



**ENGLAND TOUCH  
BUCS UNIVERSITY TOUCH CHAMPIONSHIPS  
INFORMATION PACK 2025-26**





## WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY TOUCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The UTC is the premier inter-university Touch Rugby competition in the United Kingdom. Originally created with only a handful of university teams in 2014, interest continues to grow year on year.

Thanks to the continued increase in interest, the 2025-26 University Touch Championships continues to form part of the British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS) sporting program. The England Touch Association will continue to manage and run the series on behalf of BUCS and between the two organisations, we will continue to aim to provide the best possible experiences for university Touch Rugby players. Whether you are a new or vastly experienced club, the competition is designed to give you enjoyable yet challenging experiences in an environment that is friendly, inclusive and professional.

This document has been created as a 'one-stop-shop' for university club captains, committees and support staff to refer to when taking part in the UTC. It gives background on:

- Competition Rules, Regulations and Eligibility
- How to enter the Competition
- The Competition Structure
- Code of Conduct
- How to get in contact with the competition management team

This document goes hand-in-hand with the England Touch Club Toolkit which gives more information about how to get involved in Touch, how to play and how to grow your club. You can find the toolkit [here](#).

If you are looking to enter the competition for the first time, please feel free to get in contact with us if you have any further questions. We are always happy to support you and look forward to helping you grow your club until you are a regular on the UTC circuit.

We look forward to seeing you on a Touch pitch very soon,

Ian Tankard  
University Events Manager  
England Touch  
[university@englandtouch.org.uk](mailto:university@englandtouch.org.uk)



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## THE UNIVERSITY TOUCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Aims of the UTC

The University Touch Championships (UTC) was formed in 2014 (as the University National Touch Series Uni NTS) to provide an inter-university Touch competition that caters for all levels of teams. Over the past ten years the series has expanded dramatically to cater for the increased number of universities now playing the sport. The series aims are split into our vision, mission and values:

#### Vision

- Provide opportunities for everyone from all Universities to participate in a way that suits them, on a regular basis in a high quality and friendly environment
- To facilitate and govern the expansion of Touch to every institution across the country and become widely recognised within the university sporting community
- To grow Touch within Universities & Colleges and help continue to develop the sport within higher education.

#### Mission

- To provide opportunities for all students to play Touch, developing competitive outlets via nationwide tournaments
- To provide a platform for elite University players to be recognised and selected for regional and international squads
- To provide a platform for developing players to gain experience and enjoy Touch in a friendly, inclusive and enjoyable environment
- To assist University clubs in providing high quality environments for their members to learn and develop to fulfil their desired potential
- To assist University clubs in gaining the support of their Universities and Students' Unions for further support and funding

#### Values

- Inclusive - The sport is a sport for all
- Transparent - Central to fabric and underpins the sport
- United - Success in the sport is only achieved by working together
- Ambitious - Strong desire and determination to succeed in the sport
- Respect - Characterises the basis of the sport

## REGULATIONS & AFFILIATION

Please see the BUCS Website for the full Sport Specific Regulations and Affiliation Requirements [HERE](#).



For information on how to obtain affiliation please see the sections further in this document.

## KEY CONTACTS

### Key contacts in the England Touch Team

England Touch has an extensive management team to help you get your club up and running and then taking the next steps on your journey. Here are some of our key individuals – and a full list of the England Touch team can be found [here](#).

University Touch & UTC Management

Ian Tankard

[university@englandtouch.org.uk](mailto:university@englandtouch.org.uk)



## 2025-26 SEASON DATES, LOCATIONS & STRUCTURE

### Main Competition

The 2025-26 UTC season includes 5 rounds for mixed gender teams. This initially comprises regional qualifiers split into 'North' & 'South' regions. These rounds will act as qualifying rounds for the national competitions that will occur in the second half of the season.

