NZTFI 2026
JUNIOR TAG NATIONALS

DECEMBER 11 - 13 | 2026
BRUCE PULMAN PARK | TAKANINI

VERSION 1.0

MANAGERS INFORMATION PACK

as at 16th September 2026

Welcome

Kia Ora Koutou and Greetings,

On behalf of New Zealand Tag Football Inc., it is our pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Junior Tag Nationals Set for 11th-13th December. New Zealand Tag Football Inc. is committed to delivering a competitive and safe event, fostering an environment of sportsmanship, healthy competition, and camaraderie.

The Junior Nationals is the pinnacle event for our young players, bringing together the best talent from across the country to represent their clubs, regions, and communities on the national stage. Over three days of action-packed competition, athletes will showcase their skill, speed, and teamwork while forging friendships and memories that last well beyond the tournament.

We warmly welcome all players, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents and supporters, and we thank you for being part of this special event.

"Play Tag, it's the Game for Everybody."

Ngā mihi nui,
Claude Iusitini
NZTFI Chief Executive Officer

Purpose Statement

This information pack provides essential details about the tournament for coaches, managers and players/parents to support their campaign planning. Updated versions of this booklet will be shared on our website; please check regularly.

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SECTION 1: Overview

Event: 2026 Junior Tag Nationals
Dates: 11th-13th December 2026
Venue: Bruce Pulman Park, Takanini, Auckland, NZ | 90 Walters Road, Takanini 2112

Non Competition (Opens Grades)	Competition
1.U7s Opens	**4.** U13s Boys / Girls / Mixed
2. U8s Opens	**5.**U14s Boys / Girls / Mixed
3. U9s Boys / Girls	**6.** U15s s Boys / Girls / Mixed
4..U10s Boys / Girls	**7.** U16s Boys / Girls / Mixed
5.. U11s Boys / Girls	**8.** U17s Boys / Girls / Mixed
6.. U12s Boys / Girls	

Please note: In the event of insufficient team numbers in a particular grade, teams may be merged into the nearest appropriate division for gameplay purposes. However, medals will still be awarded based on their original registered grade.

Non- Competition Playing Divisions

a. Non-Competitive playing divisions are for the youngest participants in this event. The games scores in these divisions are not recorded, therefore, placings are not allocated. This is with the intent of keeping these divisions focused on youth development, and most importantly fun.
b. All participants in these divisions receive gold participation medals on day three during the prize-giving ceremony. Each team is given a number of medals equal to their registered players.

Competitive Playing Divisions

a. The competitive playing divisions are for more mature junior participants of this event. These divisions will have their game scores recorded and ranked within a points table based on their performance throughout the round-robin phase. These divisions will progress into finals phases in which teams will play off to win the Grade Title for their age group. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded to winning teams in these divisions.

NZTFI can finalise the number of teams in each grade once all EOIs are returned. However, you can safely base selections on 2 teams per grade for Under 13 to Under 16, and up to 3 teams per grade for Under 7 to Under 12.

EOI Expressions of Interest

1. Far North
2. Northern Stingrays
3. North Harbour Seahawks
4. Hibiscus Coast Pirates
5. Central Knights
6. Auckland Metro
7. Waitakere Rangers
8. East Auckland Jaguars
9. Manukau Harbour Dolphins
10. South Auckland Storm
11. Franklin Vipers
12. Counties Manukau Cyclones
13. Raahui Pookeka
14. Hawkes Bay Panthers
15. Otago Tag

SECTION 2: Conditions of Entry

2.1 Conditions of Entry

Entries to the event will be accepted on the condition that the following requirements are met by all participating members:

- All officials and team members agree to comply with both NZTFI and International Tag (ITF) rules, regulations, policies, and procedures.
- Participants have fulfilled all membership requirements set by the **New Zealand Tag Football** constitutions, including being a fully affiliated, financially active player.
- As the host nation, all participants must be registered for the 2026 Junior Tag Nationals via the official NZTFI registration system, **Gameday**.
- All individuals must be registered and participating under an NZTFI-affiliated official module, which includes having purchased the Annual Affiliation Levy (AAL) for the current season. International travelling players are not required to be affiliated with an NZTFI module.
- Players and coaching staff must not be serving any judicial or disciplinary penalties under the **New Zealand Tag Football** and/or their host nation's judicial committee equivalent.
- **New Zealand Tag** reserves the right to refuse entry to any team or player that does not meet these conditions.

