



JUNIOR TOUCH
CHAMPIONSHIPS

Junior Touch Championships JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

In our World, the future of Touch is already here

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to set out Judiciary Procedures for the Junior Touch Championships. It provides them with a consistent and transparent model fit for use.

Definitions

1. Ban
 - a. A participant, non-participant or official refused the ability to participate in the Junior Touch Championships or the tournament permanently.
2. JTC Trust
 - a. The governing non-profit organisation for the Junior Touch Championships (JTC).
3. Incident
 - a. An incident is an event or an occurrence which breaches the JTC Touch Code of Conduct or the International Rules. An incident can occur on or off field.
4. Incident Report
 - a. A report written by an official, participant or non-participant regarding an incident.
5. Judiciary
 - a. A panel of 4 independent persons engaged in the examination of an incident.
6. National Touch Association
 - a. The governing organisation participating at the Junior Touch Championships.
7. Non-participant
 - a. Any person in attendance not engaged on field or off field as a participant or an official.
 - b. Any spectator or person involved in a non-official support role.
8. Official
 - a. Any person in a role of on field adjudication during any grade of game
 - b. Any registered referee engaged in off field duty
 - c. Any person in a supporting role of on field adjudication or in a general tournament or league supporting role. This includes but is not limited to referee coaches, water carriers, physiotherapists, and scorecard support staff.
 - d. A referee or supporting staff registered with a National Touch Association within the confines of the European Federation of Touch or directly with the European Federation of Touch.
 - e. A referee registered with any Federation of International Touch national, local, regional or state association whether or not engaged on or off field.
9. Panel
 - a. The word Panel refers to the Judiciary, used in context.
10. Participant
 - a. Any person registered as a player of a team, whether engaged on field or off field. This extends to include players having substituted during on field duty and players ineligible to play in a particular match.
 - b. Any person in a supporting role of a team, a group of players or an individual player. This includes but is not limited to coaches, managers, and physiotherapists.
 - c. Any person registered as a player with a national association.
 - d. Any person registered with any Federation of International Touch national, local, regional or state association whether or not engaged on or off field.

11. Penalty

- a. A Penalty is defined as an on field penalty as per the Federation of International Touch (FIT) Rules of Touch (4th edition).
- b. It can also be classified as an off field penalty whereby a team, club, participant, non-participant or official receives any of the following (this list is not exclusive)
 - i. Suspension from participation
 - ii. Ban from attendance
 - iii. Good behaviour bond

12. Period of time

- a. A Period of time is a length of time which an offending participant is sent from the field. The period is defined by the on field official. It is usually two to three sets of six touches, which may or may not result in a Touchdown.

13. Protest

- a. A written objection by a participant, non-participant or official regarding an impending Hearing

14. Suspension

- a. Any length of time whereby a participant, non-participant or official is refused the ability to participate in the tournament.
 - i. The length of time is defined in Appendix A. These are a guide for the panel / judiciary.
- b. A suspension covers all grades, division and classes of game associated with the Junior Touch Championships.
 - i. A player suspended from a X18 game cannot participate in any other division until the suspension is completed relevant to the particular incident and division from which the player was suspended.

15. Tournament

- a. The Junior Touch Championships

Purpose

This policy is to be implemented at all Junior Touch Championship tournaments. This policy is specific to the Junior Touch Championships, and does not preclude the extended use of local bye-laws or policies. This policy does not limit the National Touch Association from taking further action.

All on and off field issues are to be dealt with in a consistent manner by tournament control, under the direction and endorsement of the JTC Trust. In practice the tournament control will delegate all necessary matters of judiciary to the panel for consideration and decision.

Policy Use

Participants, non-participants and officials who infringe the rules, regulations and Code of Conduct of the Junior Touch Championships, FIT or of the European Federation of Touch regulations are liable to receive a penalty.

Offences are loosely categorised into 4 divisions. All offences are in accordance with the official Federation of International Touch rules. The Infringement Class Policy shown in Appendix B is specific and is to be used as a guide when determining the penalty following an Incident. In some cases the Incident may not appear in Appendix B, at which point it should be used to interpret a reasonable, fair and suitable penalty. It provides additional understanding and substance to the origins of Appendix B and determination on whether a Panel may be required.

