



Gridiron Australia National Tackle Championship Policy

Version	Scope	Status	Board Approval	In Effect
1.0	Public	Adopted	20/12/2023	20/12/2023

1. Introduction:

This policy is designed to establish a framework for the crowning of a National Champion in tackle football within Australia. It provides guidelines for teams and member states to submit teams, fostering a competitive and inclusive environment for the sport.

The purpose of this policy is intended to allow member states to play and participate in a championship framework, in whatever competition style format which is most cost effective, time enabling and when they can ensure maximum participation.

As competitions emerge, this flexible structure will allow a minimum of 3 teams to compete, but allow further expansion as required.

2. Competing Teams and Formats

Competing teams may organise games either as fly-in/fly-out events or in a tournament style. To be eligible for the National Championship, each team must play a minimum of three games against at least two different opponents.

Eligible teams who can enter the National Championship games:

- Australian Capital Territory (ACT Gridiron)
- New South Wales (Gridiron NSW)
- Queensland (Gridiron Queensland)
- Regional Queensland (Gridiron Queensland)
- South Australia (Gridiron SA)
- Tasmania (Gridiron Tasmania)
- Victoria (Gridiron Victoria)
- Western Australia (Gridiron West)

Additional teams may be considered at a later stage, however, must have a localised competition in order to submit a team.

Consideration will also be given to Oceanic National Teams however at the manual approval of Gridiron Australia.

3. Eligible Competitions

The following competitions will be eligible for the Gridiron Australia National Championships:

- Senior Men's (18yo and above)
- Senior Women's (16yo and above)
- Under 18's
- Under 16's



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All competitions must be played as 11-a-side, however exemption process in place for Senior Women's Football to play 9-a-side pending team numbers. A case by case, exemption process will also be considered for Under 16's and Under 18's, however may be on reduced championship points at the discretion of Gridiron Australia.

Age exemptions will be at the discretion and approval of Gridiron Australia only. Requests must be made in writing to info@ga.org.au no less than 30 days prior to commencement of first requested game which outlines the following:

- Player Name
- Player Experience
- Current Competition
- Current Club
- Head Coach Name & Contact Details
- An outline of why the player is seeking an exemption
- If player is under 18, parent / guardian contact details must be provided also along with their written consent

The application for age exemption will then be considered by the Gridiron Australia board and National Coaching Staffs for that eligible competition.

4. Player Eligibility

To be eligible to compete in a Gridiron Australia National Championship game, players must also meet the following criteria:

- Be a permanent resident or citizen of Australia or New Zealand.
- Have played in an eligible state member based league within the last 2 competition cycles

Exemptions may be granted to:

- Permanent residents or citizens of Australia or New Zealand who are playing internationally and have a prior history of competing in Gridiron Australia sanctioned competitions or leagues
- Temporary resident Visa Holders who are in Australia on the basis of family, study, working / skilled, refugee and humanitarian Visas.

Under no circumstance will Working Holiday Visas, or Specialised Sporting Visa exemption be considered.

Exemptions will be at the discretion and approval of Gridiron Australia only. Requests must be made in writing to info@ga.org.au no less than 30 days prior to commencement of first requested game which outlines the following:

- Player Name
- Player Experience
- Current Competition
- Current Club
- Head Coach Name & Contact Details
- An outline of why the player is seeking an exemption
- If player is under 18, parent / guardian contact details must be provided also along with their written consent

Please note, this policy only applies to Players, and Coaches are not bound by the same restrictions.



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5. Points Allocation

Points for winning teams will be awarded based on state membership numbers. The following points will be awarded:

- 3 points for wins against QLD, VIC, NSW, WA.
- 2 points for wins against SA, ACT, FNQ.
- 1 point for wins against TAS.

If a team plays more than three games, the total points earned will be averaged over the number of games played, equivalent to three games. The formula for calculating the average points is as follows:

$$\text{Average Points} = \frac{\text{Total Points Earned}}{\text{Number of Games Played}} \times 3$$

A table will be supplied which will record the order of championship standings, with a championship awarded to the top team at the conclusion of the Competition Window.

6. Game Sanctioning and Approval

All games must be sanctioned by Gridiron Australia and adhere to Gridiron Australia rule sets. Teams seeking to host a game must submit a request no later than 30 days before the scheduled kick-off, with approval granted no later than 14 days before the event.

Approval requests must be made via the Gridiron Australia Sanctioning Portal.

7. Competition Window

The window of eligible games for consideration in the National Championship Points allocation will be games sanctioned by Gridiron Australia from April 1st to July 30th each calendar year.

8. Additional Policies and Rules

- Code of Conduct:** All participating teams, players, coaches, and officials must adhere to the Gridiron Australia Code of Conduct throughout the competition.
- Dispute Resolution:** Any disputes arising during the National Championship will be resolved according to Gridiron Australia's established dispute resolution process.
- Uniforms and Equipment:** All teams must adhere to Gridiron Australia's regulations regarding uniforms and equipment during games. Colours and Uniforms must be approved by both Gridiron Australia and AGOA prior to games.
- Post-Game Reporting:** Teams are required to submit post-game reports, including scores and notable incidents, to Gridiron Australia within 48 hours of the game's conclusion. These must be logged using Assemble.
- Drug Testing:** Random drug testing may be conducted during the National Championship, and teams and players must comply with any drug testing protocols established by Gridiron Australia.



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9. Review and Amendments

This policy will be subject to periodic review, and amendments may be made as deemed necessary by Gridiron Australia to ensure the fair and efficient conduct of the National Championship.

10. Conclusion

Gridiron Australia encourages all participating teams to embrace the spirit of competition, integrity, and respect, fostering a positive and enjoyable experience for all involved. This policy serves as the foundation for a successful National Championship and reflects Gridiron Australia's commitment to the growth and development of American football in Australia.