2.2 Age Eligibility

Please refer to the **New Zealand Tag Football** age grade policy below to confirm player eligibility for their respective playing division.

- **Age Grade Policy**

Click on this link to see the latest updates regarding under/over age policies for participants: *Click Here*

2.3 Squad Sizes

Please note that squad size restrictions vary across playing divisions:

- **Under 7s - 12s**

  Minimum 12 Players, Maximum 20 Players registered. Teams can only field 18 players per game. Any extra players must have their playing strip covered up

- **Under 13s - 17s**

  Minimum 16 Players, Maximum 20 Players registered. Teams can only field 18 players per game. Any extra players must have their playing strip covered up

Playing team numbers as above will be monitored, Teams that fail to meet the minimum squad requirements will be notified and withdrawn from the tournament if unable to rectify.
No exceptions after registration dates close

- ***Ghost Players***

  For Competition U13s - U16s Grades Only; Non Competition Grades U7s - U12s cannot have Ghost Players.
  If you are unable to confirm your final squad by the registration deadline, you may register up to two 'Ghost Players' to meet the minimum squad requirements. These placeholders can be updated with player details the squad is confirmed, after the registration period has ended. Any players added in place of a Ghost player must be communicated to and confirmed by the NZTFI admin team by **9th December 2026**

  In this scenario, please contact eventregos@nztagfootball.co.nz for assistance.

SECTION 3: EVENT OPERATIONS

3.1 Control of the event

The **New Zealand Tag Football National Operations Manager**, in collaboration with the **New Zealand Tag Football CEO**, will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the tournament.

Any scenarios not covered in this information pack will be treated on a case by case basis, reviewed on-site by the **New Zealand Tag Football National Operations Manager and New Zealand Tag Football CEO** to decide a suitable response.

3.2 Pre-Event Communications

In the pre-stage of the event, official event communications and updates will be delivered via email and Gameday notifications to key contacts & nation leaders. These individuals are responsible for sharing this information with their coaches, managers, players and other relevant stakeholders. Once registrations are complete and NZTFI has all necessary contact details for players, coaches, and managers from each nation, updates will be sent to all registered persons.

For coaches, managers and players, any questions regarding the event, your nation leader should be your first point of contact.

3.4 During-Event Communications

Throughout the event weekend, important tournament updates will be announced via the public address system. Coaches, Managers, or Players required at the administration area will be contacted directly by text or email (please monitor your phone for updates throughout the day). International travelling managers should ensure their phone is reachable in New Zealand at all times

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3.3 Key Event Contacts and Responsibilities

Tournament Director: Claude Iusitini
Email: claude@nztagfootball.co.nz
Location: Roaming
Operations: Lisa Iusitini
Email:eventregos@nztagfootball.co.nz
Location: Tournament Control
Tournament Analytics: Imogen Pilkington
Email: eventregos@nztagfootball.co.nz
Location: Tournament Control
Referee Director: Willie Toelau
Email: willie@nztagfootball.co.nz

Location: Roaming
Referee Coordinator: Karl Vasau
Email: kvasau@nztagfootball.co.nz
Location: Referee Base
Tournament Logistics: Rawinia Mana
Email: rawinia.mana@nztagfootball.co.nz / eventregos@nztagfootball.co.nz
Location: Roaming
Marshall Coordinator: Renee Kumia
Email: renn64@manukaumail.com
Location: Roaming

3.5 Tents/Marquees

- Tents and marquees are only allowed in designated areas at the event. New Zealand Tag Football reserves the right to remove any tent or marquee placed outside of the allocated zones.
- Tent pegs must not exceed 300mm in depth.
- Tents may be set up from **10th December 2026** (the day before the event). Overnight security will be provided **Thursday, Friday & Saturday Nights only** to monitor tents and marquees. However, it is strongly advised against leaving any valuable or important items in tents/marquees overnight.

3.6 Portaloos, Toilets & Rubbish Bins

- Portaloos will be available at various locations around the venue and will be regularly cleaned and restocked throughout the event. There are also limited public toilet facilities attached to the Bruce Pulman Park club rooms available for use.
- Rubbish bins will be provided around the event area for public use. We ask all participants and attendees to dispose of their waste responsibly.

