



the touchdowns, waiting to  
be scored. We are the men  
and women of all ages. We  
are the talent of today. We  
are the potential for the  
future. We are one team.  
England Touch.

# ALL ABOUT TOUCH



**ENGLAND TOUCH**

# WHAT IS TOUCH?



Touch is a minimal-contact code of rugby which places an emphasis on skill, an agility of mind as well as feet, and is growing at an exponential rate across the globe

Touch is a sport where:

- All genders and ages can compete as equals
- Training and matches happen throughout the year, not just in the summer
- Teams can be established with minimal costs - all you need is a ball and a place to play. No other specialist equipment is needed
- Players have an active lifestyle and improve their fitness
- The social side is as important as the on-field action
- A dedicated group of volunteers in the England Touch Association and among its member clubs are working very hard to grow participation numbers and improve skills
- More clubs and players are joining all the time
- There is a clearly identified pathway from joining a club as a new player through to representing England on the international stage
- Many countries compete, even if they do not have teams in more 'traditional' codes of rugby

## THE ENGLAND TOUCH ASSOCIATION

First affiliated to the Federation of International Touch (FIT) in 1995, the England Touch Association is the governing body for Touch in this country.

Our role as custodians of the game is to promote, encourage, foster, develop and grow the sport of Touch in England, under FIT rules and guidelines. We are a non-profit organisation primarily funded by membership fees, led by a volunteer-run Executive Committee selected by our members.

Our aim is to ensure anyone wanting to play the sport can do so in a safe, consistent and enjoyable environment.

We are in a period of unrivalled growth in terms of the number of people playing Touch in England. Our current focus is very much on supporting this increased participation in over the forthcoming years, at all levels, but with a particular emphasis on youth participation and development thus providing a strong base for the future.



# ABOUT ENGLAND TOUCH

## INCLUSIVE

Our sport is a sport for all

We will actively promote and make available opportunities for sustained participation in Touch to the greatest number and range of people

## TRANSPARENT

Central to our fabric and underpins our sport

We will be open, ethical and set the highest standards in everything we do, generated on and off the field, through honesty, integrity and fair play

## AMBITIOUS

A strong desire and determination to succeed in our sport

We will not limit our goals or imagination by circumstances in the present, we will envision ambitions beyond boundaries as we improve ourselves and the game of Touch

## UNITED

Success in our sport is only achieved by working together

We will inspire unity and collaboration in all we do. We are one team, with common goals and shared values

## RESPECT

Characterises the basis of our sport

We will promote respect for players, coaches, referees, volunteers and anyone involved in our game at any level. Everyone has something to contribute

## GOVERNANCE

The England Touch Association has been recognised by the Sport and Recreation Alliance as an example of good governance for voluntary sports bodies.

Its board of non-executive directors and management group are drawn from volunteers with wide experience across a range of sectors and industries, all of whom are committed to furthering the sport in England



## MEDICAL

The England Touch Association medical team is undergoing ongoing research into the physical demands Touch players face during matches, so as to better prepare its teams for international tournaments and provide advice regarding best practice to clubs



# CLUB COMPETITIONS



The England Touch Association has four national club competitions which take place throughout the year. In addition to the below there are plenty of development tournaments and leagues happening up and down the country

## BELIEF NTS

The Belief National Touch Series is the highest club competition in the Europe

16 teams, who compete in all four events held through the year and Finals Day

Three men and three women must be on the field at all times

Ultimate aim is to have no more than one team per club  
16th placed team automatically relegated. 15th placed team plays off against 2nd placed CTS team



## SPORTTAPE CTS

The SPORTTAPE Championship Touch Series is the second tiered club competition

This competition follows the same format as the Belief NTS with events held on the same days

Three men and three women must be on the field at all times

1st place promoted. 16th placed team automatically relegated. 15th placed team plays off against 2nd placed DTS team



## STEEDEN DTS

The STEEDEN Development Touch Series gives clubs their first taste of national competition

16 teams per tournament, with entries open to all clubs

Three men and three women must be on the field at all times

1st place automatically promoted



## MWTC

The Men's and Women's Touch Cup is aimed at developing single-gender teams and giving players the opportunity to prepare themselves for Men's and Women's Open international competition

3 tournaments held during the year, and the MWTC has been a huge success in its inaugural season



# REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS



The England Touch Association provides players with the pathway to represent both their region in the Ryvita Touch Nationals, and then to play for England in the European and World Championships

