



# England Touch National Series Sporting Regulations 2023

Sporting Regulations for the 2023 England Touch Mixed, and Mens and Womens National Series Events

## Overview

This document is intended for clubs, teams, players, coaches and officials taking part or wishing to take part in the England Touch 2023 National Series Events. This includes the Mixed National Touch Series and Mens & Womens National Touch Series.

The document provides a comprehensive overview of the regulations that govern the competitions, their format and structure. It also provides information on player eligibility, elite player capping and referee provisions.

In the event that something is unclear, queries should be directed to Aisling Musgrove on [events.manager@englandtouch.org.uk](mailto:events.manager@englandtouch.org.uk)

For any refereeing specific enquiries, please contact Robin Budd on [referee.manager@englandtouch.org.uk](mailto:referee.manager@englandtouch.org.uk)



|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Overview</b>                                       | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>General Regulations</b>                            | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>1. Club Eligibility</b>                            | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>2. Player Eligibility</b>                          | <b>5</b>  |
| 2.1. General Player Regulations                       | 5         |
| 2.2. Junior Players                                   | 6         |
| 2.3. Transgender & Non-Binary Players                 | 7         |
| 2.4. Elite Players & Elite Player Cap                 | 7         |
| <b>3. Code of Behaviour</b>                           | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>4. Referee Provisions &amp; Nominations</b>        | <b>9</b>  |
| 4.1. Definitions                                      | 9         |
| 4.2. Provision of Referees                            | 9         |
| 4.3. Penalties  | 10        |
| <b>5. General Competition Regulations</b>             | <b>11</b> |
| 5.1. Squad and Team Selection                         | 11        |
| 5.2. Forced Interchange                               | 11        |
| 5.3. Sin-Bin  | 12        |
| 5.4. Dismissal  | 12        |
| 5.5. Field of Play                                    | 12        |
| 5.6. Length of Matches                                | 12        |
| 5.7. Scorecard  | 12        |
| 5.8. Playing Regulations                              | 13        |
| 5.8.1. Group Games                                    | 13        |
| 5.8.2. Knockout Games                                 | 14        |
| <b>6. Division 1 &amp; 2 Mens &amp; Womens Series</b> | <b>15</b> |
| 6.2. Tournament Dates & Venues                        | 15        |
| 6.3. Entry Regulations, Deadlines & Fees              | 15        |
| 6.3.1. Prioritisation of Entry Places                 | 15        |
| 6.3.2. Entry Deadlines                                | 15        |
| 6.3.3. Entry Fees                                     | 16        |
| 6.4. Competition Structure                            | 16        |
| 6.4.2. Ranking & Seeding                              | 16        |
| 6.4.3. Event Format                                   | 17        |
| <b>7. Division 3 &amp; 4 Mens &amp; Womens Series</b> | <b>18</b> |
| 7.1. Tournament Dates & Venues                        | 18        |
| 7.2. Entry Regulations, Deadlines & Fees              | 18        |



|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 7.2.1. Prioritisation of Entry Places     | 18        |
| 7.2.2. Entry Deadlines                    | 18        |
| 7.2.3. Entry Fees                         | 19        |
| 7.3. Competition Structure                | 19        |
| 7.3.1. Competition Points                 | 19        |
| 7.3.2. Ranking & Seeding                  | 20        |
| 7.3.3. Event Format                       | 20        |
| <b>8. Division 1 &amp; 2 Mixed Series</b> | <b>21</b> |
| 8.1. Tournament Dates & Venues            | 21        |
| 8.2. Entry Regulations, Deadlines & Fees  | 21        |
| 8.2.1. Prioritisation of Entry Places     | 21        |
| 8.2.2. Entry Deadlines                    | 21        |
| 8.2.3. Entry Fees                         | 22        |
| 8.3. Competition Structure                | 22        |
| 8.3.1. Competition Points                 | 22        |
| 8.3.2. Ranking & Seeding                  | 23        |
| 8.3.3. Event Format                       | 23        |
| <b>9. Division 3 &amp; 4 Mixed Series</b> | <b>25</b> |
| 9.1. Tournament Dates & Venues            | 25        |
| 9.2. Entry Regulations, Deadlines & Fees  | 25        |
| 9.2.1. Prioritisation of Entry Places     | 25        |
| 9.2.2. Entry Deadlines                    | 25        |
| 9.2.3. Entry Fees                         | 26        |
| 9.3. Competition Structure                | 26        |
| 9.3.1. Competition Points                 | 26        |
| 9.3.2. Ranking & Seeding                  | 27        |
| 9.3.3. Event Format                       | 27        |



## General Regulations

**I.** The England Touch National Series Competitions and Events shall be conducted in accordance with the following sporting regulations and the Federation of International Touch (FIT) 5th Edition Rules of the Game. Further event specific requirements, rules and regulations will be contained within the pre-event information pack for each event.