3.7 Golf Carts

- Only authorized NZTFI Golf Carts may be used on-site, and they are strictly for event-related purposes. Teams and spectators are not permitted to bring or operate their own vehicles of this nature. NZTFI Golf Carts can only be driven by official event staff. This is a rule of Bruce Pulman Park that must be adhered to, to meet the NZTFI Health and Safety management plan.

3.8 Car Parking and Vehicles

- On-site parking at Bruce Pulman Park is available on a first-come, first-served basis, with limited spaces. Carpooling is encouraged.

- Staff parking is reserved for Admin, Referees, Officials, and Vendors. Staff parking cards must be displayed for access.
- Vehicles blocking others or parked in prohibited areas will be publicly announced and must be moved within 15 minutes, or will be towed at the owner's expense.

3.9 Security

- You are responsible for the security of your tent, team gear, and personal items. New Zealand Tag Football is not liable for any loss or damage incurred at the event.
- Please ensure your tent is securely fastened, and your vehicle is locked when unattended. Do not leave valuables overnight at the venue.
- Lost and found items can be reported to or retrieved from the administration area. Please refer to the site map.

3.10 Medical

- Medical assistance will be available on-site through an ambulance service for the entirety of the three-day event. Sunblock is available at the medical tent,
- Coaches/Managers are required to provide a basic first aid kit for their teams that can treat minor injuries.

SECTION 4: Media & Photography

4.1 Use of Personal Images

- All persons accept that by participating in this event, they may be photographed/filmed and that these images may be used by New Zealand Tag Football for media and promotional purposes.
- For more information please refer to the New Zealand Tag Football Use of Image Policy: Click Here

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4.2 Social Media Policy

All representatives of New Zealand Tag Football Inc. (NZTFI), including officials, associations, referees, coaches/managers, and players, are expected to use social media responsibly and in a manner that reflects the values of the sport. Negative, harmful, or disparaging comments about NZTFI, its staff, affiliated associations, referees, coaches, or players will not be tolerated under any circumstances. The internet is traceable, and any content that damages the reputation of the sport or its participants will result in appropriate action taken by the governing body. It is essential that all online interactions maintain the integrity of the game and uphold the respect for everyone involved.

- **Breach of Social Media Policy**

  NZTFI and its affiliated associations reserve the right to take appropriate action against any representative who violates these guidelines, including but not limited to disciplinary measures, fines, or legal action.
  NZTFI will actively monitor online activity related to the association and the sport.
  Any policy breach should be reported to NZTFI. If a breach is confirmed, disciplinary action may be taken, with NZTFI or its affiliates determining the severity of the response based on the situation.
  For more details, please refer to the New Zealand Tag Football Social Media Policy:
  Click Here

4.3 Live Streamed Finals Day - 13th December 2026

Field One grand-final matches will be live-streamed on the New Zealand Tag Football Inc. YouTube Channel via Stream Shop on 13th December 2026. This stream is freely accessible for viewers who wish to tune in.

- Players cannot wear inappropriate headwear, branded caps, beanies or sunglasses in any live-streaming games
- Any form of violence or abuse toward game officials, or between players and/or coaching staff during a live-streaming game will not be tolerated. Broadcasting will be cut and the game will be abandoned.
- Teams participating in any live streamed games must strictly follow the NZTFI Codes of Conduct.
- Any breach of the NZTFI Codes of Conduct, or behavior that brings the game into disrepute will result in the termination of the broadcast and both teams being eliminated from the tournament and suspended from all NZTFI affiliated operations for a minimum of two years.
- Any team that plays an unregistered player during a live-streamed grand final game will be disqualified and suspended from all tag at all levels effective immediately from the time of the infringement for a minimum of two years. There will be no right of appeal or judicial hearing for the infringement due to clear-cut evidence of a breach captured within the live-stream.
- **If a team plays in a live-streamed grand final, a list of accurate player shirt numbers and full (preferred) names must be updated on the online registration form. Player shirt numbers must be accurately updated and recorded on GameDay before round one of the tournament.**

4.4 Team Photography: Farrelly Photos

FARRELLY PHOTOS will be at the Tournament, exclusively offering formal sports team photography. Bookings will open on the day the Playing Draw is released. Your time slot then must be pre-booked on-line here:

https://book.usesession.com/s/eeummoXcOV

and a booking fee collected:$50.00 This Fee will be then held as a DEPOSIT on your print order (ie sitting is as always, free).