## ENGLAND TEAMS

England has representative teams from all ages from Under-15 all the way up to Over-45s

These teams compete in a variety of international tournaments

England has the reigning champion teams in the following European Touch Championships categories - Women's Open, Women's 27s, Men's 30s, Senior Mixed

X15s, X18s (both mixed gender squads), Boy's 18s and Girl's 18s compete in the Junior Touch Championships

Men's 30s, Men's 35s, Men's 45s, Women's 27s, Women's 35s and Senior Mixed take part in the Senior Touch Championships

In addition, England send three Men's and three Women's teams to the inaugural European Premiership Permit tournament and a Mixed team to the European Championship Permit tournament (both multi-nation competitions for representative teams)



# RYVITA<sup>®</sup>

TOUCH  
NATIONALS

## RYVITA NATIONALS

The Ryvita Touch Nationals - held during the August Bank Holiday weekend - is the premium domestic competition

Regional franchises enter teams into the following categories - Elite Men's and Women's Opens, Mixed Open, Women's 27s and Men's 30s

The Ryvita Touch Nationals is an integral part of the selection process for the England national teams

In 2016 27 teams from eight regions entered into one of six divisions. This year will see even more teams taking part in the August showcase, including invitational sides from Europe

Indeed in 2017 the interest has been so high that the Juniors (15 teams) and Seniors (17 teams) will have their own Nationals in October



ENGLAND TOUCH

[www.EnglandTouch.org.uk](http://www.EnglandTouch.org.uk)

# THE NEXT GENERATION



The England Touch Association is committed to the next generation of players. Our colleagues in Australia have seen Touch explode in popularity, growth based on extensive and committed work in schools, and there are now over 500,000 youngsters playing the sport on a regular basis

## SCHOOLS

Touch is a perfect sport for schools for a number of reasons:

Boys and girls compete alongside each other as equals

Children from different years compete alongside each other as equals

All you need is a ball and some space to play in

Teams are six-a-side, so even the smallest schools can have a team

Touch has an innate structure lacking in other developmental forms of rugby, eg tag rugby, and encourages ball skills, developing co-ordination, improving communication and leadership

The England Touch Association provides a clear pathway from schools into clubs and then representative and international teams

## UNIVERSITIES

Touch is growing exponentially in universities and is an increasingly important part of the England Touch Association's player development pathway

In 2015/16 the University Touch Series was 50 percent bigger than the previous year, with even more teams competing in 2016/17

The England Touch Association will actively work to have Touch be a full part of the British University and College Sport programme by 2020

An England Scholars team - selected from players who have participated in the University Touch Series - is participating in the first European Federation of Touch Championship Permit competition; England is the only competing nation to be sending a students-only squad of players



# 2018 EUROPEAN TOUCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Coming to  
**NOTTINGHAM**  
between  
**JULY 18th and  
21st 2018**



Up to  
**3,000 ATHLETES**  
from  
**14 COUNTRIES**

They'll have  
**ONE GOAL**  
to be  
**THE BEST IN EUROPE**



[www.Englandtouch.org.uk](http://www.Englandtouch.org.uk)

# THE FUTURE

Over the next few years Touch will be going from strength-to-strength here in England as we build on recent successes and aim towards the next World Cup

## HOSTING THE EUROS: A SPRINGBOARD

England Touch will be working with schools and businesses in the Nottingham area to build awareness of the European Championships over the next year

We will be encouraging our member clubs to use the European Championships as the focus for recruitment and development

England Touch will use the opportunity to build effective media partnerships to help grow the sport's exposure, with numerous sponsorship packages available at all levels

## DEVELOPING FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN ALIKE

In 2017 nearly 150 youngsters trialled for the England Juniors teams. This is nearly double the number in 2016

The England Touch Association and several member clubs are successfully trialling programmes in schools, and we will look to develop this talent stream in the future

More and more women are joining the sport at all levels, too, from playing all the way to the England Touch Association management committee and board of directors

## O2 TOUCH AND THE RFU

The RFU recently announced record numbers of participants in its O2 Touch programme, with 20,000 people playing regularly

The England Touch Association is seeing its own positive impact from O2 Touch, too, as more and more clubs from this programme join the England Touch Association's structured competitions, with players representing England in various categories

The England Touch Association is working in partnership with the RFU to help develop O2 Touch, providing coaching and refereeing expertise to their staff and O2 centres, as well as at tournaments and showcase events







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