

# 2026 Term 1 IGSA Sport Touch Rules & Guidelines

## Player registrations

1. Players must be enrolled in years 7 - 12 at the school they represent and be registered in their relevant team in SPAWTZ by the Monday prior to the start of the competition.
2. Students playing in year 7 grades can only be year 7 students, "J" grades are students in years 7, 8 and 9 only and "S" grades are open teams so any student in years 7 - 12 are eligible.
3. Players are considered registered after they play their second match (and signed on as required).
4. Players may play in a higher grade than the one in which they are registered. Once they have played 3 matches in the higher grade they are then registered in the higher grade.
5. Team registrations have some flexibility in the first 2 weeks of the competition to ensure that players are in the correct grade.
6. Where schools have teams in the same grade they must nominate the higher or lower team and rules relating to playing up or down will apply.
7. A player unavailable for a round match, semi or final may be replaced by a floater or a player from another team (in accordance with the "playing up" rules). However, you cannot exceed the number of players originally registered for that team. This does not permit players to play in two semis or finals although they can play a maximum of two round matches each week.
8. Byes & matches cancelled due to a venue closure will count towards matches played.
9. A player must have signed on for 3 round matches in any team for this sport, in accordance with the playing up rules, to be eligible for semis and finals. Details of player eligibility will be forwarded to school staff in advance of the final round. If this is not received before the final round, school staff should contact the IGSA Sport office.
10. A player, who has signed on for 3 matches but not played in the semi-final, is still eligible for the final.
11. A player may only play for 1 team in the semi-finals and finals.
12. Where play offs exist, semis and finals rules do NOT apply to these matches.
13. Injured or ill players who have not signed on for 3 matches are not eligible for semis or finals.
14. A team playing an illegal player may be required to forfeit the match.
15. The minimum and maximum number of registrations per team for each sport is:

Sport	Minimum	Maximum
Softball	9	13
Tennis	4	6
Basketball	5	12
Football	11	16
Hockey	11	16
Netball	7	12
<b>Touch</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>
Water Polo	7	13

*With an allowance for 2 extra players maximum.* Permission is required from the IGSA Sport staff to register more than the maximum. Please note - you may only field the maximum number of registrations in each round match, semi or final. Failure to do so may incur a forfeit result.

16. Each school may use up to 5 floating registrations during the season. Where a student is used for one match only, no fee will be charged.

## Legal Playing Up Rules

### Some examples of legal and illegal plays-

- ✓ player plays 2 matches in one day – LEGAL.
- ✗ player from J01 plays in grade S13 - ILLEGAL & FORFEIT.
- ✗ player plays less than 3 round matches OR plays 3 but fails to sign on, NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SEMIS OR FINALS.
- ✓ player in S13 plays down in S14 in Week 2 – LEGAL provided they then remain in S14 for remainder of season OR if they play up, they are automatically re registered in the higher Grade.
- ✓ player from J01 plays up - Week 1 – S01, Week 3 – S03, Week 5 – S02 AUTOMATICALLY RE-REGISTERED IN S03 - the lowest they may now play.
- ✓ a school has 2 teams in grade J01 Team 11 & 12 - Players in both teams may not move between teams, regardless of which team is numbered lower.

### Legal grades for playing in round matches, semi-finals & finals

**Where necessary, players may play in another team that is in a higher grade than the team they were originally registered in. Exceptions include:**

#### Senior Grades

S01 Can only play in this grade (schools with multiple teams in S01 may not move players between teams).

All other senior grades can only play in a grade higher than their own team.

#### Junior Grades

J01 Can only play in S01 – S04 (schools with multiple teams in J01 may not move players between J01 teams).

J02 Can only play in S01 – S06 and J01.

J03 Can only play in S01 – S12 & J01 – J02.

J04 Can only play in S01 – S12 & J01 – J03.

Year 7 players playing in J01 – J02 may play down into Y701 grade.

Year 7 players playing in J03 – J20 may play down into any year 7 grade.

Please note that a year 7 player in a junior grade may only play down twice per term.

#### Year 7 Grades

Y701 Can only play in S01 – S04 & J01 – J04.

Y702 Can only play in S01 – S06, J01 – J12 & Y701.

