

STATE OF ORIGIN

2025

TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS



Presented by
**NEW SOUTH WALES TOUCH ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED**
and
QUEENSLAND TOUCH FOOTBALL

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1. DATE

The 2025 State of Origin Competition is scheduled to take place on **20-21 June 2025**.

2. VENUE

The event will be conducted at **C-EX International Stadium Coff Harbour**.

3. ENTRY FEES

All costs will be at each States expense other than those items identified as to be cost shared in the joint budget.

4. TEAM NOMINATION

It is the responsibility of New South Wales Touch Association (NSWTA) and Queensland Touch Football (QTF) to nominate teams in all the chosen divisions.

State of Origin Coaches and Officials Contact Details to be return by May 1st, 2025 to:

Josh Benham
Events Manager
NSW Touch Association
josh.benham@nswtouch.com.au
0409 425 416

5. EMAIL ADDRESS/ MOBILE PHONE NUMBER

Each team nominated must submit an e-mail address and mobile phone number for emergency contact. All correspondence will be sent to the relevant state body.

6. MATCH RESULTS

Match results will be updated on www.stateoforigintouch.com.au and the NSWTA www.nswtouch.com.au and the QTF website – www.qldtouch.com.au at the completion of each round.



7. DIVISION CATEGORIES

The NSWTA and QTF agreed that the purpose of State of Origin is as follows:

- To determine the champion Touch Football state in Australia.
- To provide the pinnacle of the domestic representative pathway in not just NSW and Queensland but across Australia.
- To provide a visible and transparent pathway to national team selection.
- To provide the members with a visible and transparent pathway from domestic affiliate representative teams through to Regional Teams through to State representation.
- To provide the highest level of Touch Football competition within the national framework.

Both agree that the SOO should be the end of the journey for representation at State level and not used as a launching proposition for divisional categories. As it was agreed that the criteria for eligible divisions would have two sectors. Automatic acceptance and secondary criteria for consideration of a division's inclusion at SOO.

Automatic Acceptance

In line with the pathway way goals of the SOO purpose both states agreed that the established World Cup Divisions from the preceding FIT World Cup to a SOO series, are to be an automatic selection of SOO divisions.

Criteria to be considered as a SOO Division

- Is a historical SOO division* that meets the below criteria (unless replaced by like division i.e. W27 for W30) or
- Minimum membership of 1000 participants in each state for an age category at the grassroot level /or
- Be a full State Championship division (or equivalent) in each state or
- The number of participants across all divisions of a State Championship division (or equivalent) is equal to or better than 50 eligible participants or
- Be an NTL Division with a minimum of three Regional teams from each state.

** This would include Men's and Women's 20, Women's 40 and Men's 55*

This gives a clear and transparent purpose and pathway for SOO that can guide both Boards in any decision-making capacity and a pathway goal to membership that seek a divisional inclusion.

Agreement on these criteria means that moving forward for the 2025 series the following 18 divisions would be played.

Men's Open

No age requirement

Women's Open

No age requirement

Mixed Open

No age requirement

Men's 20

Born 2005 or after

Women's 20

Born 2005 or after



Women's 27	Born 1998 or before
Men's 30	Born 1995 or before
Mixed Seniors	Born 1995 or before
Men's 35	Born 1985 or before
Women's 35	Born 1985 or before
Men's 40	Born 1985 or before
Women's 40	Born 1985 or before
Men's 45	Born 1980 or before
Women's 45	Born 1980 or before
Men's 50	Born 1975 or before
Women's 50	Born 1975 or before
Men's 55	Born 1970 or before
Men's 60	Born 1965 or before

The minimum age for a player at this tournament is 16 at the time of competition.

Any new division must be approved by both parties no later than the 30 June the year prior to State of Origin. This gives a time frame to develop in both age categories to be able to field teams and provide the opportunity for those divisions to grow at both organisation's state championships. It would also allow those who wish these divisions to be included a clear and defined pathway to SOO.

8. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TEAMS ENTERED

NSWTA and QTF can only enter one (1) team in each division.

9. REFEREES

The State of Origin Referees Panel will appoint the top 54 referees in Australia to participate in the event. The top 12 referees will form the Opens panel and appointments made from this group for MO, WO and Mixed Open games. All appointments will be recommended and made by the tournament referees' panel.

