

2024 Girls Touch Football Report

On Monday 17th June the Western Suburbs/Inner West/Wiley Park girls touch football team competed against girls from 189 different schools at the Sydney East regional championships. Confidence was high with a strong trial game against the boys team but unfortunately we were only able to organise one training session together with the wet weather.

We started very strongly with a convincing 10 nil win over Georges River/Botany. Which was followed by a near perfect 8 nil win over Sutherland/Engadine who are usually one of the strongest teams. Another great win 7-2 over Eastern Suburbs/Sydney Coastal put us in great position for what would essentially be the grand final against Cronulla.

We were confident going into the game with other results showing much smaller wins for Cronulla against the same teams. We started well going 2 nil up early but then nothing went our way for the remainder of the time. Some basic errors, a couple of mistakes in defense and looking tired in attack saw an eventual result of 3-2 Cronulla which was very disappointing as we felt like we were the better team.

Our final game was against South Sydney/Balmain and we once again showed how dominant we were winning 11-0.

Overall a very successful day but unfortunately just missed out on first place.

Lola (Strathfield North) and Laila (Abbotsford) were exceptional through the middle all day and were the two best players at the carnival. Ella and Juliette (Drummoyne) contributed in every game with some excellent long range tries and great defensive reads. Winter (Russell Lea) was our best player driving and Maeve (Drummoyne) excelled against girls two years older than her. Hannah (Abbotsford), Lily and Rose (Dobroyd Point) were great on the wings scoring a bulk of the tries with their speed.

Congratulations to Lola, Laila, Ella and Juliette for selection in the Sydney East team. Only 12 girls were selected from the 6 teams with 3 from Cronulla, 3 from Balmain and 1 from Easts and Sutherland. I felt we were hard done by not having another 2 or 3 selected.

Special thank you to Patricia Michaelopoulos from Strathfield South who helped to coach the girls and provided invaluable instruction on how to improve especially with our set plays. Patricia was the Sydney East coach last year but had to vacate the position because she has been selected to play for Australia at the Touch Football World Cup later this year. Her expertise is always valued and appreciated.

Tom Cleary