Contact: Mike Farrelly
Mob: 027 274 6868
Email: photos@farrelly.co.nz
Website:**https://www.sportek.co.nz**

4.5 Event Action Photography: Alphapix Photography

The Alphapix team will be shooting action shots of the games throughout the weekend. Action shots will be uploaded to the New Zealand Tag Football Inc. Facebook page in the week following the event.

- Please note that the action photographers do their best to capture as many photos as possible throughout the weekend. We cannot guarantee they will capture action shots of every team/game.

https://photoshelter.alphapix.co.nz/

4.6 Videographers: Sono Audio Visual

There will be professional videographers documenting the event and producing videos for NZTFI social media. Their friendly team may ask if you would like to be on video or interviewed throughout the weekend!
https://www.sonoav.com/

Bruce Pulman Park | SITE MAP | TBA

SECTION 5: TOURNAMENT FORMAT

5.1 Tournament Draw Information

The tournament draw / runsheet will be made available on the NZTFI website closer to the event, downloadable in xls. format. This runsheet will display all field allocations across all three days. Please access this download at the this webpage: **TBA**

Non - Competition Grades

Under 7s - Under 12s Grades

- All Games are non-competition
- No scores are recorded
- There is no Quarters/Semis/Finals in these divisions
- Teams are guaranteed 3 games per day, 6 in Total
- Non-Competition Grades are played over Saturday & Sunday only
- All participants in these grades are awarded Gold Participation Medals

Competition Grades

- Under 13s, 14s, 15s, 16s, U17s Boys, Girls, Mixed Grades will all have finals formats to determine a Bronze, Silver, Gold Winner
- Teams that are eliminated from play-off games will be off for Final Placing games.

GameDay Mobile App

The **GameDay Mobile App** (separate from GameDay Registrations) can be used to view team-specific playing schedules. This app reflects the tournament runsheet in a more accessible and user-friendly way, making it the easiest and most efficient way to access the draw. We recommend that all teams and supporters use this app to keep track of their playing schedule. It also provides live updates on fixture results and points table standings.

How to Navigate the GameDay Mobile App:

1. **Download the GameDay App** onto your mobile or tablet device.
2. **Register an account** by following the prompts, or log in if you are an existing user.
3. Once registered/logged in, tap the **"t-shirt" icon** in the bottom right corner.

4. Select **'comp'** or **'team'**, then enter **"NZTFI Tournaments"** and tap the option once it appears.
5. After selecting **"NZTFI Tournaments"**, you can view our competitions and teams.
6. Navigate the app to find the team(s) you're supporting by selecting the competition, then the team. From here, you can view fixtures, results, and more.

For additional information on the app and how to access it, please follow this link: Click Here.

5.2 Finals & Medals Presentations

- Grand Finals will be held at this year's event, across all competition (U13s - U16s) Grades
  - e.g. U13s Mixed /grade final
- Live-streamed finals will take place on field one, on the final day of the event.
- ● Presentations will occur immediately after each final at the medals tent next to field one. Gold medals will be awarded to the winning team, and the trophy will be presented to the gold medalists for their team photo.
- ● Silver medals will be awarded to the runner-up team.
- ● Bronze Medals will be awarded to the third-place team.
- ● Medals will only be awarded to teams present at the medal presentations. Failure to attend
  may affect your team's/contingent's eligibility for future invitations in this grade.
- ● Following the presentation of medals, both teams will have a photo taken in front of the tournament banner, showcasing their medals.
- ● Team photos will be shared on the New Zealand Tag Football Inc. Facebook page.

Junior Event (Non- Competition Only)

There will be no medal presentation as regional leaders will collect their non competition Gold medals from the admin area and sign out for them before being released. Each region is responsible for their own medal presentation.

SECTION 6: NZTFI Tournament Rules

6.1 Rules, Policies & Procedures

This tournament will utilise the New Zealand Tag Football Rules rules for game play.

- **NZTFI: Rule Book - Click Here**

The following New Zealand Tag Football policies apply for all events:

- Please review all policies at the link, available on our website: Click Here

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6.2 Be a Good Sports Ambassador - *Sideline Behaviour*



Referee abuse and unsportsmanlike sideline behavior is an ongoing issue in many sports and tag is no exception. The "Be a Good Sport" initiative aims to share the burden of regulating sideline conduct between teams and the referee, ensuring a safe and respectful environment for all involved. Referees are regularly faced with verbal abuse and intimidation. These measures were introduced to protect the well-being and mental health of both referees and players, while also supporting referees in maintaining control of games throughout the event.