Date	Location	Entry Fee	Round	Spaces Available
<b>Autumn Semester - Regional Qualifiers</b>				
TBC	TBC	£205	2025-26 University Touch Regional Qualifier Round 1 - North	24
01/11/2025	Surrey Sports Park	£205	2025-26 University Touch Regional Qualifier Round 1 - South	24
06/12/2025	Newark RUFC	£205	2025-26 University Touch Regional Qualifier Round 2 - North	24
15/11/2025	Oxford Harlequins RFC	£205	2025-26 University Touch Regional Qualifier Round 2 - South	24
<b>Spring Semester - National Championships</b>				
07/02/2026	Nottingham	£265	2025-26 University Touch National Championships Round 1	40
28/02/2026	Nottingham	£265	2025-26 University Touch National Championships Round 2	40
21/03/2026	Nottingham	£265	2025-26 University Touch National Championships Round 3 (Finals)	40
07/03/2026			RESERVE DATE FOR IF A ROUND IS CANCELLED	

The regional divide is drawn approximately level with Cambridge, below is a list of teams who have previously entered UTC events showing which Universities who qualify for each region. If you are new to the UTC and unsure which region you qualify for, please get in contact with us ([university@englandtouch.org.uk](mailto:university@englandtouch.org.uk)).



## Known University Entry Regional Split

### Northern

- University of Birmingham
- University of Cambridge
- Durham University
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Leeds
- Liverpool John Moores
- Loughborough University
- University of Manchester
- University of Nottingham
- Nottingham Trent University
- St Andrews University
- Wolverhampton University
- York University

### Southern Region

- University of Bath
- University of Bristol
- University of Cardiff
- University of Exeter
- Falmouth University
- Imperial College
- University of Gloucestershire
- University of Oxford
- Oxford Brookes University
- Royal Veterinary College
- University of Southampton
- University of Surrey

## Season Structure & Competition Points

Please refer to the Sport Specific Regulations.

### Competition Points

Competition Points are awarded to teams at each event based on their finishing position. (NOTE: Competition Points are not equivalent to BUCS points) Competition points are used to rank teams for future events and ultimately decide the winner of the UTC.

The number of competition points available is dependent on the number of teams entered into an event. The maximum number of competition points available at each event is calculated by multiplying the number of teams entered into the event by two (2). The first placed team will receive the maximum





number of competition points. (E.g. in a 16 team regional qualifying event, 32 points will be awarded to the 1st placed team.) The second placed team will receive 2 points less than the maximum etc. resulting in the last placed team receiving 2 points regardless of the number of teams entered.

Competition Points gained in Regional Rounds 1 & 2 are not carried over into the National Championships. They are used purely for ranking teams for National Round 1.

## Regional Events

The regional rounds are open to up to 24 teams. Two rounds take place, split into 'North' and 'South' regions. These rounds act as qualifying events for the national championships and are held in October & November. These rounds are of 'open' group and knockout style where any of the 24 teams can win the event and teams of all and any capability could play one another.

For regional round 1, teams will be ranked into the draw based on their 2024-25 finishing position. If a team(s) did not enter the 2024-25 season, they will be placed after the lowest ranking team from the 2024-25 season, in alphabetical order.

After round 1 has taken place, teams will be ranked based on their finishing position and receive competition points as per the above. This ranking will then be used for the round 2 draw. Any team(s) entered into round 2 who did not enter round 1 will be placed after the lowest ranking team from round 1, in alphabetical order.

Teams will once again receive competition points based on their finishing position in round 2 which will be added to any points received in round 1. The sum of these points will produce the regional ranking tables for each region. In the case of ties, please see the sport specific regulations.

These regional ranking tables are used to decide the qualifying positions for national championships round 1.

## National Championships

The national championship rounds are open to up to 40 teams. Three rounds take place between February and March. These national events are each split into 2 divisions or tiers, known as the Cup/Plate & Bowl/Shield/Silver respectively.

The top 8 teams from each region will be placed into the Cup/Plate tier, the remaining teams into the Bowl/Shield/Silver tier. Attending the regional qualifiers is important for teams who are looking to play at the highest level in the national championships. Any teams wishing to enter the national championships who have not taken part in the regional qualifiers will be ranked below those teams that have (provided there are spaces available.) As a result, it is highly likely that these teams will take part in the Bowl/Shield/Silver tier for round 1.

After round 1, teams will receive competition points depending on their finishing position. This ranking will be used to determine the draw for round 2. However, the finalists of the Bowl tier in round 1 shall



be promoted into the Cup/Plate above, and the 7th & 8th placed teams in the Plate tier will be demoted to the Bowl/Shield tier below. This gives opportunity for those teams to play against competitors that may be more closely matched and also accounts for any potential disparity of competition level between the initial regions.

After round 2, teams will once again receive competition points and these will be added to the points received in round 1. The sum of these points will be used to rank teams into the draw for round 3, the finals. In the case of ties for position, please refer to the sport specific regulations.