## Discipline - For Breaches of Code of Behaviour

Please read the Code of Conduct available on the IGSA website. A summary is contained in the Conveners handbook. Please make sure all players, coaches and referees are aware of the Code of Conduct. An IGSA Sport Incident Report must be completed for any breaches of this code.

### IGSA Sport Summary Code of Conduct for Inter-School Sport

**Why:** The Summary Code of Conduct is designed to provide a brief outline of the rules, guidelines and principles governing inter-school sport. It is a quick reference document only and does not replace the IGSA Sport Code of Conduct. In the event of a perceived conflict between the two, the latter will prevail.

**Who:** The Summary Code of Conduct applies to anyone participating in IGSA Sport including students, staff, coaches, officials, parents, spectators and volunteers.

**What:** The Summary Code of Conduct covers four areas: principles, expectations, authority and rules.

#### Principles:

- Participation in inter-school sport is important for all students: it fosters social, emotional, personal and physical development.
- Winning is less important than co-operation, team spirit and good sportsmanship.

#### Expectations:

- All participants, regardless of their role, will be expected to treat others with respect, courtesy and encouragement. Disparaging comments will not be tolerated nor will aggressive, abusive or offensive language or behaviour.
- Should disputes arise, resolve them in a calm and constructive manner.
- There will be no argument with or criticism of, the referee. If you disagree with a decision, refer to the IGSA Complaints Policy available on the website.
- Harassment will not be tolerated in any form.

#### Authority:

- The match officials have complete control of the match. In matters regarding play and the rules of the match, their decision is final.
- The venue convener has responsibility for all other aspects of the match such as safety at the venue.
- The referee and venue convener will work together to achieve a fair outcome. They may also consult staff members present.
- In the event of misconduct, the match officials may caution, suspend or send off the offender. In extreme circumstances they may stop play or terminate the match.

#### Rules:

- Unacceptable conduct is outlined in the Code of Conduct and includes any behaviour that might reasonably be expected to damage the self esteem of another or the reputation of an individual, school or the independent school sector generally. This includes derogatory remarks, dangerous behaviour, property damage, inciting violence, verbal or physical abuse or harassment.
- Players engaging in unacceptable conduct may be cautioned, suspended or sent off. Anyone else engaging in unacceptable conduct will be cautioned and if this fails, asked to leave.

## Protests

A coach or team captain is entitled to lodge a protest should they be dissatisfied with any aspect of the match. The following procedure will apply:

The coach or team captain must lodge the protest in writing with the Convener at the venue as soon as possible or notify the IGSA Sport staff by 12 noon on the Monday following the match.

The opposing team must be notified of the intent to protest and the reason for it. The protest will be addressed as soon as possible by the IGSA Sport staff.

## Venue Closure (i.e. Wet Weather, Extreme Heat)

The Convener must make a decision concerning commencement of play and any stoppages or cancellation due to inclement weather. Any such decisions should be made after consultation with coaches, managers and any school staff present. Where it is necessary to call off matches, the Convener is requested to **notify their school's sport staff** so the IGSA Sport venue closure page can be updated for players and parents to check.

The open or closed status of a venue can be checked by accessing the:

**IGSA Sport mobile app:** <https://igsasport.spawtz.com/Leagues/VenueStatus>

## Point Scores & What Happens with Matches Cancelled Due to Venue Closure

In the case of venue being closed during a match, any match that has completed one half will be considered played, and the score taken from when the match was stopped.

Matches that do not play, or are cancelled before reaching half time are considered cancelled.

The total point score at the end of the season for each team (before semis and finals if they exist), will be divided by the number of matches played. This result is then used to determine which teams play in semis and/or finals.

There are no points awarded for matches cancelled due to the venue being closed.

## Point score

Win:	5 Points
Draw:	3 Points
Loss:	1 Point
Forfeit:	-1 Point
Forfeit Score For / Against:	9 – 0
Washed out matches	0 points

We will be continuing our '**capped margins**' system to encourage coaches to adopt the 'mercy rule' and to adopt the fairest strategy with regard to for and against points for final placings. Please note that the 'capped margin' will only be in place when the IGSA Sport office records the official score. The score differential will be capped at **10** tries.

## Match sheets

All players are to sign the sheets at the Convener's table **before** play. The sheets should not leave this area. At the completion of the match, team captains and referees must report to the Convener to complete details of the match on the sheets.

**The match sheets are to be sent in to the IGSA Sport Office each week.**

No student is to sign for another.