- Each team must nominate a parent/supporter to wear the 'Be a Good Sport' Hi-Vis vest.
- The ambassador cannot be the coach/manager/trainer or any kind of team official.
- They are responsible to monitor ALL sideline behaviour and must remind those who breach the codes of conduct and what the consequences may be if it should continue.
- The Be a Good Sports Ambassador will liaise with the referee, marshals or any sideline or admin official during the running of the game, and if any official incident report is made.
- The ambassador will report to the referee any sideline abuse or violent behaviour and will assist the referee in identifying the person(s) who are in breach and assist in their removal from the game.
- Be kind and supportive at all times at the event and follow the NZTFI Codes of Conduct.
- At the conclusion of the game, the Ambassador is to return the vest to the referee.

6.3 Playing Time

Time will be managed centrally using a hooter over the public announcement system. Extra time will only be applied when a result is necessary. The Time Keeper will announce any delays in round play due to extra time. There will be a 2 minute warning song before the commencement of each round. This will be played over the public address system, and will end in the game starting hooter.

*Game times will be **15 minutes each way, 30 minutes total game time**. The half time break will be 2 minutes.

6.4 Scoring

Results will be tracked on a win, draw & loss basis, with the champion determined by the winner of the final matches. Gold, silver and Bronze medals will be awarded to the top 3 competition teams in each grade.

6. 5 Deciding Teams/ Equal Points

a. In the qualifying rounds, a draw will count.
b. After round robins conclude, teams' advancement to the finals rounds is determined in the following order:.
    I. Points
    II. For and Against
    III. Percentage
c. The factors above, including but not limited to goal differential and others, will determine the final placing on the Gameday Ladder.

6.6 Amendment of Tournament Rules

To ensure the smooth running and organisation of the event, the NZTFI CEO and Tournament Director reserve the right to change, amend, and adjust the tournament rules as required including draw scheduling.

6.7 Player Numbering

Team shirt numbering must be within the range of 1-20/22. Players **must** retain the **same** playing number throughout the event, which must match that of the online team sheet via GameDay.
Numbers out of this range, such as ‘23’, ‘79’ etc are not permitted. Double up numbers such as ‘1’ and ‘01’ are not prohibited.

Any players taking the field with these numbers will risk losing 2 competition points.

Please refer to section 2.3 Squad Sizes regarding player numbering, if required.

6.8 Team Officials

Team officials may issue verbal instructions to on-field players from the interchange area, however, if they leave the interchange area, they can only observe the game and remain mute.

6.9 Player Safety Rule

The Referee is empowered to enforce measures ensuring the safety of participants during a match. However, the determination of whether the playing field meets health and safety standards rests outside their authority. Should referees identify safety concerns, they are obligated to report them to NZTFI Tournament control personnel. The final decision regarding the field's suitability for play rests with the CEO or their designate.

6.10. Spectators

All persons who are not players or team officials, not directly involved in the game must stay clear of the field of play and in cases where the field is closed off, must stay behind the barrier/ropes.

6.11 Match Ball & Match Tags

The Match ball and Match tags will be provided by New Zealand Tag Football. External on-field equipment is not permitted.

6.12 Competition Points

Results will be recorded primarily on a win, draw, loss basis. The following points system will apply in the contingency points table:

- Win: 2 points
- Draw: 1 point
- Loss: 0 points
- Forfeit: 0 points (with a penalty win of 2 points awarded to the opposing team, and a -2 point deduction to the defaulting team's points differential, as recorded on the field).

6.13 Defaults / Ballot Matches

- All games in all grades or divisions must be played in full throughout the Tournament. Any team failing to do so will result in an automatic deduction of 2 points and an 8-point loss in their "for and against" standings.

- If a team is not on the field when the hooter sounds, the referee will add 1 point a minute up to 5 minutes. When the 5 minutes is up & still no team has arrived then the referee will call the game off.

- The referee must get the manager of the team that was present to sign the card to claim the win by default.

- Teams are required to appear for all scheduled Ballot Matches without exception. Failure to comply will result in an automatic deduction of 2 points and an 8-point loss in their "for and against" standings.