Minor Offences

These are handled on field by the official. Examples include but are not limited to minor backchat; offside; a heavy touch and eligibility errors. The official has several alternatives and although some may be referred to a Panel, the Incident does not usually require any further action. This list is neither prescriptive nor exclusive.

1. Caution issued during play
2. Forced substitution
3. On field Penalty
4. Dismissal for a period of time
 - a. It should be noted that a yes-no call which breaks play and disadvantages an attacking team can be dealt with on field with no further action.

Major Offences

Major offences may or may not result in a dismissal for the remainder of a game. Examples include is not limited to: repeated heavy touch; deliberate tripping; slander; swearing at an official, participant or non-participant; and displaying condescending signals.

1. These offences carry an automatic two game suspension and will require a hearing.
2. Officials must complete an Incident Report (Appendix A).

Severe Offences

Severe offences result in a dismissal for the remainder of the game. Examples of this type of offence include but are not limited to continuous swearing at an official; and physical abuse of an official, participant or non-participant and fighting.

1. If a participant is sent from the field of play for the remainder of the game, they receive an automatic 2 match/week suspension. These offenses are always referred to a Review Panel.
2. Officials must complete an Incident Report (Appendix A). Officials must be available for the hearing. This may be done by phone if necessary.
3. Tournament or League Organisers must prepare written statements.
4. Indicted participants, non-participants or officials must submit a written statement. They do not need to be present during a Review, but have the right to attend.

Incident Report

Incident reports must be submitted to tournament control, who may then delegate the decision to the Panel. Reports must be written and must be submitted immediately following the incident. Any National Touch Association, club, team, official, participant or non-participant may at their discretion submit a written incident report regarding an incident which in their opinion has breached the Junior Touch Championships Code of Conduct or Federation rules.

Notes for Writing a Report

The form used for preparing a report can be found as Appendix A

- Following any incident, it is recommended that the lodger of the report remove themselves from current surroundings.
- The report must contain a statement of fact. It must not report an opinion or provide a personal point of view.

- A report must include participant names and numbers. All sections of the report must be completed.
- The report must be clear and it is highly recommended to be written in English.
- Video or photographic evidence should be included where possible. Video evidence is only to be used as a statement of fact.

Submitting a Protest

Any participant, non-participant or official has the right to immediately provide a protest. This protest must be received within 30 minutes of the incident. It will form part of the documentation presented to the Panel. This can be submitted by any association, club, team, official participant or non-participant where in their opinion a breach in the JTC Code of Conduct or International rules has been made. In addition, witnesses may endorse a protest, but by doing so may be liable to appear before a panel.

Procedure

Where possible, all player infringements should be dealt with on field by the overseeing official/s. Any other grades of incidents will be dealt with by tournament control, delegated to the panel. It is envisaged that most Incidents will be dealt with at this level. Nevertheless, any player that is sent for time or fully from the field will be automatically subjected to a Judiciary Procedure. This policy extends to include violations by officials, participants and non-participants.

The procedure is divided into three distinct sections.

1. Submission Stage. A referee, participant or non-participant should decide whether further action is required.
2. Review Stage. Tournament control will decide whether a hearing is to take place, or whether an automatic penalty is sufficient.
3. Hearing Stage. A Panel will be called to consider the incident.

Submission Stage

Following an incident a referee, participant or non-participant should consider the Code of Conduct carefully, and decide whether an incident report is required. At this stage, referees should have considered whether the incident has sufficiently been dealt with on field by penalty, forced substitution or a period of time.

Review Stage

Following an incident, tournament control will decide whether further action is required, or whether an automatic ban is sufficient.

Hearing Stage

The panel must first decide whether a hearing should take place.

If so, it is imperative that information is gathered by the tournament organiser. A Review must be presented with a minimum of a referee statement. Class 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 (see Appendix) must include player statements and any witness statements.

The Panel

It is the tournament control's responsibility to call for a Panel. A Panel must comprise at least the following persons (at least 1 female must form part of the Panel).