10. TEAM REGISTRATION FORM

All teams are required to complete the Online Registration which must be completed June 1st 2025. Any late changes must be completed online must be completed no later than 12noon on Thursday June 19, 2025.



11. TOURNAMENT ENQUIRIES

Tournament enquiries maybe made by the Tour Manager/s and directed to the NSWTA Events Manager, Josh Benham.

- During working hours on 95589333.
- Mobile 0409 425 416
- Email – josh.benham@nswtouch.com.au
- NSWTA Event Manager at the venue.
-

12. MANAGERS MEETING

The Compulsory Tour Managers Meeting will be held at the C-ex Stadium Coffs Harbour at **3 pm on Thursday June 19, 2025.**

13. COMPETITION POINTS

Win - 3 points; Loss - 1-point; Forfeit - 0 points
All drawn games will go into a drop off.

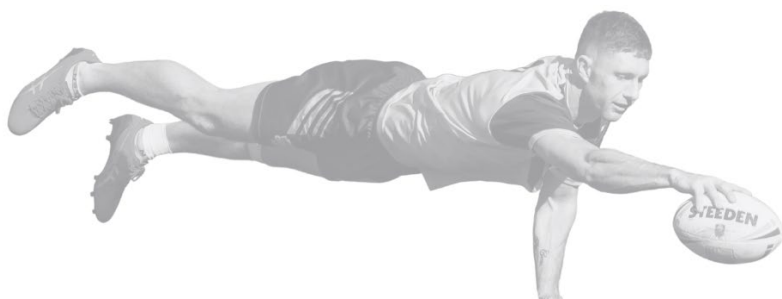
14. CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

Overall Champions State for the STATE OF ORIGIN Series will be decided on the following format:

- Number of individual Series won, if equal
- the State holding the trophy will retain it.

15. PLAYER NUMBERS

Teams may register and use a maximum of fourteen (14) players in the series. Upon protest any team found guilty of either using more than fourteen (14) players or using an unregistered player may be liable to be disqualified, fined, or otherwise dealt with.



16. GAME SIGN ON SHEETS

The official team sheet is to be ticked off prior to the commencement of each game, indicating the registered players (maximum 14) participating that game.

The team sheet is to be signed by the manager 15min prior to the commencement of the game.

17. PROOF OF AGE

The Team Manager for all age categories must have readily available proof of age for all players in their team. The following will only be accepted as proof of age:

BIRTH CERTIFICATE
PASSPORT

VALID DRIVER LICENCE
PROOF OF AGE CARD

Teams using players within their teams without the required proof of age are liable to be disqualified if a protest is lodged and the player concerned cannot verify their age. Any player, who cannot provide this identification, will be disqualified from further competition.

18. ELIGIBILITY

18.1 TEAM

For NSWTA / QTF to be eligible to enter teams in the Tournament they must be financial with TFA and registered in all competitions they conduct.

18.2 COACHES AND MANAGERS

Coaches and Managers are not eligible to participate and represent the NSWTA /QTF unless they comply with the following:

18.2.1 Must be a National Member and meet the eligibility criteria set out by the state they represent, NSWTA or QTF.

18.2.2 Must be registered in an affiliated competition in the 2025 Season 1 or 2024 Season 1 or 2.

18.3 PLAYERS

To participate in the State of Origin, players must:



- 18.3.1 Be a National Member and meet the eligibility criteria set out by the state they represent, NSWTA or QTF.
- 18.3.2 Be registered in an affiliated competition in the 2025 Season 1 or 2024 Season 1 or 2.
- 18.3.3 Meet the eligibility and selection criteria within their chosen state, NSWTA / QTF.
- 18.3.4 Any person serving a suspension at a NSWTA / QTF Affiliate at any stage during the conduct of the Competition is ineligible to participate in the State of Origin series during that suspension. Any person found to be participating whilst under suspension will be in contravention of Clause 27 and may be subject to a disciplinary hearing.
- 18.3.5 Have been selected under the Selection policy of their respective state body.
- 18.3.6 Any player who is eligible for each state must declare which state they wish to be considered for prior to NTL. Should that player not be selected they will not be eligible to then participate for the opposing state.
- 18.3.7 Be eligible for Australian selection as per FIT regulations.