If possible, each team must make sure they have a **scorer to sit with the opposition scorer**.

Team Captains must sign the match sheet at the conclusion of the match to verify the score. Once both captains have signed the match sheet, no changes to the score will be made. If the result is in doubt, the convener is responsible for determining the final score.

## Referee

Players should be reminded that the referee is in full control of the match.

All teams will go on and off with the siren or bell, however the referee has full control of the match and their whistle will indicate the start and finish of a match.

**Do not argue with the referee at any time. This also applies to coaches and spectators**, who are reminded that they are expected to behave in a manner which at all times reflects the ethos of the members' schools of IGSA Sport. **Spectators are not to approach referees concerning any decision.**

**Where referees are not available at a venue** teams are responsible for starting their own matches and **sharing the refereeing of that match**. Extra time will not be allowed.

When only 1 referee exists, this referee may referee the whole field if agreed on by both teams and the referee.

## Payment Information - Conveners

IGSA Sport will determine the payment for Conveners based on prior IGSA Sport convening experience.

Completed Terms of Service		1 - 3	4 - 6	7 - 19	20+
Sport	Max No of match slots	Payment per match slot			
<b>Badminton</b>	3	\$37	\$39	\$42	\$46
<b>Tennis</b>	2	\$60	\$64	\$69	\$77
<b>Basketball</b>	4	\$30	\$32	\$35	\$39
<b>Football</b>	4	\$30	\$32	\$35	\$39
<b>Hockey</b>	4	\$30	\$32	\$35	\$39
<b>Netball</b>	4	\$30	\$32	\$35	\$39
<b>Touch</b>	4	\$30	\$32	\$35	\$39
<b>Water polo</b>	5	\$24	\$26	\$28	\$31
<b>Set Up / Pack Away Fee for all sports</b>		\$35 / round			

- The number of match slots and fields / courts / pools used at a venue may vary each week. Conveners are only required if matches are scheduled at their venue.
- It is recommended that conveners allow enough time prior to the first match to set up and after the last match to pack away the venue.
- IGSA Sport will pay up to the maximum number of match slots at the venue plus a set up / pack away fee based on the draw and matches completed or partially completed.
- Conveners may, where required, referee in addition to convening providing that convening at all times takes priority over refereeing. In this case, no more than \$25 per match may be claimed for refereeing.
- Special exceptions can be approved by the IGSA Sport Staff and in consultation with the IGSA Accountant where possible.

## Venue Closure Payments

	Convenor
<b>Closure during day of play.</b>	Set up / pack away fee plus completed and / or partially completed match slots

## Payment Information - Umpires & Referees

Basketball	<b>\$18</b> Bench Duty (only where approved by IGSA Sport)	<b>\$25</b> Unqualified but competent, Y1 or Y2	<b>\$35</b> Y3, C or Y4	<b>\$40</b> 1B or Y5	<b>\$45</b> 1A or above
Football	<b>\$20</b> Assistant Ref	<b>\$25</b> Unqualified but competent	<b>\$30</b> Level 4	<b>\$35</b> Level 3	<b>\$45</b> Level 2 and above
Hockey		<b>\$25</b> Unqualified but competent	<b>\$35</b> Foundation Support / Lead	<b>\$40</b> Development	<b>\$45</b> Advanced / Performance
Netball		<b>\$25</b> Unqualified but competent	<b>\$35</b> Nat C or District / Assoc. Badge	<b>\$40</b> Nat B	<b>\$45</b> Nat A / AA
Touch		<b>\$25</b> Unqualified but competent	<b>\$30</b> Level 1	<b>\$32</b> Level 2 – 3	<b>\$35</b> Level 4 - 6
Water polo	<b>\$18</b> Bench Duty (only where approved by IGSA Sport)	<b>\$25</b> Unqualified but competent	<b>\$30</b> Level 1 / NSW C / Junior Badge / Community Level	<b>\$32</b> Level 2 / NSW B / Development Level	<b>\$35</b> Level 3 / NSW A / Senior Badge / Advanced or Elite level

IGSA Sport will determine payment per match based on the referee's level of qualifications. The number of completed terms of umpiring the same IGSA Sport will also be taken into consideration in determining the pay rate.

