

## Referee Selection policy

*Note: at the time of writing, it is not yet known which requirement(s) will be imposed by the EFT/ERC regarding participation of referees at the 2018 European Touch Championships. The below selection policy assumes that the event is oversubscribed and/or that a referee selection is necessary. If the event requires more referees and the ETA is in a position to provide more referees (who may not satisfy the criteria below), the ETA will not prevent them from nominating and participating in the event.*

### 1. Background

With Touch growing rapidly but the European Touch Championships (ETC) being limited in size by the number of teams a NTA can send, it is only a matter of time before tournaments will require fewer referees than referees wanting to attend. Historically, the 2014 ETC (Swansea) was the first oversubscribed ETC, although the 2016 ETC (Jersey) wasn't, potentially because of the hard-to-reach location. With the 2018 ETC hosted by the ETA in Nottingham, it can be assumed that the event will be oversubscribed, with a high number of England referees wishing to attend their "home" tournament. This selection policy puts forward how England referees will be selected for the 2018 ETC.

### 2. Introduction

The following policy assumes that the ETA will be guaranteed a certain number of referees for the tournament, and that additional referees may or may not be invited, depending on how many referees the other NTAs want or can provide to the tournament. As it can be safely assumed that the number of England referees wishing to participate in the 2018 ETC will be (significantly) higher than the number of guaranteed spots, reasonably strict criteria have been chosen for this selection policy.

At the end of the 2017 Touch season referees wishing to attend the 2018 ETC will submit their Expression of Interest, after which the referees will be put into 2 categories: those meeting the selection requirements, and those who don't. Within each category, all referees will be ranked. Meeting the selection requirements is no guarantee of being invited, but referees meeting the requirements will always be selected first. If fewer referees meet the requirements than the number of spots guaranteed to the ETA, all referees meeting the requirements will be selected, and some referees who haven't met all the selection requirements will also be selected, following a ranking process. If more referees meet the requirements than the number of guaranteed spots to the ETA, the ETA Referee Committee will rank the referees meeting the selection requirements.

### 3. Selection requirements

#### a. Level

The referee must hold a Level 3, Level 4 or Level 5 Touch Europe Referee badge.

Non-European badges will be considered on an ad-hoc basis. No distinction is made between Open and Senior badges.

#### b. Upgrade opportunity

The referee must either be eligible for an upgrade, or, if already Level 5, hold or actively work towards the Level 2 Referee Coach accreditation.

#### c. Development - referee course

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The referee must make every effort to present at least one referee course in the 12 months prior to the event. If the referee was an accredited presenter at least 12 months prior to the event, the referee must also have made every effort to present at least one referee course between 24 and 12 months prior to the event. In each case, consideration will be given to the amount of time between the referee's attendance at the RRRC and the respective deadline, and the practicality of presenting a course within that time frame.

### d. Development - referee coaching

The referee must make every effort to attend at least one event (day) as a full-time coach in the 12 months prior the event. The event must be a NTS/CTS, DTS, UTS or the ETA Nationals. Foreign tournaments will be considered on an ad-hoc basis. If the referee was an accredited referee coach at least 12 months prior to the event, the referee must also have made every effort to attend at least one event (day) as a full-time coach between 24 and 12 months prior to the event. In each case, consideration will be given to the amount of time between the referee's RRRC and the respective deadline, and the practicality of attending a tournament as a coach within that time frame.

### e. Attendance

The referee must have attended a majority of days of the elite ETA events (NTS/CTS, MWTC and Nationals) in the 24 months prior to the event.

The referee must have attended a majority of days of the elite ETA events (NTS/CTS, MWTC and Nationals) in the 12 months prior to the event.

The referee must have attended the Nationals prior to the event. Exceptions will be rare and considered on a case-by-case basis, using the same policy as used for players wishing to play for England.

Attendance means: full-time refereeing, referee coaching, or a suitable referee support role if refereeing and coaching are not practical/possible (e.g. because of injury).

### f. Fitness

The referee must achieve the following levels at the beep-test (shuttle test) in the months prior to the event. A test will be performed at the Nationals prior to the event and used as the "6 months" measurement. A referee failing the required level during that test is free to redo the test and provide evidence to the ETA Referee Committee at least 6 months before the event or before the ETA is required to provide the list of referees to ETC organising committee, whichever is sooner.

Month(s) before event	Men		Women	
	Open	Senior	Open	Senior
6	10.1	9.1	8.1	7.1
3	11.1	9.6	9.1	7.6
1	12.1	10.6	10.1	8.6

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### **g. Membership**

The referee must be a fully paid-up member of the ETA at the time of selection and at the time of the tournament.

### **h. EFT/ERC**

The referee must meet any other requirement(s) put forward by the European Federation of Touch, the ETC Organising Committee and the European Referee Commission.

## **4. Ranking**

Within each group of referees (those meeting the requirement and those who don't), each member of the ETA Referee Committee will rank the referees, excluding themselves. The National Referee Manager will take the average rank assigned to each referee in order to generate the final ranking. In case of a tie between two or more referees, the ranking of the National Referee Manager will prevail.

In order to rank the referees, the members of the ETARC will be using all criteria in Section 3 and any other criteria deemed relevant. These may include (but are not limited to) contribution to the ETA and the sport in general, knowledge of the game, (international) experience, rankings at (international) events, past successes at upgrade attempts, expected future contribution to the sport, geographical location, player rapport and past injuries.

Each member of the ETARC must, upon request by the National Referee Manager, provide written support for their ranking.

The final ranking will be submitted to the ETA board for review and approval. If a board member is directly affected by the ranking, he/she will not take part in the review and approval process. The National Referee Manager must, upon request by an ETA board member, provide written support for their ranking. Once approved by the ETA board, the ranking is final and not open for appeal.

## **5. Withdrawals and nominations**

If a referee has been selected but subsequently fails to meet selection criteria (e.g. attendance at 2018 events or fitness requirements), the ETA reserves its right to withdraw the nomination of the referee. If withdrawal is impossible or otherwise impractical, the referee will not be nominated for an upgrade to the European Director of Referees. The ETARC will also ask the Tournament Referee Panel not to rank the referee and/or to appoint them to a final, which may impact their eligibility for the 2019 Touch World Cup.

## **6. Exemptions**

Referees may request exceptions to the selection criteria in Section 3, e.g. due to injury or travel. This request must be submitted in writing. The ETARC will review each case on its own merit, and, if deemed

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reasonable, will make a recommendation to the board. The board will not unreasonably overturn the recommendation.

Exceptions will be rare, and each exception request, ETARC recommendation and ETA board's final decision will be made public.