After round 3, teams will receive a final set of competition points which will be added to the totals from round 1 and 2. The team who has collected the most points from all 3 rounds will be declared the BUCS University Touch Champion 2025-26. NOTE: This means that the winner of the overall series may not be the winner of the round 3 finals event.

## BUCS Points

BUCS Points will be awarded after the third round of the national championships. Points will be awarded to the top 8 teams in the final rankings as shown. These are awarded as per BUCS Regulations Appendix 1 ('BUCS Competition Offer and Associated BUCS Points') linked [HERE](#).

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
<b>Championship</b>	50	35	24	16	14	12	10	8

## End of Season Awards

The winners of each tier after each event day will receive a trophy during the presentation ceremony. Awards will also be given to the 'Most Valuable' Female and Male players from the day's proceedings as chosen by opposition teams.

After the Finals Round on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March, there will be an awards night in Nottingham which all teams are invited to and in addition to the standard tournament awards, the following awards will be given out:

- Overall Series Winners BUCS Trophy & Medals (as determined by competition points)
- 2nd Place BUCS Medals
- 3rd Place BUCS Medals
- Female Player of the Season
- Male Player of the Season
- Top Try Scorer - Female
- Top Try Scorer - Male
- Most Nominated Female MVP
- Most Nominated Male MVP



- Most Improved Team
- Best Newcomer Team
- Team Spirit Award (Awarded to team who have shown the highest level of sportsmanship as voted for by opposition teams)
- There will be some further fun awards to be given for 2025-26 which we will reveal in the near future.

It is hoped that as many clubs as possible will attend the end of season Awards Ceremony and Celebration Event.

## COMPETITION ADMIN

### Membership with the ETA

All clubs and players are required to be affiliated to England Touch to attend Uni NTS competitions, this is for insurance and welfare purposes. There are also a number of benefits that come with an ETA membership. Find out more [here](#).

An annual University Club Membership is £100 whilst a player membership is £20.

Expense	Amount	Payable by	Notes
Club Association and Membership Fee	£100	The Club	Yearly membership with the England Touch
Player Membership Fee	£20	The Player	Yearly individual membership with the England Touch

### Individual Membership

All players in the UTC must be registered with the England Touch for insurance and welfare purposes. The fee is only £20 for the season. Players should follow the process below:

1. Go to [www.EnglandTouch.org.uk](http://www.EnglandTouch.org.uk)
2. Under 'Develop' → 'Membership', please select 'Account Login' (This is applicable to everyone, even if the player does not yet have an ETA account.)
3. For players who already have an ETA membership, use your login credentials. Use the 'Forgotten Password' button if applicable. If you have had an ETA account before but cannot remember your email or password do not be tempted to create a new account.
4. For players who do not yet have an ETA membership click 'Sign Up' and fill out the details requested. (Do not panic if your university club is not yet listed.)
5. Once you are logged in click 'Membership' in the top left.



6. Click on the red 'Memberships' placard button.
7. Choose the membership that is right for you (nominally 'University').
8. Follow instructions and complete payment.

Feel free to explore the membership area, it is through this platform you can sign up to courses and use membership benefits as well.

It can take up to 5 working days for payment to be processed and to get your account up and running so please be patient. If there are any issues please use the email [membership@englandtouch.org.uk](mailto:membership@englandtouch.org.uk)

## Club Membership

In order to register your club with England Touch please follow the below process.

For a new club who has not previously been registered with the ETA:

1. Login to your existing personal account, or create a new one in your name if you don't already have one as per above.
2. Navigate to the 'My Profile' section and click on 'Credentials'
3. Choose 'Add Credentials' and select 'Application: Touch Operator'
4. Complete and save the form to let us know about your operation. If accepted, we will create a 'club' profile for your operation and get in touch with you to complete the full affiliation registration and payment form.

For a club who has previously been registered with the ETA, if you are a newly appointed chair or president, you need to be assigned as an administrator to your club. Please see the guidance document [here](#) for further details on how to do this.

You may need to contact your previous club chair if they currently have admin rights for the account.

It can take up to 5 working days for payment to be processed and to get your account up and running so please be patient. If there are any issues please contact [membership@englandtouch.org.uk](mailto:membership@englandtouch.org.uk)

NOTE: Only one membership payment is required per club, not for each team within the club.