IGSA Sport will pay;

- A maximum of 2 referees for all completed or partially completed matches including forfeits occurring on the day.
- For football, 1 referee and 2 assistant referees.
- **If there is only one referee during the match, payment stays the same**
- For basketball and water polo, a maximum of 2 referees & 1 bench duty per match where considered necessary. Note – bench duty will only be paid at multiple court / pool venues and must be separately identified on the convener's sheet and referees' cards.
  - 1 court / pool venue – maximum 0 bench duty payment
  - 2 court / pool venue – maximum 2 bench duty payments
  - 3 court / pool venue – maximum 3 bench duty payments
- Special exceptions may be approved by the IGSA Sport Staff.

## Venue Closure Payments

	Umpire / Referee
Closure during day of play.	Matches cancelled before completion are paid as completed. No payment for matches cancelled following venue closure

# 2026 Term 1 Touch Match Rules

## Playing Saturdays

Term 1 (Invitational)  
February 7, 14, 21, 28

March 7, 14, 21  
March 28 - 1 v 2, 3 v 4 playoffs

*There will be no semis or playoffs for teams finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> place this season.*

## Match time:

2 x 20 minute halves, 5 minutes half time  
Playing at 8:00am, 9:00am, 10:00am & 11:00am.

## S01 / J01 Double Headers

In Championship seasons, if there are only 7 available rounds, S01 and J01 grades will have a double-header round scheduled, to allow for finals to be played on the last weekend..

## Players and substitutions

**6 players a side with unlimited interchange** – rolling substitutions, maximum of 14 registered players per team. The new player can only enter the field after the interchange player has left the field.

A team must have at least **4** players available throughout the match or a forfeit is declared.

## Forfeits and late players

A team which finds it necessary to forfeit a match and is aware prior to Friday afternoon must notify:

- A) their opponents
- B) the IGSA Sport office

**Teams more than 5 minutes late or less than the specified minimum number of players will forfeit their match.** However, opponents may choose to play the match for points or play a “friendly” match, provided this decision is made prior to the start of the match. This decision cannot be reversed once play has started. If a decision to play for points is made, the forfeit no longer applies. No extra time will apply in such a case.

In the case of a team failing to have the necessary equipment available, the non-offending team may choose to lend their gear and play for points or request a forfeit. This decision must be made prior to the start of the match.

## Injury Time

There is no provision for injury time. Any injured players must be substituted as soon as possible.

## Blood Rule

The referee must order from the field of play any player who has incurred an injury and blood is present. A player, who has been ordered from the field of play by the referee and has received treatment to the bleeding injury and in the opinion of the referee no longer represents a health risk to other players, may at the sole discretion of the referee re-enter the field.

## **Safety**

No jewellery, no screw- in studs, no long or sharp fingernails are allowed. No taping of jewellery allowed. Nails cannot be taped.

No casts and /or splints: A student wearing a cast or splint because of an injury **may not** participate.

Players are permitted to wear sports goggles, sports glasses or sports sunglasses as long as, in the opinion of the referee, they pose no danger to the player or other players. The Optometrists Association of Australia has stated that children involved in sport, requiring assisted vision, should wear protective eyewear such as sports goggles or sports glasses with soft or flexible frames fitted with a plastic or polycarbonate lens. IGSA Sport recommends players carry a letter from their optometrist confirming glasses are suitable for playing sport.

## **Uniform**

Players must play in their nominated school sports uniform or touch football uniform. All players must wear individually numbered tops.

## **Equipment**

Each team is required to supply a match quality touch ball for the match.

## **Referees**

There must be 2 referees for S01 and J01 matches – except in extenuating circumstances.

Unless otherwise stated, matches will be played according to the rules are as defined on the NSW Touch Football website [www.nswtouch.com.au](http://www.nswtouch.com.au).

We will be continuing the '**capped margins**' system to encourage coaches to adopt the 'mercy rule' and to adopt the fairest strategy with regard to for and against points for final placings. Please note that the 'capped margin' will only be in place when the IGSA Sport office records the official score. The score differential will be capped at **10** tries.