6.14 Playing and Surrounding Environment

At their sole discretion, the Match Referees, Referee Support Official, NZTFI Referee Coaches or NZTFI Tournament Officials have the right in exceptional circumstances to instruct any person(s) to immediately leave the park and/or surrounding playing area should the conduct of the individual(s) considered to be threatening, abusive or bring the game into disrepute. This provision also applies to the conduct of team officials. If a person and/or team official refuses to comply with the instructions of the Match Referees, Referee Support Official, NZTFI Referee Coaches or NZTFI Tournament Officials then the match will be stopped until the instruction is complied with.

6.15 Referee Abuse – Members of the public, team officials and players

Abuse of referees and match officials is a widespread issue, and New Zealand is no exception. Referees regularly face hostile behaviour from players, coaches, and spectators, ranging from verbal abuse to physical assault. **New Zealand Tag Football Inc. enforces a strict zero-tolerance policy for referee abuse.** Individuals engaging in inappropriate behaviour towards referees will be immediately removed and disqualified from the tournament. If the offender is a player, their team may also incur a penalty.

For further information please review the NZTFI Referee Abuse Policy and Procedures: Click Here

6.16 Score Cards

- The Appointed game referees are responsible for recording the match score, including any sin bins and send-offs, which will be noted on the scorecards.
- Each Team Manager is also responsible for keeping a personal record of the score during the game. Managers must remain on the sideline throughout the match, standing side by side.
- At half-time, team managers are encouraged to verify the score with the referees, and each other to ensure accuracy.
- At the end of the game, if both teams agree with the score on the scorecard, the Team Manager should sign the card.
- If a team refuses to sign the card due to not agreeing with the score recorded, they have the right to lodge a protest. Refer to section 8 of this information pack for the protest submission process.
- Protests will not be lodged without the above information and are not considered once any finals have commenced

SECTION 7: ON-FIELD GEAR RULES

7.0 Uniform Policy

The NZTFI Uniform Policy outlines the official playing uniform requirements for all NZTFI tournaments.

7.1 Compulsory SAS Uniform Requirements

All teams and delegations must wear matching SAS-tagged uniforms throughout the tournament. This ensures fairness and consistency across all teams and prevents any competitive advantage or disadvantage caused by differences in fabric quality or elasticity.

All teams within the same region or contingent must wear the same playing colours. NZTFI will monitor compliance throughout the event. Teams that fail to meet this requirement may have competition points deducted.

NZTFI and SAS reserve the right to decline or reject uniform colours that conflict with the uniforms worn by NZTFI referees or event officials. These colours include, but are not limited to:

- Bright green
- Bright yellow
- Bright pink

Season and Uniform Validity

A new uniform must be purchased each season. Only teams wearing the current season's uniform will meet the tournament entry requirements. Uniforms from previous seasons or tournaments may not be worn.

The following numbering requirements apply:

- U7–U17 grades: Numbers 1–20 only

Mandatory Uniform Components

Each player must have:

- 1 x SAS-numbered playing top
  - Numbers must be clear and visible from a distance.
- 1 x pair of SAS playing tag shorts or tights
  - NZTFI recognises tag shorts as official playing equipment.

The following requirements also apply:

- Each player's uniform number must match the number submitted in their registration details.
- Duplicate numbers within a team are not permitted.

Teams wearing incorrect uniforms due to placing their order late will have two competition points deducted at the conclusion of the round-robin stage.

Off-Field Apparel

Off-field apparel may be SAS-branded or supplied by another brand.

Minimum Uniform Requirements

All teams must purchase the minimum number of player uniforms required for their grade for each tournament.

Any team found to be in breach of the NZTFI Uniform Policy may be subject to further action by the tournament organisers.

7.2 On-Field Gear Rules

Players must comply with the following on-field dress requirements when participating in the Junior Tag Nationals 2026:

- Bandanas and beanies may not be worn during games.
- Branded or merchandise caps displaying organisations such as the NFL, NBA, NRL or AFL may not be worn during games, particularly during livestreamed matches.
- Plain, non-branded baseball-style caps and soft sun visors may be worn.
- Official team hats, bucket hats and sun visors may be worn during games.
- These rules do not apply to religious or cultural garments, including hijabs.

7.3 SAS Retail Store – Uniform Collection and Staff Interactions

All uniform orders must be counted and checked at the time they are collected from the SAS Retail Store.