NB. Both states recognise that with the current development of Touch Football internationally, the level of player development from those deemed to be developing nations is not equivalent to that in Australia and New Zealand.

Therefore, as agreed to in 2016, any international representative player from a country deemed by both states to be a developing nation (not Australia or New Zealand) may be selected as long as the following conditions are met:

- They satisfy clause 18(c).1 of these Conditions
- They satisfy clause 18(c).2 of these Conditions
- They satisfy clause 18(c).3 of these Conditions
- They satisfy clause 18(c).4 of these Conditions
- They have to be a resident of Australia for a period greater than 12 months.

It is noted that consideration was given to using the FIT Tier nation system; however, given that any national who participates in a World Cup is classified Tier 1, this would not satisfy the intent of this consideration.

18.4 MEDICAL TEAM

Any Medical personnel must register their qualifications with the respective state (NSWTA /QTF) and have a minimum accreditation to be eligible to work with teams in the Tournament.

19. UNAFFILIATED RULE

Please remind all players that the STATE OF ORIGIN Series is governed by the Unaffiliated Rule, which reads: -

"IF A PLAYER, REFEREE, OFFICIAL ETC. PARTICIPATES IN AN UNAFFILIATED COMPETITION, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ALSO PLAY IN AN AFFILIATED COMPETITION, THEY WILL BE INELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A TFQ, NSWTA OR TFA TOURNAMENT FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE (12) MONTHS".



20. UNIFORMS

All playing uniforms are to include numbered shirts, shorts and socks and must be correct for all games of competition. Approved touch shoes must be worn in accordance with of the 8th Edition TFA rulebook.

21. INSURANCE

For players to be covered by the TFA Insurance Scheme they must be a National Member under the National Membership Scheme.

22. SUB BOXES

The only people allowed in the Sub Boxes will be the registered players participating in the game, the Coach, Assistant Coach/s and Manager that are nominated on the Registration Sheet. The Head Coaches and any qualified medical staff that has been identified by NSWTA and or QTF prior to the commencement of the game will be allowed in the player box as well a representative of the Tour Management.

Any player found to have left the sub box and becomes involved in a melee, brawl or fight will be dealt with in the following way. If in the referees view a player/s or official/s leaving the sub box engages in **illegal play** that **would** under normal circumstance of general game play warrant being sent off, they should do so. This will incur a minimum four (4) match suspension on top of any further suspension handed down by the judiciary.

If in the referees view a player/s or official/s leaving the sub box to become involved in melee, brawl or fight and engages in **activities** that **would not** under normal circumstance of general game play warrant being sent off, they should:

- Record the number of the player/s leaving the sub box to become involved in a melee or brawl or fight,
- Advise the captain that they will report those players to Event Manager
- File a report at the end of the game noting those players for the Event Manager then to take action.

All other rules pertaining to the sub box and interchange procedure are as per the 8th Edition rules.

23. COACH/ REFEREE COMMUNICATION

Coaches and Players are not to approach the Referees who officiate at their games at the conclusion of the game to discuss or question decisions. This can only be done no earlier than 30min after the completion of the game. A member of the Referee Coaching Panel must be approached by TOUR MANAGEMENT in the first instance to co-ordinate a meeting between the relevant parties.

At the conclusion of the game the two managers will confer with the referees to confirm the score.



24. PROTEST/ DISPUTES

Protest and Dispute matters will be heard and determined by the Protest and Dispute Committee as appointed by the NSWTA / QTF Joint Committee.

The Protest and Dispute Committee will be chaired by a person nominated by the NSWTA / QTF Joint Committee and will include at least two further members.

Protests and Disputes must be lodged in writing within 20 minutes of the conclusion of the event/game in question to the Event Manager. The protest can only be lodged and signed by the Head Coach or Tour Leader. Protest forms can be obtained from tournament control.

The protest will then be investigated by the Protest and Dispute Committee and their decision will be returned, to the Head Coach or Tour Leader.

Any notice to be served on any person to attend a hearing must be served on the Head Coach or Tour Leader and any such service is deemed to be served on all parties or persons under the control of that Head Coach or Tour Leader.

All protest / disputes will be dealt with at the tournament.

