

South Tweed Community Touch Association Incorporated



ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Youth sports are a great opportunity for a child to build self-esteem and learn fundamental skills. It's also an opportunity for adults to become positive role models and to teach the value and importance of good sportsmanship.

Our priority is development not winning. Our Club's philosophy is long term player development, and again, winning is not the ultimate goal. South Tweed Community Touch Association Incorporated (STT) recognises, respects, and promotes cultural identity and diversity. We want everyone to enjoy the great game of touch football, and we are providing this information in an effort to assist you and your child in gaining a greater understanding of player development and the game of touch football.

Over the past couple of years, we have seen an increased lack of respect towards referees during our Friday Night Competition, which has forced our Association to adopt a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY. This policy applies to all coaches, players, parents and other supporters and referees effective immediately.

Drinking alcohol, smoking, or use of illegal substances is prohibited during South Tweed Touch (STT) events. Disrespect, questioning rulings, playing not in the spirit of the game, abusive and obscene language, violent play, violent conduct, fighting, and other behaviour (including but not limited to sarcasm, taunting, etc.) will not be tolerated during any club event. Ultimate responsibility for the actions of coaches, players, parents, and spectators resides with the Team Delegate.

South Tweed Touch have zero tolerance for child abuse and neglect and hold child safety in the utmost priority. We have zero tolerance for discrimination and abuse of all forms.

It is the responsibility of the team delegate to make sure the referee is respected by their players, coach, parents, spectators and themselves and is responsible for spectator control. This policy will apply at all times prior to, during and after the game, at the touch football fields, and its immediate surrounding areas. It is the responsibility of the team delegate and coaches to provide instructions to their teams on how they are expected to carry out this responsibility.

South Tweed Community Touch Assoc Inc will be assessing each incident on an individual basis.

PLAYERS, TEAM DELEGATES, COACHES, PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

Team Delegates and Coaches are to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players, and supporters in all matches. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and the integrity of the game, resulting in a hostile environment for players, the referee, team delegates, coaches, parents, and spectators. As role models for all of the participants and spectators, team delegates and coaches participating in South Tweed Touch events are expected to be supportive of, and to applaud the effort, good play, and sportsmanship on the part of ALL players from either team in a contest. By example, team delegates and coaches are expected to show that although they are competing in a game, participants at all times have respect for the opponent, referees and spectators.

South Tweed Touch will not tolerate negative behaviour exhibited either by demonstrative actions and gestures or by ill-intentioned remarks, including those addressed toward the referees, players, team delegates or coaches of an opposing team. Team Delegates and coaches exhibiting hostile, negative, sarcastic, or otherwise ill-intentioned behaviour toward referees, opposing players, team delegates or coaches will be subject to sanction by the referee and subsequent sanctions may be imposed by the Club.

Team delegates and coaches shall not interact directly or indirectly with the team delegates, coaches, players and supporters of the opposing team during the game in any manner that may be construed as negative, hostile or sarcastic either by way of demonstrative actions and gestures or by ill-intentioned remarks.

Team delegates and coaches shall not offer dissent to any call made by the officials at any time.

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Team delegates and coaches shall not address the referee during the game except to:

- Respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation
- Point out an emergency or safety issue/s
- Make substitutions
- Designated Team Captain and/or Team Coach may consult the Referee Coordinator only at the completion of the game at the Clubhouse, in a polite and constructive way, and request a Ruling explanation but not judgment calls made in a game.

No player, team delegate, coach, parent, or spectator shall address the referee or assistant referees at any time. No official or player other than the Team Captain is permitted to have any verbal communication with the Match Referee or Referees. Back chat or questioning the Referees decisions for any reason is prohibited.

This includes but is not limited to:

1. shall not make derogatory comments to players of either team
2. shall not dispute calls during or after the game
3. shall not advise the referee to watch certain players or attend to rough play
4. shall not yell at the referee, EVER, including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, discriminatory comments, or feedback of any kind before, during, or after the game

PENALTIES

1. If any game is interrupted because of behavioural issues, involved parties will have to comply with TFA Disciplinary Regulations Manual.
2. Depending on the gravity of the incident various warnings/suspensions may include the following disciplinary actions by the club:
 - a) warning letter
 - b) automatic two (2) week suspension this includes school participation including Football
 - c) one (1) year suspension from games this includes school participation including Football
 - d) ban of joining or playing for any club under SQBD affiliations including Football
 - e) ban of joining any touch football association Australia wide including Football

PLAY WITH INTEGRITY

One of the most essential lessons a child can learn from sports is to follow the rules. Make sure your team understands the rules and doesn't break them, even if they can get away with it. Play in the spirit of the game.

RESPECT THE OFFICIALS

It's important to teach not only our young athletes but also our parents and coaches to respect the referees and officials. Our kids have a watchful eye and take notice when parents and coaches are disrespectful.

BE A GOOD SPORT

This means doing what we can to lift our teammates up and help them reach their potential. Being a good teammate means also being a good person on and off the field regardless of the outcome.

MAINTAIN SELF-CONTROL

Keep your cool, have a positive attitude, and don't overreact during practice or games. Be encouraging of other players.

LET THE COACH'S COACH

Avoid chiming in with your coaching advice for the team, or other parents. Let those in charge run the plays.

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PLEASE CONSIDER THE SIMPLE RULES BELOW CAREFULLY!

1. Do not shout instructions to your child. This only causes confusion since the coach has already instructed your child on how to play. If you do shout instructions, your child will probably try to please you and the coach at the same time. In trying to do two things at one time, the child becomes unable to handle his loyalties and ends up pleasing neither parent nor coach.
2. Cheer for your child when he/she plays the ball well. However, remember that your child is a member of a team. Let the other players know you support them too.
3. Suffer in silence (or moan softly) whenever something occurs that goes against your child's team. A display of anger may inflame a delicate situation resulting in embarrassment for you or your child. Some parents embarrass their own children by making a spectacle of themselves.
4. Do not run up and down the sidelines. Find a comfortable place to sit down or stand, relax and enjoy the match.
5. Do not shout insults or verbally abuse to the referee/s. It's hard for a child to learn respect for the referee/s or other officials when their parents set a poor example. The referee/s **can** and **will** stop the match if the crowd becomes discourteous.
6. Set the tone for good sportsmanship by adopting a positive attitude if your team loses. Compliment your child upon his/her good plays and ignore the mistakes. Your child will be happy you noticed his good qualities.

REMEMBER—your child will forget about today's game. Next week he/she will probably have forgotten the score. However, both of you will remember the good time the child had playing.

Spectators may point out an emergency or safety issue, such as a player down on the field.