It is the responsibility of the team manager, coach or nominated person collecting the order to:

- Confirm that all purchased items have been received.
- Check that the quantities are correct.
- Check that the player numbers printed on the playing tops match the submitted order.

These requirements also apply to orders delivered directly to teams. Once an order has been received and accepted, the items will be considered final and confirmed as matching the order submitted.

SAS retail staff are responsible for providing the orders that have been purchased. They are not responsible for decisions or errors relating to the details submitted with a team's uniform order.

All interactions with SAS retail staff must remain respectful and professional. Abusive, threatening or inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. SAS reserves the right to refuse service where staff feel unsafe or threatened.

These expectations also apply to all interactions with staff working at the SAS Merchandise Tent during event days.

Any concerns or issues relating to a uniform order must be directed to Alvin at SAS.

7.3 Sunglasses

- Players cannot wear sunglasses during game-play.
- If a player requires wearing prescription glasses on the field for medical reasons, they must apply for a dispensation.
- **The dispensation form must be submitted and accepted at least 5 days before the Tournament**.
- Dispensation application form: Click Here
- Please submit the dispensation form via email to admin@nztagfootball.co.nz with "URGENT" in the subject line.

SECTION 8: Protests Appeals & Disciplinary Matters

8.1 No Judicial Hearing during the event

Serious breaches of codes of conduct will result in immediate disqualification and removal from this event. The NZTFI reminds participants that there is no longer a judicial process for such disputes or breaches of the codes of conduct during the 2-day event. The judicial hearing, if necessary, will take place post the event on a date to be confirmed by the judicial team**.**

Post-tournament, the NZTFI Judicial process will be followed for any players who are found to be in serious violation of the codes of conduct, necessitating a judicial hearing. NZTFI-affiliated players/team officials can be imposed a two-year ban from all NZTFI tournaments. In the event of a serious breach, NZTFI reserves the right to impose any action/ban deemed necessary.

8.2 Protests

Restrictions on Protests:

The following will not be open to discussion or a valid reason to submit a protest. NZTFI formally advises all coordinators, players/coaches/managers and supporters that they must be aware of these points before the tournament.

- The Referee – The Referee's calls are final and will not be questioned by the Tournament Officials. The referee may impose any sanction necessary to control the match and will impose penalties for infringements of the rules.
- Claims of bias will not be entertained.
- Any form of verbal or physical abuse of a referee will not be tolerated. This may result in points being deducted and/or players/ teams removed from the event/game.
- Any team found to have fielded a disciplined, sent-off, or non-registered player will face immediate disqualification.
    - The coach/manager found in violation will need to compose a public apology letter addressed to the NZTFI and the affected team(s), recognizing that their actions have tarnished the reputation of the game.

- **Any offending team or player will be disciplined at a judicial hearing by their parent nation in line with the organisation's disciplinary procedures.**

How to lodge a Protest:

- **Protest must be made within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the game in question.**
- If a team disputes the score recorded on the scorecard, they should refrain from signing it and instead file a protest within the 30-minute timeframe.
- Any protest is to be lodged by the registered team manager and/or coach only. This includes a player eligibility protest.
- Should a team intend to protest a player's age, it should be accompanied with evidence before the protest is reviewed.
- A $200 deposit fee must be submitted with the protest, which will be refunded if the protest is successful.
- The following information MUST be provided with the protest to the Operations Manager within 30 minutes of the game:
    - Video of the game in full, showing all tries scored.
    - The order scoring (including player shirt numbers from both teams of the awarded player).
    - The half-time and the full-time score.
        - **Protests cannot be lodged without this information.**
        - **Protest will not be accepted after the first whistle of a finals match.**
- If a protest regarding scoring discrepancies is submitted as outlined above, the opposing team will be asked to verify the score along with the submitted evidence. If they continue to disagree and provide additional evidence making the result inconclusive, the score recorded by the referees will stand.

8.3 Unregistered Players/ Ineligibility

- Any team discovered to field unregistered or ineligible players during gameplay may face immediate disqualification from the competition.
- Random sideline inspections may take place throughout the tournament.
- Teams wanting to dispute a player's eligibility should follow the protest process outlined in section 8.2.
- Coaches/managers are encouraged to submit photo or video evidence to identify unregistered or ineligible players fielded on the opposing team.