25. DISCIPLINE

It is the responsibility of each State to ensure that all their players, officials and teams behave themselves during the competition and up to and including the presentation function. A copy of the Code of Behaviour will be handed out at the managers meeting.

On any written complaint being made to the NSWTA General Manager or QTF Chief Executive Officer of conduct prejudicial to the interests or welfare of the Association, its Administration or the game of Touch on the part of any Member of the Association, the Board of the State involved shall have the power to deal with such complaint and in the exercise of the power hereby conferred may disqualify, suspend, fine or otherwise deal with any person or body they find to have been guilty of such conduct.

26. SUSPENSIONS

Any player sent from the field for the remainder of the game will receive an automatic two- (2) match suspension unless the Judiciary Committee considers that further action is necessary.



Any player who is given a "period of time" more than once in any one (1) game, will receive an automatic one (1) match suspension. A match report from the controlling referees may dictate the appearance before the Judiciary Committee to consider if further action is required.

N.B. A period of time applied to a player for a team offence will not be registered against an individual.

A suspension is to be served on the following game/s in which the team actually plays.

Appeals will be considered on a case by case basis and only with relevant supporting documentation and must be submitted within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the event/game in question to the Tournament Manager.

Any player sent to the sin bin will remain in the sin bin area for a compulsory four completed sets of possession. This will no longer be at the discretion of the referee.

Any infringement that will cause the touch count to restart will simply be a continuation of that set. That is, should a defender knock the ball down or give away a penalty on the third touch this does not constitute that this set has been completed, but rather is extended. Conversely if an attacking player causes the infringement so that a turnover takes place on the third touch this will constitute a completed set.

N.B: The replacement rule that applies in mixed division when a male player is sent for a "Period of Time", that team will remain one (1) Male player down until his return. That is Coaches can-not substitute a Female player with a Male player while that Male player remains in the bin for his Period of Time.

27. DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

All players sent from the field for the remainder of the game may be required to appear before a NSWTA / QTF Judiciary.

The Tournament Disciplinary Committee will be appointed by the NSWTA / QTF Joint Committee. It will consist of the two state Chairpersons and a third person announced prior to the event

In the case of a player being dismissed from the field of play for the remainder of the game they may be issued with a Notice to Appear outlining details of the Disciplinary Hearing and a copy of the written complaint or report.

Disciplinary Hearings will be conducted on within one (1) hour of the lodgement of the matter.

In the case of a complaint or report being submitted on a player, official or other team and/or State personnel, if deemed necessary by the Judiciary Committee, the QTF Competition Manager will issue a Notice to Appear outlining details of the Disciplinary Hearing and a copy of the written complaint and report will be forwarded to all relevant parties.



28. FORFEITS

All games will start at their scheduled time. Teams must be in attendance at their playing fields five (5) minutes before the commencement of their match.

It is the responsibility of each captain to report to the referee so that the toss of the coin can be affected without loss of time.

If a team is not at the field at the advertised starting time of the game, the attending team can be awarded the winning of the toss.

The offending team will receive a maximum of five (5) minutes from the commencement of the game (siren/whistle) to position the team on the field and be ready to commence play.

If the offending team is not in attendance after the five (5) minutes has expired the game will be deemed a forfeit and the non-offending team will be awarded a 5 - 0 win and three (3) competition points. The offending team will receive a score of 0 - 5 and no competition points. The offending team will be penalised one touchdown after the first minute and one touchdown every minute thereafter up to five (5) minutes, and the time will be kept by Tournament Committee Officials.

29. TOURNAMENT CONTROL

The NSWTA Event Manager in conjunction with the NSWTA General Manager and QTF Chief Executive Officer will be in charge of all matters relating to the Tournament. Any matters not covered in these conditions or guidelines will be determined by the above Officials and their decision will be final.

30. TROPHIES

Awards will be presented to: -

- Medallions for winners
- Player of the series
- State of Origin Champions (Shield)
- Referees (Medallions only)

Please note – Any player sent from the field and receives a suspension will not be eligible for the player of the series.

31. RULES

The tournament will be conducted as per the 8th edition of the TFA Rule Book.

32. PRESENTATION

There will be two on field presentations inside the Stadium.



The schedule for presentations will be determined closer to the event.