## **Touch Mercy Guidelines**

(None of these are **RULES**, only suggestions / guidelines)

When the score reaches a difference of 10 tries:

The coach who is ahead by 10 tries, should decide which of the following they would prefer:

- The team being 10 tries down, could add another player on to the field (to make it 7 players)

OR

- The team being 10 tries ahead, could take off a player on the field (to make it 5 players)

Other options could also include:

- Rotate your players positions
- The losing team receives an extra touch

## Semis & finals

Where no semis or finals are played, the premiership will be “first past the post” and will be decided as detailed below:

- The position of teams is determined by their final ranking according to the final averaged points score at the end of the rounds.
- If teams have the same averaged points at the end of the rounds, the premiership will be declared “joint premiers”.

In the event of a grade playing semis and / or finals the following will apply – semis (i.e. grades with 6 teams or less) will play 1 v 4 and 2 v 3 OR if it is a straight final it will be 1 v 2 and a playoff between 3 v 4. There will be no playoffs for teams finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> positions.

The following will be used to determine final standings and therefore the teams who will play in semis and / or finals:

- 1 The position of these teams is determined by their final ranking according to the average of the final points score at the end of the rounds.
- 2 If two teams have the same average points, it will revert to the winner of the match played between these teams.
- 3 If two teams have the same average points at the end of the rounds and the match between them was a draw or washout, the positions for semis / straight finals will then be determined by their match points (for / against) difference.
- 4 If three or more teams have the same average points, the positions for semis / straight finals will be determined by the difference between their for and against scores taken from matches played only between tied teams and averaged over the number of rounds played.
  - i. If item 4 cannot determine necessary positions, teams no longer in contention will be removed from consideration and positions of remaining teams will be determined by the average points from matches played between only teams still in contention.
  - ii. If 4.i. cannot determine necessary positions, the team that has the highest number of “for” points will be ranked highest.
- 5 If necessary positions still cannot be determined, the final rankings will be decided by a drawing of straws (undertaken by IGSA Sport staff), unless schools involved agree to play a tie-breaker fixture prior to the semis/ finals match weekend.

### Semi-Finals:

**S01 / J01 only:** extra time will be played in the form of a drop-off until a result is achieved or until 10 minutes of extra time has been played.

**All other grades:** If the score is a draw at the end of regular time in SEMIS - the team that finished highest on the table will progress to the finals.

In the event of a draw the highest placed team will proceed to the final.

### Finals:

**S01 / J01 only:** extra time will be played in the form of a drop-off until a result is achieved or until 10 minutes of extra time has been played.

**All other grades:** If the score is a draw at the end of regular time in FINALS - teams will be declared Joint Premiers.

In the event of a draw in the finals, the teams will be declared Joint Premiers.

When a venue is closed and the final is unable to be played, both teams will be declared joint premiers.

*NB: No player may take part in a semi-final or final unless they have played 3 competition matches.*

## **Extra Time Drop off Procedure for Finals & Semi Finals (taken from the TFA 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Rulebook)**

The following procedure will be utilised to establish a single winner for semis & finals.

- i) When the match is drawn at the expiration of full time, the referee will wait until the ball is dead and halt play.
- ii) Each Team will reduce their on-field team to four (4) players and within 60 seconds take up a position to restart play from the halfway line, defending the same end of the field as at the end of regulation time.
- iii) The drop-off commences with a tap from the centre of the halfway line by the team that did not commence the match with possession.
- iv) The drop-off will commence with a two minute period of extra time.
- v) Should a team be leading at the expiration of the two minute period of extra time then that team will be declared the winner and match complete.
- vi) Should neither team be leading at the expiration of two minutes, a signal is given and the match will pause at the next touch or dead ball. Each team will then remove another player from the field of play.
- vii) The match will recommence immediately after the players have left the field at the same place where it paused (i.e. the team retains possession at the designated number of touches, or at change of possession due to some infringement or the sixth touch) and the match will continue until a try is scored.
- viii) There is no time off during the drop-off and the clock does not stop at the two minute interval.
- ix) Substitution during the drop-off is permitted in accordance with normal interchange rules.

### **Notes for Players**

- a) During the original match, if a player has been sent from the field of play for the remainder of the match, that player cannot participate in extra time.
- b) At the commencement of the drop-off, if there is a player that has been temporarily sent from the field and is yet to complete the required time, their team commences the drop-off with one less player on the field than their opposition and continues to play with one player less until the temporary period has been completed. If a team has had a player dismissed for the remainder of the match, that team continues to play with one player less than the opposition team for the duration of the drop-off. The non-offending Team will retain a numerical advantage on the field of play during the drop-off.

