will be penalized, sin binned or send off.
68. If officials on the sideline yell out at the referee the referee will stop play, approach the officials and warn them. The next time, they will stop play and move to the 10-metre mark from the try line and award a penalty against the offending officials team.
69. If parents or spectators yell out unacceptable comments or continually abuse or question the referee the referee will stop play and warn the coach to control the parent or spectator. If they continue the referee will stop play and move to the 10-metre mark & award a penalty.
70. Any spectator abusing a referee, ground official, staff or any other person attending the tournament may be asked to leave the tournament. The spectator could jeopardize the team he/she is supporting.
71. The Tournament Director has the authority to make a ruling on any aspect of the tournament which is in the best interest of the tournament. E.g., See point 26.

***Bill Harrigan – Tournament Director***