A joint after function for participants will be held in the Forecourt of C-ex Stadium after presentations are completed.

33. DRAW FORMULA

In all divisions, the two (2) teams will play each other three (3) times. Game 1 will be played Friday and Games 2 & 3 will be played on Saturday. The draw will be available on www.stateoforigintouch.com.au

34. DURATION OF GAMES

All games will be 2 x 20-minutes with a 5-minute half time. In the event of a draw in any game, a Drop Off will be used to decide the winner.

35. MEDICAL

Medical personnel will be the responsibility of both NSWTA and QTF for their respective teams.

36. COACHING QUALIFICATIONS

It is compulsory that all coaches in the State of Origin are to possess a minimum Talent Coaching (or recognised equivalent) accreditation. Assistant Coaches need only be a Foundation accreditation (or recognised equivalent).

At a minimum Opens and 20s Coaches must have completed the Sport Integrity Educational requirements. However, the state may choose to have all SOO coaches complete the educational requirement.

37. INTEGRITY EDUCATION

Tour Leaders, Team Officials and Athletes are required to meet the online education requirements as detailed below:

	Opens Athletes	Masters Athletes	Coaches & Support Personnel	Medical Personnel
Anti-Doping Fundamentals	REQUIRED	RECOMMENDED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
2024 Annual Update	REQUIRED	RECOMMENDED	REQUIRED	
Coaches Course			REQUIRED	



Competition Manipulation and Sports Betting	REQUIRED	RECOMMENDED	REQUIRED	
Safeguarding Children and Young People Induction	REQUIRED	RECOMMENDED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
Medical Practitioner Course				REQUIRED

38. FIELD LAYOUT

A field layout will be distributed at the Tour Managers meeting.

39. WET WEATHER

Any decisions regarding wet weather will be made by the NSWTA Events Manager in conjunction with the QTF Chief Executive Officer, the NSWTA General Manager and the C-ex Coffs International Stadium ground staff.

40. WORKING WITH CHILDREN

In order for NSWTA to fulfil Legal obligations, it is a requirement that all persons who work with children in NSW (only) teams at this event and under the control of NSWTA to provide: - Working with Children Check and be verified by the NSWTA.

Queensland volunteers must in similar circumstances be compliant with the Queensland Blue Card Check. This is to ensure that all comply with both NSW and Queensland law in relation to Working with Children.

Any person not screened and passed prior to the tournament by NSWTA/QTF is not permitted to perform work as a volunteer for either organisation at the Event where they will be in contact with Children.

41. BLOOD BIN

Any player with a bleeding cut or abrasion is to leave the field immediately and have the cut or abrasion cleaned and covered. At this time, any blood-stained clothing must also be either cleaned or replaced.

If the player does not leave the field immediately, the Referee will stop the game and ask the player to leave the field (normal substitution rules apply).

Once the flow of blood has been stemmed, the cut or abrasion cleaned and covered and any blood-stained clothing and equipment cleaned or replaced, the player may return to the field and continue play.