## IGSA Sport T1 Touch Venues (subject to change)

VENUE	ADDRESS	SUBURB	NOTES for Parking & Access	Dogs Allowed Yes / No	Map Link
<b>Abbotsleigh</b>	Ada Ave Gate 1A	WAHROONGA		Must be on a leash and owner must clean up after the dog.  <b>No dogs allowed on synthetic field.</b>	<a href="http://goo.gl/maps/rc17w">http://goo.gl/maps/rc17w</a>
<b>Bantry Bay</b>	13 Reserve St	SEAFORTH		Must be on a leash and owner must clean up after the dog	<a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/wEYwWLNE1kromD2W6">https://maps.app.goo.gl/wEYwWLNE1kromD2W6</a>
<b>David Phillips</b>	Gwea Ave & Banks Ave	DACEYVILLE		No Dogs Allowed	<a href="https://goo.gl/maps/HjuPg">https://goo.gl/maps/HjuPg</a>
<b>Frensham School</b>	Range Rd	MITTAGONG	Take Mittagong turnoff, turn left opposite the Melrose Motel, cross railway bridge to Range Rd. Continue along Range Rd past the main school, follow road around to the left (approx. 250m), continue after a small cottage and take the next left into the school property. Follow road past the hockey courts (left) and pool (right) and park in the usual parking areas.	Must be on a leash and owner must clean up after the dog	<a href="https://goo.gl/maps/KFT8i">https://goo.gl/maps/KFT8i</a>
<b>Getiela Synthetic Sportsfield</b>	7-11 Park Road	ALEXANDRIA	Limited on street metered parking in the surrounding streets.	No Dogs Allowed	<a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/pEtE7sgtQu82dBEXA">https://maps.app.goo.gl/pEtE7sgtQu82dBEXA</a>
<b>Lyne Park</b>	New South Head Rd	ROSE BAY		Must be on a leash and owner must clean up after the dog	<a href="https://goo.gl/maps/Fy3Ln">https://goo.gl/maps/Fy3Ln</a>
<b>Peakhurst Park</b>	5a Hedley St	PEAKHURST		No Dogs Allowed	<a href="https://goo.gl/maps/uxoH7X4rpKB2">https://goo.gl/maps/uxoH7X4rpKB2</a>
<b>Santa Sabina</b>	The Boulevarde	STRATHFIELD	Jersey Avenue entrance gate	No Dogs Allowed	<a href="https://goo.gl/maps/MTRF">https://goo.gl/maps/MTRF</a>

VENUE	ADDRESS	SUBURB	NOTES for Parking & Access	Dogs Allowed Yes / No	Map Link
<b>Steyne Park</b>	William St	DOUBLE BAY		Must be on a leash and owner must clean up after the dog	<a href="http://goo.gl/maps/uY3Zz">http://goo.gl/maps/uY3Zz</a>
<b>Sydney Academy of Sport &amp; Recreation</b>	Wakehurst Parkway	NARRABEEN		No Dogs Allowed	<a href="https://goo.gl/maps/x4w4ABKb3fJBsi9e9">https://goo.gl/maps/x4w4ABKb3fJBsi9e9</a>
<b>Tara Anglican School</b>	Masons Drive	PARRAMATTA NORTH	Parking available in school carpark	Must be on a leash and owner must clean up after the dog	<a href="https://goo.gl/maps/ZOHiwW">https://goo.gl/maps/ZOHiwW</a>
<b>Wakehurst Rugby Club</b>	Forest Way	BELROSE		No Dogs Allowed	<a href="https://goo.gl/maps/ELmbCwU26uG2">https://goo.gl/maps/ELmbCwU26uG2</a>
<b>Wentworth Park</b>	Wattle St	ULTIMO	No parking is permitted within the grounds of Wentworth Park. Parking available on the surrounding streets, at the Fish Markets or at Broadway Shopping Centre	No Dogs Allowed	<a href="https://goo.gl/maps/kuBvwyHHULRuCDHy5">https://goo.gl/maps/kuBvwyHHULRuCDHy5</a>

# Venue Closure Procedure and Guidelines

Due to the short season for all IGSA Sport competitions, every attempt is made to play the inter-school matches and cancellations of Saturday sport are rarely made before Saturday morning, unless a venue notifies IGSA Sport that the facilities will not be playable prior to this.