**II.** In the event that these regulations contradict the Federation of International Touch (FIT) 5th Edition Rules of the Game, these England Touch Sporting Regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.

**III.** The 2023 England Touch Mixed National Series is a competition series of events for Teams consisting of players of all genders.

**IV.** The 2023 England Touch Mens & Womens National Series is a competition series of events for Teams consisting of either male or female category players\*. The Men's competition and Women's competition are separate tournaments but are held at the same venue on the same event day.

\*See [Transgender & Non-Binary Players](#) for further information on player categories.



## 1. Club Eligibility

- 1.1. A club must have valid 'Full Club' England Touch membership. Membership can be purchased via the [England Touch website](#). The benefits of joining England Touch, as well as entry into tournaments, include insurance for a club and club managers, referee courses, and other support from England Touch to help clubs develop
- 1.2. University clubs are eligible to enter provided they upgrade their membership to a 'Full Club' membership rather than a 'University Club' membership.
- 1.3. Clubs must not owe any money to England Touch from previous seasons before they book a place(s) into a tournament for the 2023 season.

Any queries about membership should be directed to the Membership Manager, Rich King, [membership@englandtouch.org.uk](mailto:membership@englandtouch.org.uk).

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 below.
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 manager 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 admin 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.

## 2. Player Eligibility

### 2.1. General Player Regulations

- 2.1.1. Players must have active England Touch Membership to participate in tournaments. Players can register for year long membership or one off (one day) membership. Players can sign up for membership and find out more details [on the website](#). The benefits of England Touch membership are not just about playing - you also get a wide range of benefits from our insurance partner, AON Plus, such as discounted Virgin Experience Days, and a wide variety of other areas.
- 2.1.2. Players must not owe any money to England Touch when they take part in an England Touch tournament.



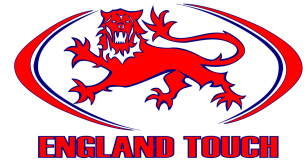
Any queries about membership should be directed to the Membership Manager, Rich King, [membership@englandtouch.org.uk](mailto:membership@englandtouch.org.uk).

Players should follow the process below to acquire membership:

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 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
8. Follow instructions and complete payment.

## 2.2. Junior Players

- 2.2.1. There is no lower age limit for players to take part in National Touch Series events. However a suggested minimum age is 14.
- 2.2.2. If a player wishes to take part who is under 18, parents/carers and coaches must assess whether the player is capable of playing in a tournament. When assessing whether a junior player is capable of playing Touch within any National Series competition, those responsible for making the decision must take into account the following:
  1. The welfare and safety of the player and those with whom the player will be playing.
  2. A need for clear communication with all those involved in and affected by the decision.
  3. The following aspects when making the decision:
    - a. The physical development and any injuries/illnesses of the individual and the player's playing colleagues
    - b. The skill level and experience of the individual
    - c. The individual's playing position in the team
    - d. The competitive standard of the particular match, tournament and playing conditions.
- 2.2.3. Parents/carers & team managers must sign a junior player consent form for every tournament that player enters. The form can be found [here](#).
- 2.2.4. The completed form must be completed before the player's first game on the day of the tournament.



## 2.3. Transgender & Non-Binary Players

Players who identify as Transgender and/or Non-Binary should refer to the [England Touch Transgender, Non-Binary and Gender Diverse Policy](#).

As a sport for all, England Touch celebrates and values the inclusion of transgender, non-binary and gender diverse people in Touch and strives towards providing a safe and welcoming environment for any person to be their authentic self.

All persons are welcome to take part in England Touch events. Please contact the England Touch EDI Officer if you have any further queries [edi@englandtouch.org.uk](mailto:edi@englandtouch.org.uk)

## 2.4. Elite Players & Elite Player Cap

The elite player cap limits the amount of elite players selected for a team playing within Divisions 3 and 4 of the Mixed, and Mens and Womens Series. The cap is intended to avoid clubs loading their Division 3 and 4 teams with international players.

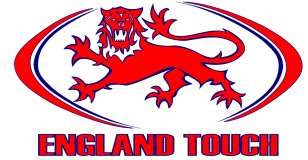
The goals of Divisions 3 and 4, both mixed and single gender, are twofold:

- To give new and developing clubs/players game time which will allow them to improve
- To give clubs/players the chance to develop the skills and experience necessary to potentially compete in the elite level tournaments.