1. The tournament organiser or their direct appointed subordinate.
 - a. This person is the Chair of the Review.
2. A volunteer not directly associated with a team.
3. A respected independent player
 - a. This person cannot be directly linked to the incident, division or team/s.
 - b. This person cannot be participating in the same division as the incident.
4. An independent black badge referee.
 - a. If a black badge referee is not made available, a creditable red badge may be substituted.

Once a Review Panel has been convened, all indicted participants, non-participants or officials must be made aware that a Review is to take place. The hearing must take place without delay.

Information Required

All documentation gathered must be submitted to the Panel for consideration. This includes statements of the indicted; video and/or photo evidence; a written Incident Report, and any neutral credible witnesses. Any video evidence presented should be used for the incident only. It must not be used as a character assassination of the official, participant or non-participant.

Convening a Review

Once a written Incident Report is submitted to the Chair, the Panel must decide if it is appropriate to take further action. Should the report not warrant further action there is no need to convene a Review.

If the report warrants further action, the chair of the Panel must hear the matter. It is the responsibility of the chair of the Panel to decide whether a Hearing is to take place, or whether a direct penalty should be administered. This will depend on the Class and the level of the offence, and will vary based on the individual merit of the Incident. The decision of the Chair is final, but he or she may take into consideration the level of the Incident, the objection or Protest submitted to the Panel and previous Incidents.

If a Review is determined to be required the panel must display fairness and impartiality. Their primary responsibility is to ensure the interests of justice and the tournament's codes are observed.

The following procedure should take place. In certain circumstances the first language of the indicted participant, non-participant or official may not be the practiced language of the Panel. In this circumstance a translator must be made available to the indicted person or persons. At no point should a Panel make discussion in the presence of an indicted

person whose first language is not English, without a suitable translator.

In addition, if the participant or non-participant is not yet 18 years of age, a coach/parent/guardian must be in attendance.

1. The Chair of the Panel:
 - a. Announces the right of attendance to all parties
 - b. Reads the report
2. Separately and privately hearing further details on the report from:
 - a. The report writer
 - b. The indicted person or persons
 - c. Any witnesses
3. The report writer is to be questioned
4. The Indicted person or persons are to be questioned
5. The indicted person or persons is granted time to respond to any accusations prior to any decision being made by the Panel.

Minutes of the meeting must be taken.

The Authority of the Panel

The Panel has several options, depending on the facts and statements that have been presented. The Panel have the authority to quash any charge, if this is found to be appropriate. In the circumstance that the indicted person or persons is found to be culpable, the Panel have several options.

1. The Panel shall have the power and authority to require any Association member to appear before it in order to provide such information which, in the opinion of the Chairperson, is necessary to enable the Panel to fulfill its functions and duties on behalf of the JTC Trust.
2. Advice of the requirement for any person to appear before the Panel shall be made without delay.
3. Persons not served with any notice to appear, may appear on their own volition and, only at the discretion of the Chairperson. They may give evidence and answer questions before the hearing for the benefit and information of the Panel.

4. As should be contained in the JTC Trust Code of Conduct, the Panel shall have the power to impose all or any of the following penalties on any class of member:
 - a. Exclusion from any games for any specified number of matches or specified time period in accordance with Appendix B.
 - b. Forfeiture of any competition and/or other points as specified.
 - c. A combination of any of the above or any other disciplinary action as considered appropriate and in accordance with the objects of the JTC Trust.
5. In any case where the Panel sees fit to impose all or any of the above penalties, the members shall take into account:
 - a. the seriousness of the circumstances;
 - b. The level of punishment that should be imposed;
 - c. The need to remove the subject person/s from the tournament for the protection of other members;
 - d. The implications on those who witnessed the incident; and
 - e. A desire to rehabilitate the subject person/s.

Panel Decision

A Review decision must be based on a balance of probability. It must also be based on fact. In the absence of fact or overwhelming evidence of an incident, the hearing must be quashed in favour of the defendant. If the Panel imposes a penalty, this must be submitted to the indicted referee, participant or non-participant without delay. The suspension cannot be back dated prior to the incident.

In all cases the indicted person or persons must be informed without delay of the decision.

Infringement Class

This policy is to be used as a guide for the Junior Touch Championships judiciary to determine a course of action, given a set of circumstances. The list of penalties is provided as a guide. It is the role of the panel to impose a relevant and suitable penalty, if at all appropriate.