## Procedure

If required, venue conveners should liaise with school sport staff or coaches to determine suitability for play. Where it is necessary to call off matches, the Convener is requested to notify their school's sport staff so the IGSA Sport venue closure page can be updated for players and parents to check.

**Taking in to consideration that once a venue is closed, the venue does not reopen, except in the case of tennis where a venue may be closed for the first matches**

The venue convener is only required to stay 30 minutes after the venue closure. If necessary, continue to liaise with IGSA Sport staff throughout the morning.

To find out if a venue is opened or closed go to <https://igsasport.spawtz.com/Leagues/VenueStatus>

You do not have to be registered to use SPAWTZ so students, coaches and parents can all access them from their smart phones, tablets or computers.

- ✓ Check venue closures (Click on the venue closures icon)
- ✓ Find matches for selected teams (including links to maps)
- ✓ Check results and ladders

If play has not been cancelled by IGSA Sport and there is a concern that the weather may impact on the venue, go to your venue and assess its suitability for play.

## General Guidelines

- Play should not commence under any circumstance if there is a risk of injury to those involved.
- If conditions deteriorate during the course of the match such that it becomes unsafe to continue, play must cease immediately.
- If an outside venue (non school) is closed by the local council concerned, play must not commence.
- The **lightning safety code** is based on the 30 / 30 rule which calls for all play to be stopped when the lightning / thunder ratio reaches 30 seconds or less, i.e. the time between when the lightning is seen and the last thunder is heard is 30 seconds or less. This means that lightning is seen 10 km away and the next strike has a "significant risk" of hitting the people who have seen the lightning and heard the thunder. All participants must be aware that in the event of lightning, play must not resume until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike and thunder.
- All play must cease immediately if there is **hail**. All students, officials and spectators should seek cover immediately.
- Care should also be taken in the event of **extreme heat**. If there are any concerns or doubt, refer to the "IGSA Sport Hot Weather Guidelines" or contact your school's or IGSA Sport staff. After consultation with coaches, players and referees, extra drink breaks or cancellation of play should be considered immediately
- Care should also be taken in the event of **poor air quality**. If there are any concerns or doubt, refer to the "IGSA Sport Air Quality Guidelines" or contact your school's or IGSA Sport staff. After consultation with coaches, cancellation of play should be considered immediately

## **IGSA Sport Hot Weather Guidelines**

Each and every school has a responsibility to educate the participants concerning the steps to avoid dehydration and appropriate sun protection.

### **Procedure**

#### **STEP ONE: Altering the conditions of play.**

Tennis	Allow additional breaks to drink and sun protect (shade) where possible.
Badminton	Allow additional breaks to drink and sun protect (shade) where possible.
Basketball	Allow additional breaks to drink.
Football	Allow additional breaks to drink and sun protect (shade) where possible.
Netball	Allow additional breaks to drink and sun protect (shade) where possible.
Hockey	Allow additional breaks to drink and sun protect (shade) where possible.
Water Polo	SMA suggests that NO changes to play are needed. Be mindful that indoor facilities for spectators and officials may be an issue with both temperature and humidity.
Touch	Allow additional breaks for drinks and play 4 quarters rather than 2 halves. Limit the number of 11.00am matches or where possible play no matches at 11.00am.

#### **STEP TWO: Cancellation at the venue**

Schools and venue conveners will assess the need to close the venue on a case by case basis. Interim measures provided by the SMA guidelines (below) should be considered prior to cancellation.

At an ambient temperature of 36 or above sport must STOP immediately. The normal rules concerning venue closure will apply. There will be no further sport at that venue for the rest of the day.

#### **STEP THREE: Cancellation by the IGSA Sport office**

In extreme conditions, the IGSA Sport office will decide in the interest of the players, spectators and officials' welfare that sport be cancelled prior to the day of sport. It would only be for unusual "heatwave" conditions or variations from the average temperature for the time of the year.

This decision should not be taken lightly. The IGSA Sport office will make this decision in consultation with Heads of Sport and the Standing Committee guided by the Sports Medicine Australia (SMA) Guidelines.

### **SMA Guidelines**

#### **Heat exhaustion**

- Characterised by a high heart rate, dizziness, headache, loss of endurance / skill / confusion and nausea.
- The skin may still be cool / sweating, but there will be signs of developing vasoconstriction (e.g., pale colour).