In both cases, the inclusion of a small number of elite players in teams can help give structure and guidance to the players, and are particularly valuable at smaller clubs or those just starting out. This is why teams in Divisions 3 & 4 will be allowed a certain number of 'elite' players.

The elite player cap for 2023 is defined through a points based system.

- 2.4.1.** Clubs are limited to using up to three (3) points per team (inclusive).
- 2.4.2.** Elite players 'carry' points as per the below:
  - 2.4.2.1.** A player who has been internationally capped in an Opens Division Team since the 1st of January 2021 carries a value of 2 points
  - 2.4.2.2.** A player who has been internationally capped in a Seniors, Under 20s or Under 18s Team since the 1st of January 2021 (G18, B18, X18, G20, B20, X20, W27, M30, X30) carries a value of 1 point
  - 2.4.2.3.** For reference, a player who has been internationally capped in a Masters or Under 15s Team since the 1st of January 2021 (X15, W35, M35, W40, M40, M45, M50) carries a value of 0 points.
- 2.4.3.** A player who has been internationally capped before the 1st of January 2021 but has not been capped since, carries a value of 0 points.



- 2.4.4. A player who has been selected as part of an international High Performance Squad since the 1st of January 2021, but has not received international caps, carries a value of 0 points.
- 2.4.5. Teams are required to declare if a player contributes to their elite player point allowance on their team sheet.
- 2.4.6. Teams who breach the elite player cap will be penalised. The penalty itself for each breach will be decided by the Events Manager and events delivery panel, on a case by case basis. The penalty for breaching the elite player cap may be applied to a player, team or club at an individual event or across the season.
- 2.4.7. Teams can apply for an exemption to the elite player cap - they should do so in an email at least 14 days before the tournament, before they submit their team sheets. Exemptions are processed via a supporting statement which must be emailed to [events.manager@englandtouch.org.uk](mailto:events.manager@englandtouch.org.uk). They will be considered by the Events Manager and decisions will be made on a case by case basis.

### 3. Code of Behaviour

An overview of the **Code of Behaviour** can be found on the website. In becoming a member of England Touch, members agree to abide by the Code of Behaviour.

- 3.1. In registering for the event, the Club confirms that all the members named on the player registration form and others associated with their club:
  - To abide by England Touch's Code of Behaviour
  - To abide by the Tournament Rules as detailed on the England Touch website
  - To acknowledge responsibility for insurance.
- 3.2. **Complaints Procedure**

England Touch has a complaints procedure which can be read [on the England Touch website](#). Complaints can be raised either online [here](#) or via the incident report forms which are available from the events tent at any England Touch tournament. Complaints can be made anonymously if desired.





## 4. Referee Provisions & Nominations

As part of developing the game, England Touch are looking to support clubs in identifying their own officials for tournaments. Improving both the amount of available referees at all levels, and their development, is key to the continued growth of the game, and standards at every level.

### 4.1. Definitions

#### 4.1.1. 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. Ideally, someone who is Level 1 qualified.

#### 4.1.2. Player Referee

Someone who attends a tournament as a player but will referee games when they are not playing to facilitate the tournament. Ideally, someone who has attended a Level 1 Referee Course as a minimum.

### 4.2. Provision of Referees

4.2.1. Clubs must nominate and provide a Full Time Referee per team entered into an event day. (I.e. if a club has entered two (2) teams, they must provide two (2) Full-Time Referees)

4.2.2. Nomination of Full-Time Referees is a requirement in all Divisions (1 - 4)

4.2.3. Clubs may wish to and are encouraged to nominate more referees than the minimum requirement mentioned above. This will significantly reduce their chances of player refereeing

4.2.4. The Referee(s) nominated to attend Division 1 & 2 events must be at least Level 1 qualified

4.2.5. The Referee(s) nominated to attend Division 3 & 4 events should have at least attended a Level 1 Referee course

4.2.6. It is the responsibility of Clubs to manage their referee nominations, England Touch will not commit to chase or remind clubs to nominate referees

4.2.7. The nominated referee should sign up to the event through England Touch's referee management group on 'Spond'. Joining instructions can be found [here](#).

4.2.8. Nominated referees must sign up no later than 1 week before the event takes place

4.2.9. Within their Spond profile, referees will be able to list the clubs for which they are the nominated referee

4.2.10. A referee may not be affiliated to more than two (2) clubs throughout the season. (I.e. if they have been nominated by two (2) clubs at two (2) previous events, they cannot be nominated by a third club.)