SECTION 9: Event Registrations

9.1 NZTFI Registered Affiliate

All players are required to be a registered affiliate for the current season to compete in any NZTFI events. To become an affiliate, players must register to play at their local NZTFI tag module.

Visit the NZTFI website, under "Where can I play?" to find module venues near you: Click Here

(Updates are made regularly to the website)

The Annual Affiliation Levy (AAL), if purchased more than once in a season, is non-refundable. Please do not finalise/complete payment if you have already purchased the Annual Affiliation Levy.
Contact eventregos@nztagfootball.co.nz for assistance.

9.2 Tournament Player Fee

2026 Junior Tag Nationals Event

- Junior Tag Nationals | Non Competition (U7s - U12s) Player Entry Fee = **$50 NZD, per player.**
- Junior Tag Nationals | Competition (U13s - U17s) Player Entry Fee = **$90 NZD, per player.**
- Payment can be submitted through the GameDay online registration form.

9.3 Player Eligibility

- **NZTFI Affiliated Module Player**

All players must be registered and participating in an NZTFI-affiliated module. Team managers are responsible for ensuring that all players on their team meet this requirement prior to registering for this event. Failure to comply will result in penalties. Please contact us directly for assistance if a player is currently not affiliated and requires assistance: eventregos@nztagfootball.co.nz

- **Age Eligibility and Consistency**

Age eligibility must align with the NZTFI senior events to maintain fairness across competitions.
Please review the NZTFI Age Eligibility Policy 2026: Click Here

- All players must meet the age requirements for their respective divisions.
- Players are required to submit photo identification during the online GameDay registration process to verify their age.
- Coaches and managers must have all players' identification documents available during the event. Failure to provide proof of eligibility upon request may result in penalties, including loss of points, match default, or tournament disqualification.

9.4 Registration Timeline & Key Tournament Dates

Event Team Links OPEN	**18th September 2026**
Player Registration/Payment Links OPEN	**1st October 2026**
Event Team Registration Links CLOSE	**1st November 2026**
Player Registration/Payment Links CLOSE	**8th November 2026**
Event Tournament Draw Released	**TBA**
Referee Field Allocation Released	**TBA**
Draw Runsheet Released	**TBA**
GameDay Draw Released	**TBA**
Event Site Map released	**TBA**
Managers Information Pack FINAL Release	**TBA**
Event Tournament Day 1	**11th December 2026**
Event Tournament Day 2	**12th December 2026**
Event Tournament Day 3	**13th December 2026**

9.5 Registration Cut-Off Date

Team will open 18th September 2026
Player registrations will open 1st October 2026

Team will close 1st November 2026
Player will close 8th November 2026
All Registrations links closed for administration check.

The NZTFI registration admin will closely monitor registrations, payments, squad sizes, and age eligibility. All registrations and payments must be punctual; late registrations will not be accepted, and no extensions will be granted.
***Please keep your official Gameday Receipt as proof of payment.*

- The NZTFI must allow sufficient time for ID and eligibility checks before finalising the event draw. Late registrations delay this process and impact all teams that have registered correctly and on time.

- Any teams that continually do not meet minimum requirements by the registration close date may face non-inclusion for future events.

Kindly ensure that you seek assistance immediately if required, to allow sufficient time for the admin staff to address your query.
Please do not contact NZTFI staff via call or text, send an email to eventregos@nztagfootball.co.nz or admin@nztagfootball.co.nz for best assistance. Staff are available to assist you during business hours, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

9.6 Refunds

In the event that a player can no longer participate in this event, you may be eligible for a refund of the player's entry fee less the Gameday platform fees.

Eligibility Criteria

- Your team must still meet the minimum player numbers without the player seeking a refund.
- You must provide an official player registration GameDay receipt.

If you believe you qualify, please complete the refund application form: Click Here
Refund forms must be submitted no later than **midnight on Wednesday 9th December 2026.**

Note: No refunds will be accepted after this date.
All accepted refunds are processed post-event,
Accepted refunds will be minus the Gameday payment service fees.

Annual Affiliation Levy (AAL) - NON-REFUNDABLE
Annual Affiliation Levy (AAL), if purchased more than once in a season, is strictly **non-refundable.** Do not finalise/complete payment if you have already purchased the Annual Affiliation Levy; please contacteventregos@nztagfootball.co.nz.

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*If you have any further queries regarding the 2026 Junior Tag Nationals and the information in this booklet, please contact **admin@nztafootball.co.nz.***