To avoid heat exhaustion, if people feel unwell during exercise they should immediately cease activity and rest. Further benefit comes if the rest is in a shaded area with some passing breeze (from a fan if necessary) and the person takes extra hydration. Misting or spraying with water can also help.

## Heat stroke

- Characteristics are similar to heat exhaustion but with a dry skin, confusion and collapse.
- Heat stroke may arise in an athlete who has not been identified as suffering from heat exhaustion and has persisted in further activity.

Any collapsed athlete must be treated immediately. It should be assumed that any collapsed athlete is at danger of heat stroke. The best first aid measures are “Strip / Soak / Fan”:

- strip off any excess clothing;
- soak with water;
- fan;
- ice placed in groin and armpits is also helpful.

The aim is to reduce body temperature as quickly as possible. The athlete should immediately be referred for treatment by a medical professional. Important: heat exhaustion / stroke can still occur even in the presence of good hydration.

## Dehydration

Dehydration is fluid loss which occurs during exercise, mainly due to perspiration and respiration. It makes an athlete more susceptible to fatigue and muscle cramps. Inadequate fluid replacement before, during and after exercise will lead to excessive dehydration and may lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

## Outside temperature

Ambient temperature is the most easily understood guide available, and is most useful on hot, dry days

- 15 - 20 Low: heat illness can occur in distance running. Caution over-motivation.
- 21 - 25 Exceeds 70% Low – moderate: increase vigilance. Caution over-motivation.
- 26 – 30 Exceeds 60% Moderate: reduce intensity and duration of play / training. Take more breaks.
- 31 – 35 Exceeds 50% High – very high: uncomfortable for most people. Limit intensity, take more breaks. Limit duration to less than 60 minutes per session.
- 36 and above Exceeds 30%: very stressful for most people. Postpone and wait for cooler conditions (or a cooler part of the day) or cancellation.

## OR

WBGT Temperature (WBGT) index. The WBGT is useful when humidity is high.

- < 20 Low: heat illness can occur in distance running. Caution over-motivation.
- 21 – 25: moderate to high Increase vigilance. Caution over-motivation. Moderate early pre-season training intensity and duration. Take more breaks.
- 26 - 29 High - very high Limit intensity. Limit duration to less than 60 minutes per session.
- 30 and above: extreme. Consider postponement to a cooler part of the day or cancellation (allow swimming).

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) produces ambient and WBGT readings for many locations in Australia. You can check these readings and a guide for the relative risk for your location at [www.bom.gov.au/info/thermal\\_stress/index.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/info/thermal_stress/index.shtml)

## **IGSA Sport Air Quality Guidelines**

Each and every school has a responsibility to educate themselves about the Air Quality Index (AQI) and its effect on sporting activities.

### **Procedure**

#### **Cancellation at the venue**

Using the AQI available, all matches should be monitored on a regular basis by the venue convener or the host school's Head of Sport. If the AQI is "poor", warnings will be issued by the venue convener and the host school's Head of Sport to parents and athletes, that the conditions may pose a health hazard, particularly to those with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions. Venue conveners, in conjunction with the host school's Head of Sport, will decide to close the venue if the air quality is at a "hazardous" level. For this to happen, the AQI should be at 200 or greater.

The normal rules concerning venue closure will apply. There will be no further sport at that venue for the rest of the day.

#### **Cancellation by the IGSA Sport office**

In extreme conditions and using all available information, the IGSA Sport office will decide in the interest of the players, spectators and official's welfare that sport be cancelled prior to the day of sport. This decision should not be taken lightly.

### **Guidelines**

When pollution exposure is at low levels, the respiratory tracts usual defence mechanisms trap, transport and clear pollutants effectively. With elevated exposure, short-term accumulation can occur resulting in inflammation and this can exacerbate a number of health conditions with asthma being the most common in athletes.

When threatening or dangerous air quality levels are present, the AQI increases. The AQI is an accepted means of quantifying air quality by public health authorities encompassing:

- Air pollution levels at the nearest monitoring site or region
- The common contributing pollutants
- The overall health risk associated with a given rating.

The AQI is updated hourly and provides an easy-to-understand index. [Current Air Quality](#)

Attentive monitoring of the local AQI and associated air quality alerts, especially during times of extreme environmental conditions, is recommended.