## Event Registration & Entry Fees

Team sheets and finances are managed through BUCS Play. It is the responsibility of the Institution BUCS Administrator to register teams and a team captain for an event. The event standard entry fees are as follows:

- Regional Qualifier Event: £205 per team
- National Qualifier Event: £265 per team

Entry Information and documentation will be made available when the entry window opens. This document will outline specific event information including location, entry details, regulations etc.

The team entry window will be open for 6 weeks and the deadline set 2 weeks before the event. In the case where entry spaces are still available, a 'second wave' window will be open for a further week for



any further entries. Note that for any entries made in the second wave, the entry fee will be increased by 20%.

In the case where more teams have requested entry than there are spaces, spaces will be assigned as per the sport specific regulations.

The Event Guide for each event will be published 1 week prior to the event and will include the draw, competition proceedings and any further details not included in the entry information.

Team captains / University administrators are required to complete their team sheet on BUCS Play 4 days prior to the event. This will then be checked to ensure all ETA memberships are valid. Team captains and institution administrators will receive emails in the case where memberships are invalid or need to be renewed.

Team captains are then required to complete a digital copy of their team sheet the evening before the event with shirt numbers of each player included.

### Withdrawals

Withdrawals must be made in writing through your institution administrator and emailed to BUCS. Withdrawals made prior to the Team Entry Deadline will not be charged. Withdrawals made after the Team Entry Deadline will still be charged the entry fees.

For further information, please refer to the BUCS Withdrawal Policy.

### Entry Timeline

- Tuesday 8 weeks + 4 days (60 Days) before event: Entry Information available and team entry window open
- Thursday 2 weeks + 2 days (16 Days) before event: Team entry deadline
- Thursday 1 week + 2 days (9 Days) before event: Second wave entry deadline
- Saturday 1 weeks (7 Days) before event: Event Guide & Draw Published
- Tuesday 4 Days before event: Deadline for team sheets to be completed on BUCS Play
- Thursday 2 Days before event: Alert to Captains if any memberships are invalid
- Friday 1 Day before event: Captains to complete digital team sheet

The table below outlines key dates for each event (\*North Round 1 dates subject to change once venue / date are confirmed)

Event	Event Date	Entry Window Open & Entry Information Published -60 Days	Entry Deadline - 16 Days	Event Guide Published - 7 Days	(Second Wave Entry Deadline) - 9 Days	Individual Entry Deadline -4 Days
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Regional Round 1 - North	Sat 08/11/2025	Tue 30/09/2025	Thu 23/10/2025	Sat 01/11/2025	Thu 30/10/2025	Tue 04/11/2025
Regional Round 1 - South	Sat 01/11/2025	Tue 30/09/2025	Thu 16/10/2025	Sat 25/10/2025	Thu 23/10/2025	Tue 28/10/2025
Regional Round 2 - North	Sat 06/12/2025	Tue 14/10/2025	Thu 20/11/2025	Sat 29/11/2025	Thu 27/11/2025	Tue 02/12/2025
Regional Round 2 - South	Sat 15/11/2025	Tue 30/09/2025	Thu 30/10/2025	Sat 08/11/2025	Thu 06/11/2025	Tue 11/11/2025
National Round 1	Sat 07/02/2026	Tue 09/12/2025	Thu 22/01/2026	Sat 31/01/2026	Thu 29/01/2026	Tue 03/02/2026
National Round 2	Sat 28/02/2026	Tue 30/01/2026	Thu 12/02/2026	Sat 21/02/2026	Thu 19/02/2026	Tue 24/02/2026
National Round 3	Sat 21/03/2026	Tue 20/01/2026	Thu 05/03/2026	Sat 14/03/2026	Thu 12/03/2026	Tue 17/03/2026

## Communication, Information & Publicity

### Event Entry & Team Sheet Issues

In the case where clubs or teams are experiencing issues with entering events or completing team sheets, clubs should contact BUCS via their institution administrator. The ETA will not be able to resolve issues with this system, nor will it be able to accept entries to events outside of those registered through BUCS Play.

The only time the ETA may contact the club or institution administrator will be in cases where memberships are expired for players named on the team sheet once submitted. This will be done in time for players to renew their membership before the event takes place.

### ETA Affiliation and Membership Issues

In the case where clubs or players are experiencing issues in purchasing ETA membership, they should contact [membership@englandtouch.org.uk](mailto:membership@englandtouch.org.uk) for further support.

