



AUSTRALIAN SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS – 2019

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

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 regions as identified by Australian Oztag.
4. Team registration form **MUST** be handed into Tournament Admin prior to the team's first game. Failure to do so will result in a 3 try deduction for each game it is outstanding.
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.

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, Women's seniors & masters 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. The 2 players under age for older divisions has been abolished. All under age divisions must be that age stipulated at the start of the tournament.**
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 31st 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 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. Preliminary games will be 40 minute's. 20 minutes each way, with a 2 minute break at half time. a 2 minute half time break.

26. 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.
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 officials 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.** EXTRA TIME will be played during the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Final series. Golden Try will be played. Mixed divisions will have a minimum of 2 females in the five players.
- 37.** 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)
- 38.** 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 39)

39. 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.

40. 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.

41. Grand Finals have no time limit and will play until there is a winner.

POINTS SYSTEM

42. WIN = 2 POINTS

43. 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

44. 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.

45. On field refereeing complaints from teams should be directed solely to the Referees Director not the referee.
46. 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.
47. Any team official who verbally abuses a referee or yells at the referee with comments which are not in the true spirit of the game will be moved behind the ropes.
48. 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

49. **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.
50. Anyone sent off for any other infringement will receive an automatic 1 game suspension. The suspension will carry over to future tournaments.
51. If there are extenuating circumstances eg: Serious nature of the offence, the Judiciary Chairman, Perry Haddock, may deem it necessary to impose a longer penalty. He may also reduce the penalty.

52. Regions/player/s may appeal the sentence. The Chairman will convene a judicial panel to hear the matter.

53. Suspensions can affect the player's ability to play in any Oztag Competition.

SIN BINS

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

55. 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

56. 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

57. 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

58. 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

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

60. 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

61. Please remain behind the roped off areas. 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.

RUBBISH

62. 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

63. Any unacceptable behavior whilst attending a tournament will be met with severe repercussions from Australian Oztag.

64. 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.

65. If a player/s continually question decisions or use unacceptable communications with the referee they will be penalized, sin binned or send off.

66. 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.

67. If parents or spectators yell out at 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.

68. 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 jeopardise the team he/she is supporting.

Bill Harrigan – Tournament Director