

# POCKET GUIDE TOUCH RULES

Federation of  
International Touch  
**PLAYING RULES**  
4TH EDITION 2013



**ENGLAND TOUCH**

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## **A Touch**

- A touch can be effected by either a defending player or by the player in possession of the ball
- A touch counts if it is made on the ball, hair or clothing
- A **rollball** is performed after a touch is effected; after six touches, a **change of possession** shall take place
- Touches are to be made with a minimum of force

The referee will acknowledge the touch count at the most opportune time during open play

## **Change of Possession**

- Ball dropped to ground
- Half touched when in possession
- 6th touch
- Half places ball on or over the scoreline
- Incorrect rollball
- Incorrect tap
- Ball on or over the field boundary (sideline or side/end of touchdown zone)

At all changes of possession, play restarts with a **rollball**

## **Rollball**

- *Position at the mark where the touch was made*
- *Face attacking scoreline*
- *Rollball performed without delay backwards between the legs, a distance not more than 1 metre*
- *Half must pick up cleanly and without delay*

## **Penalty Infringements**

- *Foward pass*
- *Late pass (after being touched)*
- *Performing a rollball prior to being touched*
- *Performing a rollball off the mark*
- *Using more than minimum force to effect at touch*
- *Claiming a touch when a touch was not effected*
- *Defender offside - within 5 metres at a rollball, or 10 metres at a tap*
- *Playing more players than the allowable number*
- *Incorrect substitution*
- *Delaying play*
- *Obstruction*
- *Misconduct*

*At a penalty, play restarts with a **tap** to the non-offending team (a rollball is also permitted, but half is a live player)*

## ***Performing a Tap***

- Ball must be placed on the ground at the mark*
- Ball must be released from both hands*
- Ball is tapped with either foot, and is allowed to move a distance not more than one metre*
- Ball must be picked up cleanly*

## ***To Score a Touchdown***

- Ball placed on or over the scoreline*
- Ball does not have to be released from hands to score a touchdown*
- Half is not permitted to score a touchdown*
- If a touch is made as the ball is being grounded - i.e. simultaneously - then the touch counts*
- If a touch occurs in the touchdown zone, play restarts at the 5 metre line*

## ***Field of Play and Ball***

- Field of play is rectangular in shape measuring seventy (70) metres in length (excluding the Touchdown Areas) and fifty (50) metres in width (excluding the Interchange Areas at halfway between 10 metre lines)*
- Approved ball size is 36cm long and 55cm in circumference*