4.2.11. If a club has a team entered into Divisions 1 or 2, and another team entered in Divisions 3 or 4 on any given weekend, as the event days happen concurrently, the same nominated referee may represent both teams



- 4.2.12.** Clubs can nominate different referees for each tournament day. (I.e. a team does not have to have the same referee associated with them throughout a series)
- 4.2.13.** In the case where the provision of full-time referees at a tournament day is not sufficient to facilitate the tournament, player referees shall be used. Clubs and teams will be made aware of this before the event day.
- 4.2.14.** Typically, player referee slots will be allocated to teams in triples. (I.e. a team will be required to provide 3 player referees at once to cover a single game)
- 4.2.15.** Player referee slots will be allocated as follows:
  - 4.2.15.1.** To teams who have not met the Full-Time Referee nomination requirement
  - 4.2.15.2.** To teams who have met the Full-Time Referee nomination requirement. (Within this group of teams, slots will be allocated randomly. Where possible, the events team will keep track of this so that teams do not player referee more slots than others over the season)
  - 4.2.15.3.** To teams who have nominated more Full-Time Referees than the minimum requirement.
- 4.2.16.** Provisional referee allocations will be completed the day before the event and will be viewable on the event schedule.
- 4.2.17.** In the case that a nominated referee has to pull out of attending an event more than 48 hours before the start of said event, clubs are required to find a replacement full-time referee. (Unless they have nominated beyond the minimum requirement.)
- 4.2.18.** In the case that a nominated referee has to pull out of attending an event within 48 hours of the start of said event, the team they are associated with will be required to provide player referee(s). Unless they can find a replacement or they have nominated beyond the minimum requirement.

### **4.3. Penalties**

- 4.3.1.** In the case that a team does not nominate Full-Time Referee(s) as per the minimum requirements, the following penalty will apply:
  - 4.3.1.1.** For the Mixed Series (all Divisions) and Divisions 3 & 4 Mens and Womens Series, the team will be deducted 10 competition points
  - 4.3.1.2.** For the Divisions 1 & 2 Mens and Womens Series Day 1, the team will be deducted 3 group points
  - 4.3.1.3.** For the Divisions 1 & 2 Mens and Womens Series Day 2, the team will forfeit their quarter-final game regardless of the actual score.
- 4.3.2.** In the case that a club has entered multiple teams into an event day, the penalty will be applied to their 'first' team
- 4.3.3.** In exceptional circumstances, England Touch may be able to provide exemptions or alternative arrangements to the requirements but this will be looked at on an individual basis. Queries or application for exemptions should be sent to the Referee Manager on [referee.manager@englandtouch.org.uk](mailto:referee.manager@englandtouch.org.uk)



## 5. General Competition Regulations

### 5.1. Squad and Team Selection

#### 5.1.1. Squad Size

At an event, each squad will consist of a maximum of 16 players, minimum of 8 players. In the case where clubs enter multiple teams, players must only play for the team for which they are named on the team sheet.

5.1.2. Reference FIT 5th Edition Rule 5: during a single game, a maximum of 14 players may take part in that game. In the case where the squad consists of 15 or 16 players, 1 or 2 of the playing squad will be required to not take part in that game.

5.1.3. Reference FIT 5th Edition Rule 5.1: no more than six (6) players are permitted on the pitch at any time.

5.1.4. There is no restriction on which players are rested for each game.

#### 5.1.5. Team Composition on the Pitch (Mixed Series Only)

As per FIT 5th Edition Rule 5.4: In mixed gender competitions, the maximum number of male category players allowed on the Field of Play is three (3), the minimum male category player requirement is one (1) and the minimum female category player requirement is one (1).

5.1.6. When registering at an event (or in advance), each team will be required to complete a team sheet listing their chosen players (maximum 16, minimum 8) for the event from those listed in the club's membership list in the England Touch Membership Portal. Individuals who are not in the team's squad before first games begin will not be eligible to compete.

5.1.7. In the case of clubs entering multiple teams into an event, the strongest team must be fielded as the 'first team' and so on.

5.1.8. In the case of clubs entering multiple teams into events, there is no restriction on which team a player can be selected for, regardless of their selection at previous events. The strongest team available for the specific event should be selected as per 5.1.7. UNLESS the player is classed as an Elite Player, see [Player Eligibility](#)

#### 5.1.9. Clothing and Equipment

Regulations on attire and footwear are outlined in FIT 5th Edition Rule 4 and are imposed without amendment for all events.

### 5.2. Forced Interchange

Please refer to FIT 5th Edition Rule 21



### 5.3. Sin-Bin

Please refer to FIT 5th Edition Rule 22

- 5.3.1. The sin-binned player is to remain in the sin-bin area for 4 possessions.