Any penalty that may be imposed by any Panel is done for the express purpose of discouraging any unacceptable behaviour from any participant, official or referee.

Each individual case shall be judged entirely upon its own merits or demerits. A Panel upon hearing all the evidence presented may decide to waive the imposition of any penalty, or award a lesser or greater penalty than the suggested minimum or maximums listed. The exact penalty to be imposed in all instances will be at the sole discretion of the Panel hearing the matter.

Minimum and Maximum Penalties

A minimum suggested penalty and a maximum suggested penalty have been included with each of the infringements listed. The spread between the minimum and maximum suggested penalties has deliberately been made wide to provide a large range of possible penalties. If a penalty is deemed appropriate, the Panel must ensure that this is judged on the merit of each incident.

Is highly likely that certain cases of what might appear to be similar infringements will actually receive very different penalties due to the possibility of differing circumstances surrounding the incidents.

The Scope of a penalty

A suspension or ban received by a participant does not necessarily prevent that person from participating in an off duty as a coach or manager. A Panel may however also suspend a player from any other form of participation if it sees fit to do so. This is referred to a participation ban.

In any instance of misconduct, provocation used as a reason for retaliation will not be accepted as an adequate explanation of, or excuse for unacceptable behaviour.

Good Behaviour Bonds

In certain circumstances where a participant has been cited for a first offence, or where the offence is deemed less severe or out of character, a Panel has the authority to deliver a good behaviour bond. A good behaviour bond stipulates that a Panel may release the defendant on the security of good behaviour for such a length of time as the Panel sees fit. This is usually limited to the rest of the tournament.

Nevertheless, it is recommended that all penalties handed down by a Panel be accompanied by a good behaviour bond. All good behaviour bonds would refer to a time period as decided by the Judiciary who would take into consideration the severity of the incident and/or how frequently the subject person/s appear before a Panel.

Junior Touch Championships Infringement Class Policy

Class 1		Minimum	Maximum
A	Repeated Infringements	Automatic 1 game suspension	
B	Tripping	Automatic 2 game suspension	
C	Phantom Touch	Automatic 2 game suspension	

Class 2		Minimum	Maximum
A	Continual backchat	Automatic 1 game suspension	
B	Swearing directed towards an official	1 game	3 games
C	Swearing directed towards a participant or non-participant	1 game	3 games
D	Sledging	1 game	2 games

Class 3		Minimum	Maximum
A	Aggravated Physical Abuse towards an official (pushing)	4 games	6 games
B	Aggravated Physical Abuse towards a participant	4 games	6 games
C	Aggravated Physical Abuse towards a non-participant	4 games	6 games
D	Aggravated defensive Physical Abuse towards a participant or non-participant	2 games	6 games
E	Racism, verbal abuse, sexual harassment	4 games	6 games

Class 4		Minimum	Maximum
A	Aggravated Physical Abuse towards an official with intent to strike	4 games	15 games
B	Aggravated Physical Abuse towards a participant with intent to strike	4 games	15 games
C	Aggravated Physical Abuse towards a non-participant with intent to strike	4 games	15 games

Class 5		Minimum	Maximum
A	Non-aggravated Physical Abuse towards an official with intent to strike	15 games	Indefinite
		Note: Automatic indefinite suspension on hard striking contact	
B	Non-aggravated Physical Abuse towards a participant with intent to strike	15 games	Indefinite
		Minimum 1 year suspension on contact	
C	Non-aggravated Physical Abuse towards a non-participant with intent to strike	15 games	Indefinite
		Minimum 1 year suspension on contact	

Junior Touch Championships Match Incident Report

Incident Venue:	City, Country		
Association:	Touch Association	Actioned by:	Venue Manager
Date of incident:	Date	Grade:	MO/MXO etc
Teams involved:	Team 1	Team 2	Stage: Review/Appeal 1/2

Review	
Panel:	Insert names of Review Panel

Notes:

Insert clarification notes, emails, photos if available, statements and any information pertaining to the offence.

Junior Touch Championships Match Incident Report

Incident Venue:			
Association/s:		Actioned by:	
Date of incident:		Grade:	
Teams involved:		Stage:	

Incident Report

Date:	
Participant Name:	
Signature:	