### Entry Information & Event Guides

Previously, the ETA has directly provided these documents to clubs via their email address. These documents will now come primarily via BUCS. However, copies will also be made available to teams



who have entered each event and the ETA Events team will always be on hand to support with any further queries.

### General Season Information

The ETA will continue to endeavour to publish general information and updates directly to club captains and will continue to act as a first port of call for any queries clubs may have. This can be done either via email or telephone. This information will also be published via BUCS who will pass it on to Institution Administrators. In some cases, there will be queries that the ETA cannot answer without the issues going via BUCS, at which point clubs should use their Institution Administrator for support.

Please get in touch with the ETA if you would like your club email address or representative's email address to be added to its UTC mailing list.

### WhatsApp

The ETA utilises WhatsApp as a way of communicating any critical information to captains and club organisers. A season wide group has been created for 2025-26, if you are a new University team entering the UTC for the first time and wish to be added to this group please contact the ETA University Lead ([university@englandtouch.org.uk](mailto:university@englandtouch.org.uk)). Groups will also be set up for each event as necessary.

### Publicity

The ETA will endeavour to also set up a WhatsApp group for club Publicity, Marketing and Social Media Secretaries. The ETA is keen to ensure that any photos, videos and publicity material is captured and shared to continue to spread the word about Touch. It will also set up a drive space for season photos to be added into.

The ETA uses Instagram as their primary social media. We'd encourage all players, clubs and institutions to follow us @universitytouchuk and @englandtouch as we love using this platform to advertise events and celebrate our great sport.



## TOURNAMENT DAYS

### Playing Rules

All games in the UTC are played under the FIT 5th Edition Rules, a copy of which can be found [HERE](#).

Clubs should make themselves fully aware of the rules before attending events.

### Tournament Schedule & Set-Up

For each UTC event, organisers will send out an Event Guide a week before the event as previously mentioned. The Event Guide will include specific details for the event including: address, timings, regulations, draw, setup etc. However, please use the below as guidance for general UTC practice. Note these are subject to change depending on the number of teams entered.

#### Regional Event Draw – 16 - 20 Team Setup

20 places are available in each event for each region. The teams are drawn into 4/5 pools of 4 teams. The ranking for the draw is detailed in the sport specific regulations. The ranked teams are then placed into each pool using a 'returning serpentine' form which ensures the pools are evenly matched relative to one another.

During the morning of the competition, teams will play the other teams in their pool. Teams are awarded group points (different from competition points) as follows:

- Win - 4 Points
- Draw - 2 Points
- Loss - 1 Point
- Forfeit - 0 Points

After all pool games are completed, the teams in each pool will be ranked based on the number of group points they have gained. In the case of a tie for position, see the sport specific regulations. A team's position will determine where they qualify for the knockout competition in the afternoon. First and second placed teams in each group will qualify for the Cup Quarter Finals. The winners of these games will advance to the Cup Semi Finals whilst the losers will be placed in the Plate Semi Finals. From these Semi-Finals, all teams will either advance to the respective Final or a Play-Off. This allows teams to achieve a final ranking of 1st to 8th.

Third and fourth placed teams will qualify for the Bowl Quarter Finals. The winners of these games will advance to the Bowl Semi Finals whilst the losers will be placed in the Shield Semi Finals. From these Semi-Finals, all teams will either advance to the respective Final or a Play-Off. This allows teams to achieve a final ranking of 9th to 16th. Where entries reach 20 teams an additional Salver competition will be included. Please note these formats are subject to change to incorporate the number of teams entered, to ensure all teams can be appropriately ranked for competition points.

For a visual representation of this tournament format please see an example schedule [here](#).





## National Event - 32 Team Setup

40 places are available in each competition. Where there are 32 teams, these are split into 2 divisions of 16 teams. The ranking for the draw is detailed in the sport specific regulations. Within each division, the 16 teams will be split into 4 pools of 4 teams. The set of 16 ranked teams are placed into each pool using a 'returning serpentine' form which ensures the pools are evenly matched relative to one another.

During the morning of the competition, teams will play the other teams in their pool. Teams are awarded group points as per above. After all the pool games are completed, teams are ranked 1 to 4 within their pool based on the number of points they have gained. In the case of a tie of points see the sport specific regulations.

