



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

To: All Interested TFA Members
From: Wayne Grant – High Performance Coordinator
Date: Thursday 4th October 2007
Subject: National Indigenous Selection Information

Touch Football Australia (TFA) is pleased to advise that we are looking to establish a pathway for indigenous athletes and officials to further their opportunities for participating in Touch Football. As such we are providing this document as information on the selection process and tour information for the National Indigenous Teams to participate in the Inaugural World Indigenous Touch Tournament being held in Auckland, New Zealand from 24th-26th January 2008. TFA is hoping to send Men's, Women's and Mixed Open teams as well as officials to participate in this exciting new Tournament.

Our support of this initiative is an important step in recognising the important contribution of indigenous people to the whole Touch community. This opportunity would not be possible if not for some critical people from within the indigenous community pursuing this project. From discussions with this group TFA have formalised a National Indigenous Advisory Committee that will work with TFA in looking at more initiatives to support indigenous players in the future. This particular tour is the first major aim for the group and one that we are taking very seriously.

TFA aims to provide the same level of legitimate processes for selection as that of any team or squad. As such we have a high expectation of participant's conduct, communication and compliance with the administration structures that we have put in place to support the Squads and subsequent Tour. Further to this, we are operating on very strict timeframes around payments, uniform ordering and general tour administration.

Through our network of National Talent Identification Personnel we have been able to identify players who have been selected into the preliminary Indigenous Squads. These players have been contacted and are starting to work towards preparations for the event. It must be understood that players who have been selected in any of the preliminary Squads are not guaranteed selection in the final teams.

We remain committed to having the best possible teams participate at this event and all players will be monitored at various events throughout the next two months.

Selection Information

The following information is provided to enable you to consider making yourself available for selection.

As stated, players selected in the preliminary Indigenous Squads have been contacted, however all team selections will be finalised by the end of November, shortly after the First Contact Sport & Cultural Festival held in Brisbane on the 24th & 25th November 2007. This tournament is a sanctioned TFA event on the national calendar and will form part of the final selection process.

Selection into the Indigenous Squads/Teams is open to anyone who meets the indigenous eligibility criteria. To formally nominate for selection, players (and their legal guardian if under 18) **must** complete one of the following forms:

- **Selection Nomination Form:** for players **participating** in the First Contact Sport & Cultural Festival and wish to be considered for selection into the National Indigenous Squads.
A **selection bond of \$50** must accompany this form.
- **Non-attendance Nomination Form:** for players who are **unable to participate** in the First Contact Sport & Cultural Festival but still wish to be considered for selection into the Squads.
A **selection bond of \$100** must accompany this form.

The bonds will be held by TFA administration and in the event a player is not selected into the Squad or final team the bond will be refunded in full. For players who are selected into a Squad/Team this bond will be retained by TFA and be taken off the player tour levy.

Players who are selected and subsequently withdraw will lose their selection bond, unless extenuating circumstances are involved. The player will need to lodge a written letter to TFA for consideration and any reasons must be supported by written evidence.

To enable us to proceed with planning, all forms and payments must be received at the TFA office by **Friday 16th November 2007**.

World Indigenous Touch Tournament Information

Location

The Tournament will be played at Trust Stadium, 'Waitakere City' Auckland. The Teams will travel to New Zealand on Monday 21 January for a training camp in preparation for the Tournament and will return to Australia on Sunday 27 January 2008.

The actual Tournament dates will be Thursday 24 January to Saturday 26 January 2008.

Cost

Approx **\$2000** (including GST).

These costs are preliminary at this stage. Once exact numbers are known an exact cost will be supplied. We will be working hard, once numbers are finalised, to get this figure as low as possible.

Strict payment timelines and policies are in place and deadlines need to be strictly adhered to in order to ensure TFA can account for deposits and flights as required (conditions apply). Non-compliance will result in your inability to participate in the Tour.

Tour Schedule

The World Indigenous Tournament is being conducted from Thursday 24 January to Saturday 26 January 2008.

Slight details may change, however at this stage tour members will be asked to assemble at either Brisbane or Sydney airports on Monday 21st January for departure to Auckland. All team members and officials will be required to travel with the group from one of these departure points.

Tuesday & Wednesday will be allocated to a training camp and developing team cohesion.

Appointed Coaches

Men's Open	Rick Luland	Coach
Women's Open	TBA	Coach
Mixed Open	Adrian (Mook) Harrington	Coach

We are currently open to considering potential candidates for filling any vacancies. Ideally we would be looking to have full coaching staff including Assistant Coaches and Managers for all Teams.

We ask that this information is given the widest possible circulation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 07 32471733 if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

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