**AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS– 2013**

**CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

* The Tournament will be run under the auspices of Australian Oztag Sports Association, Tournament Director, Bill Harrigan. The Director will be tasked with the general running of the competition within the guidelines of the Conditions of Entry and the Directors Responsibilities Document.
* A Referees Director, Tony Kelly, will be responsible for the appointment of referees, refereeing disputes and any on-field issues relating to officials.
* Teams eligible for entry, are those representing regions as identified by the Australian Oztag Sports Association.
* All teams must abide by the Code of Conduct and Rules set by the Australian Oztag Sports Association.
* All players must be current individually registered Australian OzTag Players. Any breach of this could result in team/association disqualifications. See Player Eligibility Policy.
* Team nomination form must have a Coffs Harbour Visitors Information Centre accommodation booking number or pay the registration fee of $880.00.
* Team nomination form must have an Oztag Merchandise order number by the closing date.

**No team sheet will be accepted if the individual registration number is not entered**. **Will be enforced.**

* Players may only play in one division unless authorised by the Tournament Director. Any breach of this could result in team disqualifications.
* A maximum of 16 players per team and 18 players per team in the Men’s 40, 45 & 50’s & the Women’s seniors division will be allowed to participate in the tournament. **Only 16 may participate in each game. 8 PLAYERS ON THE FIELD.**
* **Forfeiting Teams: - If a team forfeits it will be automatically disqualified from the tournament and the players will be flagged and ineligible to participate in the 2014 NSW / QLD State Cup tournaments.**

**PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

* Players must have played at least seven (7) games in the preceding two seasons to be eligible to play at the Championships.
* Any player who has played in a representative Tag 20 tournament or plays Tag League competitions is ineligible to play in this tournament.
* Proof of age (licence, Birth certificate or passport) for the Overs’s age divisions must be supplied upon request. Each player in these divisions must have turned the age by the 31st of December of that year. Each player in the under 18’s & 20’s divisions must be 18/20 or under on the 31st of December that year. Please note a number of teams breached player eligibility rules in the state cup and the teams and coaches have been banned for 12 months. Pre & post audits will be carried out.
* To be eligible to play in seniors a player must turn 15 years of age by the last day of the tournament.
* For those associations providing 2 teams in the one division, each player may only play in one team and their name appear on one registration sheet only

**TEAM UNIFORM**

* Official Oztag Shorts/Tights purchased through “OzTag Merchandise” will be the only shorts permitted to be worn by players.
* No football boots with screw in studs or cleats will be permitted. Moulded sole boots (blades accepted), sandshoes are allowed.
* Hard peaked caps can only be worn reversed or not at all.
* No Jewellery. Studs only in ears.

**GENERAL RULES**

1. The official Rules of Oztag will be used during this Tournament. Any complaints from the individual associations will be directed solely to the Tournament Director.

 *A kick in general play which crosses the try line is still in play until it touches the ground, a player or an object beyond the line. Play will always restart with a tap kick 10 metres out centre field if a try is not scored. The referee will rule on this kick as if the touch line continues beyond the try line.*

 *If a player is deemed to have deliberately kicked the ball dead or into touch as a time wasting exercise he will be penalised and sin binned*. *The penalty will be awarded at the centre of the half way line or from where the kick originated, whichever is more advantageous.*

2. Preliminary games will be of 40- minute’s duration. 20 minutes each way, with 2 minutes break at half time.

2a. Teams must be at field ready to play at least 5 minutes prior to end of the last game.

2b. Teams should take the field and be ready for the kick off siren, which will be one long blast. A team will require 5 players to start the game. The referee will whistle the start of the game after hearing the siren.

2c. If a Team is on the field and ready at the kick off whistle and the opposition is not ready the team will be penalised one (1) point. Teams not ready to commence play within 3 minutes of the start siren may forfeit the game. The referee will blow a whistle on the 3 minute mark. The full time whistle will be mandatory and no negotiations will be entered into.

3. In the event of a draw during Preliminary Rounds, 1 points for each team will be

awarded.

1. Unlimited interchange rule applies.
2. Interchange can only be made when your team is in Attacking Mode.
3. Coach, manager and players not involved in an interchange must stay behind the 2 metre line.
4. Interchange players must swap tags on the touchline not on the field with the player being replaced.
5. Only eight (8) sets of tags will be issued per team per game.
6. A breach of the substitution rule may result in a penalty being awarded.
7. **IMPORTANT NEW RULE FOR 2013. No Extra Time in Quarter Finals. Quarter Finals will be decided by the first try scorer.**
8. During the Semi Finals and Final series Golden Try will be played. Five players will play until there is a result. Mixed divisions must have at least one female on the field.

 **NO INTERCHANGE in EXTRA TIME.**

1. The Referee will conduct a coin toss for all periods of extra time. The Captain winning the coin toss may choose whether they receive or kick off and 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. If they score they will kick off and same opportunity applies again. Teams will play until we have a result.

**POINTS SYSTEM**

WIN = 2 POINTS

DRAW = 1 POINTS

**FORFEITING Teams who receive a forfeit will receive an average score based on previous games played.**

NOTE: 2 points will be awarded for each female try in Mixed Games.

**SUSPENSIONS**

**Send Offs**

* **Any Player who throws a punch or strikes another player (even in retaliation) will be sent off and will be disqualified from the tournament.**
* Anyone sent off for any other infringement will receive an automatic 1 game suspension. The suspension will carry over to future tournaments.
* If there are extenuating circumstances eg: Serious nature of the offence, the Referee’s Director may deem it necessary to convene an immediate judicial hearing.
* Length of penalty will be at the judiciary’s discretion.
* Suspensions can affect the player’s ability to play in any Oztag Competition.

**Sin Bins**

* If a player is sin binned it is for a period of 5 minutes.
* 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**

The following rules will apply if two or more teams finish on the same points with in a division.

1. The total for and against points will determine which team has finished in a higher position.
2. If teams are still tied, the team with the most in the ‘For’ bracket will finish higher
3. If still drawn and they played each other, the winner of that game will go through to the finals.
4. 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 staff can be identified by their yellow fluoro jackets or orange oztag shirt. They have been given a job to do so please abide by their instructions and show them the respect you would expect for yourself.

**ALCOHOL**

* **No alcohol is to be brought into the grounds. This is a requirement of Council. If teams are caught with alcohol brought into the venue they will be asked to leave and may face disqualification from future tournaments.**

**SPECTATORS**

* Please do not walk between the fields during play. Everyone is to stay behind the 5 metre spectator line.
* No spectators are allowed on the main arena.

**RUBBISH**

* 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**

* Any unacceptable behaviour whilst attending a tournament will be met with severe repercussions from the Australian Oztag Sports Association.
* All players, coaches, managers, delegates and spectators who attend an OzTag Tournament are bound by the Australian Oztag Sports Association Code of Conduct, which covers your behaviour travelling to and from the tournament, at your own accommodation, whilst out and about and off the field at the venue.
* In the past penalties have included life bans from playing Oztag.

**Bill Harrigan – Tournament Director**