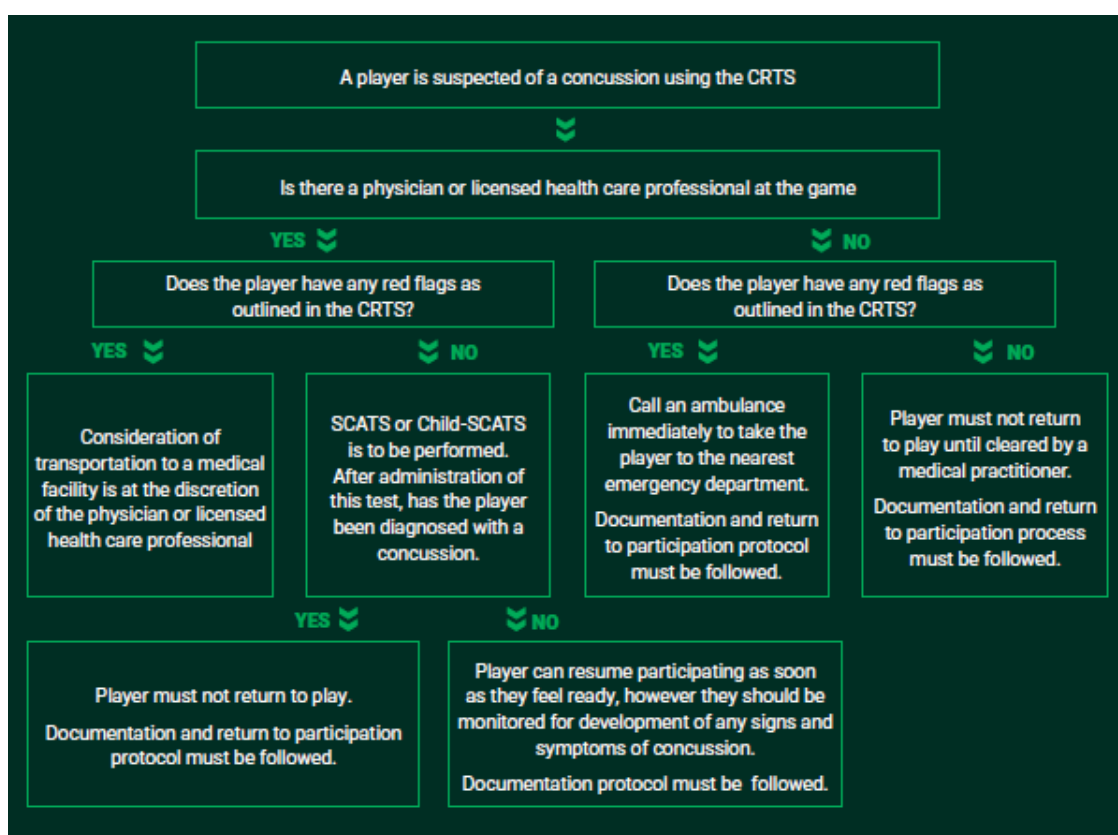


If bleeding cannot be controlled and securely covered, the player must not continue in the game.

42. CONCUSSION IN SPORT POLICY



The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and Australian Medical Association (AMA) have established a joint Position Statement on Concussion in Sport and have launched concussioninsport.gov.au – an Australian Government funded website providing simple but specific advisory tools for athletes, parents, teachers, coaches and medical practitioners. Touch Football Australia have released the Concussion policy has been developed on evidence-based protocols and was adopted in 2021. The TFA approved Concussion in Sport Policy will now align as follows:



The Touch Football Australia Concussion policy can be found [here](#).

43. DOPING POLICY

The TFA Doping Policy this will be enforced at The State of Origin. The Australian Sports Anti Doping Authority (ASADA) could (in accordance with their policy) random test any participant. Any indiscretions found will incur the penalties as prescribed in the TFA Doping Policy. This information can be obtained from the TFA Website.

All Open and 20s players must have completed the Sport Integrity Educational requirements.



44. IMAGES & VIDEO

All persons accept that, by participating in this event, they may be photographed/filmed and that these images may be used by the NSWTA & QTF for promotion of the sport. The NSWTA & QTF will not pass any image/s onto a third party unless prior approval is sought. If you do not wish the NSWTA & QTF to be able to use your image/s or be filmed you must notify NSWTA & QTF in writing.

The Event organisers reserve the right to take immediate possession of any video footage taken at the SOO that may assist in investigating any matter of judiciary, discipline or protest. All care of equipment, tape and data cards will be taken and returned to the owner upon determination of the judiciary, disciplinary hearing or protest.

With the rise in use of social media, State of Origin has regulations around the filming and or photography of players and games at events. To protect the privacy and images, anyone filming and photographing games or players will be required to be registered with and be APPROVED by the host state to have permission to film. In allowing photography/videography applicants must comply with relevant clauses and conditions set out by the NSWTA and QTF around the use of the footage/photos.

Interested parties must make application to the host state prior to the event for any official photographer/videographer and acknowledge along with the approved applicant that images/film MUST NOT be passed on to a third party unless prior approval is sought and granted.

Approved applicants must report to Tournament Control prior to the commencement of the event to be issued with an Official photographer vest that must be worn at all times while engaged at the event. Non-compliance will result in credentials and permissions immediately removed.

All approved photographers and videographers must provide ALL images to NSWTA and QTF.

The QTF and NSWTA will provide live streaming of games of the 2025 State of Origin.



