

STA Policy on National Squad Team Participation in Club Competitions

1. Rationale

- 1.1 The Scottish Touch Association (STA) notes that it may be useful from time to time to have national squad teams participate in club competitions. This gives those teams an opportunity to gain valuable playing time together and try out strategies in real game situations.
- 1.2 The STA notes that the participation of national squad teams must be handled carefully so as not to have a detrimental effect on the club competition and its participants.
- 1.3 This policy seeks to balance the rewards from national squad team participation in club competition with the needs of those competitions.
- 1.4 This policy only affects national squad team participation in Scottish club competitions.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 **National Squad Team** – This is any team from whom 75% or more of the participants are selected to represent any one Scotland representative side at the next FIT affiliated international tournament.
- 2.2 **Club Competition** – This is any Affiliated Touch Competition as specified in the STA National Development Plan.

3. Criteria for Participation

- 3.1 National Squad Teams may participate in Club Competitions only if all of the following criteria have been met:
 - a. The national squad team manager, captain or organiser receives permission from the National Squad Management Committee at least 3 weeks prior to the date of the Club Competition.
 - b. The national squad team manager, captain or organiser makes it clear to the Club Competition organiser at least 3 weeks prior to the date of the Club Competition that the side being entered is a National Squad Team.
 - c. The National Squad Team shall forfeit all rights to win the event, including any lesser competitions (e.g. Shield, Plate, etc.). If the event is a Scottish Touch Series (STS) event, the National Squad Team shall be disregarded from scoring any STS points.
 - d. As ambassadors of the STA, the National Squad Team shall be expected to follow the Code of Conduct for the National Squad, in particular with respect to playing weaker opponents.
 - e. Players from the National Squad Team shall not be prevented from playing for their regular clubs if those clubs are participating in the Club Competition.
- 3.2 Club Tournament Organisers have the right to:
 - a. Prevent National Squad Team participation in any final.
 - b. Make reasonable requests of the National Squad Team to contribute to their event through the provision of referees.

- c. Make reasonable requests of the National Squad Team to contribute to their event through the provision of coaching for local, less experienced Touch players.

Passed by STA Ordinary Committee on: XXX