The team's rank will determine where they qualify for the knockout competition in the afternoon. First and second placed teams, in the Cup/Plate tier, in each group will qualify for the Cup Quarter Finals. The winners of these games will advance to the Cup Semi Finals whilst the losers will be placed in the Cup Play-Offs. From these Semi-Finals, teams will either advance to the Final or a Play-Off. This allows teams to achieve a final ranking of 1st to 8th.

The third and fourth placed teams, in the Cup/Plate tier, will qualify for the Plate Quarter Finals. The structure then follows as per the above.

The first and second placed teams, in the Bowl/Shield tier, will qualify for the Bowl Quarter Finals. The structure then follows as per the above.

The third and fourth placed teams, in the Bowl/Shield tier, will qualify for the Shield Quarter Finals. The structure then follows as per the above.

Where entries exceed 32 teams an additional Salver competition will be included. Please note these formats are subject to change to incorporate the number of teams entered, to ensure all teams can be appropriately ranked for competition points.

For a visual representation of this tournament format please see an example schedule [here](#).

## Presentations

Organisers would always like to see teams remain at the venue for the presentations. Trophies will be awarded to the winners of the Cup, Plate, Bowl & Shield and also to the Most Valuable Male and Female Players. The presentation also gives teams an opportunity to also thank referees and officials who have helped make the event happen.

## Number of Games & Playing Time

To allow for a full event to be played on the day of a UTC round, games are shortened from the standard playing time of 40 minutes to 20 minutes, as per FIT Regulation allowance. These games will be played



as 20 minutes straight through using try scored turn around (otherwise known as touchdown turn around).

Competitions will always be configured to ensure that teams play at least 5 games in a round, amounting to 100 minutes of playing time. Teams should never play more than 6 games in a round, totalling 120 minutes.

In some very unlikely cases due to reasons out of the UTC organisers control, such as a late withdrawal, teams may only play 4 games in a round but organisers will endeavour to avoid this as much as possible.

Teams may play more minutes if they need to take part in a drop-off in the case of a drawn knock-out game.

Organisers will always aim to ensure teams are not required to play games back-to-back and have at least a 25 minute break between two games. In some cases this may be unavoidable but teams will be made aware of this in advance.

## Event Schedule Google Sheet

At events, organisers will use a spreadsheet to track scores and rank teams as per the process mentioned above. The link to this document will be shared in the Event Guide, which can further be shared by club committee's to their players.

Using this system allows teams to track their progress and look up all event information without needing to visit tournament control.

Event organisers will always endeavour to communicate event information to teams via tannoy and/or the WhatsApp group on the event day, however it is assumed that teams will be using the spreadsheet to know where their next game may be and at what time.

In the case of urgent, unexpected communications, event organisers will ensure that a team is communicated with directly.

## Event Control

At all events, organisers will set up an event control post where teams will be able to confirm and double check information as necessary. Event control will also act as a place for referees, officials and Physios to rest.

Teams will be expected to report to event control at the beginning of the day to confirm they have arrived and to also attend the pre-tournament briefing at the prescribed time. This is also the time to hand in their team sheet.



## Refereeing Requirements

### Definitions

**Full-Time Referee** - Someone who attends an event solely to referee, is not part of a team or named on a team sheet to play. As a result, this person is entitled to expenses as per the ETA Referee Expenses Policy found [here](#). This person will have at least attended a Level 1 referee course.

**Player Referee** - Someone who attends a tournament to play but will referee games when they are not playing to help the tournament happen. This person will not be asked to referee the same number of games as a full-time referee and as a result is not entitled to referee expenses. A player referee should attend a competition prepared to be asked to referee and have their own whistle.

To enable Uni NTS events to happen, teams are likely to be asked to provide player referees, especially if they have not provided a Full-Time referee. This is because the availability of Full-Time Referees will not cover all games that happen throughout the competition.

Clubs are expected to provide a Full-Time referee for every team that they enter into a UTC event, but are not required to in order to attend the event. This is especially the case if the club is entering multiple teams or consistently qualifying in the Cup or Plate tiers. If a club nominates a Full-Time referee(s) they are highly unlikely to receive player referee allocations.

Unlike previous seasons, clubs entering multiple teams into an event are not required to provide Full-Time referees, however, they are strongly encouraged to do so. If the club is consistently not providing Full-Time referees, they must be able to show the ETA how they are developing members who are capable of refereeing within their club.

