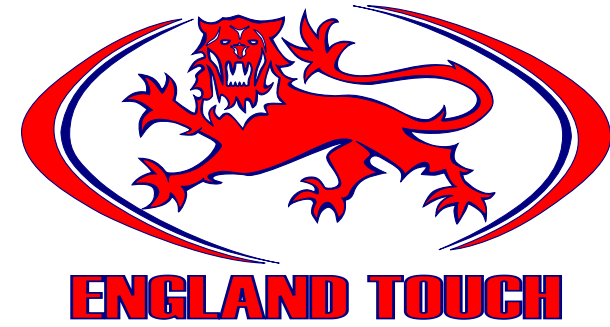


# ENGLAND TOUCH SCHOOLS



The perfect sport for all ages

# OVERVIEW

Touch Rugby is one of the fastest growing sports in the country with over 20,000 people playing regularly nationwide.

Touch can be played by all genders, skill and ages alike, making it one of, if not the most inclusive sport in the world. While it is most commonly thought of as a 'warm up' game for Rugby, Touch has its own governing body as well as a World Cup and has now established itself firmly both here in the UK as a sport and across Europe in its own right.



2018 will see England host the European Touch Championships, and as of January over 15 countries had confirmed their participation, almost as many who compete in the Rugby World Cup!

England Touch is currently working on getting more younger players involved in the sport starting at the basic level and going all the way through to international representation. There are several pathways that aids this progression, from schools programmes through to club competitions and regional representative teams.

# JUNIOR TOUCH LEAGUE

On Wednesday afternoons for six weeks between May 2nd and June 6th there will be a league format for Mixed Under-16 teams for boys and girls. Unlike other forms of Rugby, Touch can be played by all ages, so these teams are open to all players aged 16 and under, not just the one age group.

This league will aid the development of younger players and can further the progression of those who take part from school. The league will offer qualified coaches and referees who will help players out by offering tips in the game to further their progression.



## EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS EXHIBITION MATCH

There is an opportunity for the winning team of the schools tournament to play an exhibition match against other school teams from around the country. This game will take place in Nottingham at the European Touch Championship, a competition will have the best European players and therefore offers a great opportunity for the young players to see what they can achieve and can give them something to aim for.

# PLAYER PROGRESSION

## LOCAL CLUB MANCHESTER CHARGERS

Manchester Chargers is the home of Touch in Manchester and as one of only 16 national teams playing in the Elite Touch competitions ran by the NGB. They have players spanning all levels, from those who have never picked up a ball before all the way through to international players representing the club and England at the World Cup and welcome players of all ages. They compete in local social leagues, development and national tournaments and are looking to establish and expand their junior section.

## TALENT ID JUNIOR TOUCH NATIONALS

Players can trial to represent their region against the other parts of the country, offering the next step up in competitiveness and quality of opponents, coaches, and referees. There are currently four categories at Junior Touch Nationals: Mixed 15s, Boys' 18s, Girls' 18s, and Mixed 18s. In the 2017 event, the Northern teams had some great results, with all three 18s teams the runaway winners of their respective categories and the Mixed 15s finishing fourth.

## ENGLAND JUNIOR TOUCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Selected from the Junior Touch Nationals, players can be invited into a training squad with the opportunity to play for their country. There are currently four categories of junior England teams: Mixed 15s, Boys' 18s, Girls' 18s and Mixed 18s. Players selected for these teams will then play against other European countries at the 2019 Junior Touch Championships.