Unless the club is new to the UTC or has provided a Full-Time referee, clubs should expect to be allocated player referee slots. If your club is in-experienced or new to the UTC, the ETA understands your priority is developing a player base. These clubs should look at developing members with referee experience toward the latter end of the season.

The ETA is facilitating a number of Level 1 referee courses through the season as an opportunity for clubs to develop players who are capable of refereeing. Clubs are strongly advised to take advantage of these opportunities so that player referee allocations can be shared out between members.

Upon arriving at events and registering at event control, teams are expected to highlight those players on their team sheet who are capable of refereeing. Player referee slots will always be highlighted on the tournament schedule google sheet. It is the responsibility of each team to manage their player referees. Event management will always aim to ensure player referees are aware of when they are needed but it is ultimately the club's responsibility to manage this. Missing a player referee slot may result in the player referee's team being deducted competition points.



## BEHAVIOUR & CONDUCT

### Discipline & Code of Behaviour

All participants must comply with the BUCS and ETA code of conduct while taking part and supporting at the UTC, the full details can be found [here](#). The England Touch Code of Behaviour applies to all participants including players, coaches, referees, administrators and supporters and sanctions can be applied to individuals, teams and clubs as necessary. Participant enjoyment should not be compromised at any point and necessary actions will be taken should they be needed to ensure this.

In the event that any complaint is made or the Code of Behaviour is not followed, the ETA Disciplinary Policy will apply and be used to determine if a sanction is necessary and the severity of that sanction. The policy can be found [here](#).

If any participant wishes to make a complaint, they should visit tournament control or follow the guidelines outlined in the Disciplinary Policy.

### Serious Foul Play & Referee Abuse

If organisers are alerted to any serious incident such as referee abuse, they hold the right to sanction the player and/or team as outlined in the Disciplinary Policy. Referee abuse and serious foul play will not be tolerated under any circumstances within the UTC. If referee abuse occurs, this carries the potential for individual(s) and/or teams to be disqualified from the tournament and in serious cases, may receive further disciplinary actions from England Touch and/or BUCS. This is standard protocol for all England Touch events.



## HIGH PERFORMANCE PATHWAYS

For performance athletes, or players looking to further develop their game at a high level, the UTC already provides a pathway into elite levels of the sport in the UK. The ETA is currently awaiting directional guidance from FIT regarding U20, U23 and International University competition, however, we endeavour to ensure we create a pathway for any student wishing to play at a higher level.

The ETA will support all clubs in following ways to ensure HP students have opportunities to be selected for performance teams:

- **Links to Local Clubs**

The ETA will ensure a link is created between the university club and their local non-university team. It is hoped that university players will get opportunities to train with more experienced individuals and potentially play in the national summer series events for that club if they so desire.

- **Support to attend Regional Trials**

University clubs will be invited to enter teams in their relevant trial events for regional teams. Each year, the regional squads attend the ETA Nationals which is the tournament used to select players for England's International teams. For more information, see our development pages [here](#).

In the case of universities residing outside of England, the ETA will still endeavour to ensure clubs are linked with their relevant National Governing Body so that they are also aware of the performance pathways available to them.

- **U20 England Squads (Mixed, Men's and Women's)**

England Touch would like to reach out to University players who are eligible to represent England at U20 level and the England Touch High Performance Coaches will be conducting talent ID at UTC 2025/26. University students may be eligible for England Touch Youth and/or Opens Squads, dependent on age (currently Men's, Women's and Mixed 20s Programmes plus Open (Age) Elite Programmes).

The Federation of International Touch's main eligibility criteria below. Full details on athlete eligibility can be found on their website: <https://docs.internationaltouch.org/policy/player-eligibility/>

A player is eligible to play an international match for:

1. The nation in which the player is born.
2. The nation in which either of the player's parents was born.
3. The nation in which either of the player's grandparents was born.
4. The nation which is the player's principal place of residence (for 2 years prior to the international competition for Tier 1 nations such as England).



If you have any queries with regard to eligibility, please email [sammie.phillips@englandtouch.org.uk](mailto:sammie.phillips@englandtouch.org.uk).

**Any eligible players wishing to be talent ID at the 2025/26 UTC are requested to complete the form below.**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeEh\\_OAhMuwhTqp9rtPluDVIMEkHqBj3BZdxeFXI-Ks0wHLjQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeEh_OAhMuwhTqp9rtPluDVIMEkHqBj3BZdxeFXI-Ks0wHLjQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)