### 5.4. Dismissal

Please refer to FIT 5th Edition Rule 23

- 5.4.1. If a player is dismissed from a game, they receive an automatic suspension for the immediate two (2) games their team is due to play. This is to allow the disciplinary panel time to assess whether any further action is required or if the suspension should be rescinded/extended. This supersedes FIT 5th Edition Rule 23.2. Examples of potential dismissable offences are listed in the FIT 5th Edition Rulebook.
- 5.4.2. Any dismissed player may be subject to a further disciplinary review, defined in the ETA Disciplinary Policy, see [Code of Behaviour](#)

### 5.5. Field of Play

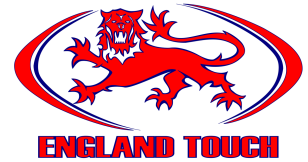
Only players, referees and medically trained persons (in order to tend to an injured player) may enter the playing area. During the interval, coaches and water-carriers may enter the playing area. Coaches and water-carriers must leave the playing area before the resumption of play and must not delay the punctual resumption of play.

### 5.6. Length of Matches

- 5.6.1. **Mixed National Touch Series**  
All games, including finals, will be 10 minutes each way with a 3 minute break for half-time. This is as per FIT 5th Edition Rule 8.2 and supersedes FIT 5th Edition Rule 8.1
- 5.6.2. **Division 1 & 2 Mens & Womens National Series**  
All games, including finals, will be 20 minutes each way with a 5 minute break for half-time. This is as per FIT 5th Edition Rule 8.1.
- 5.6.3. **Division 3 & 4 Mens & Womens National Series**  
All games, including finals, will be 10 minutes each way with a 3 minute break for half-time. This is as per FIT 5th Edition Rule 8.2 and supersedes FIT 5th Edition Rule 8.1

### 5.7. Scorecard

- 5.7.1. It is the responsibility of the referee team to note the scores during a game.
- 5.7.2. Referees are to request that team captains sign the scorecard at the end of a game



- 5.7.3.** Team captains should sign the scorecard if they are in agreement that the marked score is correct
- 5.7.4.** If a captain does not believe the scorecard is correct, they should not sign the card, event control will then resolve the matter
- 5.7.5.** Other than believing the marked score is incorrect, team captains can cite no other reason for not signing the scorecard.

## **5.8. Playing Regulations**

### **5.8.1. Group Games**

- 5.8.1.1.** No drop-offs will be played in group games. Group points will be awarded on the following basis:

Win: 4 Points

Draw: 2 Points

Loss: 1 Point

Forfeit: 0 Points

NOTE: Group points are not equivalent to competition points

- 5.8.1.2.** If a team cannot fulfil a group fixture and/or willfully refuses to play, or willfully abandons a game in progress, without prior consent of the referee team, the team will forfeit the game. The team will be awarded 0 group points as per 6.5.1.1. The opposition for the game will be awarded 4 group points and a 5-0 winning margin.
- 5.8.1.3.** Where a group game has been abandoned with the decision being made by the referee and/or event team, either at half-time or at any time in the second half, the result and tries scored by each team in the match shall stand.
- 5.8.1.4.** Where a group game has been abandoned with the decision being made by the referee and/or event team, during the first half, the result shall be declared a draw. In this instance where a match has been declared a draw, each team will be awarded two group points and tries scored will count towards the total points and tries scored by each team in all their group matches.
- 5.8.1.5.** If at the conclusion of the group stage two teams are equal on group points for any position in the group, their position in the group table will be determined on the result of the game between the two equal teams. The team that won the game shall be deemed to have finished higher in the group competition table. If the game between the two teams, equal on competition points at the end of the group stage was a draw, then the following process shall be used to determine the placings:
  - 5.8.1.5.1.** The margin of tries scored for and against a team in all group games shall be considered. The team with the highest positive margin of tries shall be ranked higher in the group competition table. If the tie remains unresolved;



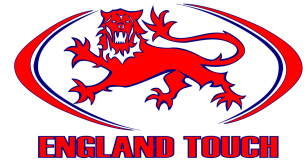
- 5.8.1.5.2. The team that has scored the highest number of tries in the group games shall be ranked higher in the group competition table. If the tie still remains unresolved;
- 5.8.1.5.3. If logistics and timings allow, a Drop-Off will be played between the two teams. If this is not possible;
- 5.8.1.5.4. The tie will be resolved by the toss of a coin between the team captains concerned.

**5.8.1.6.** If at the end of the group stage more than two teams are equal on group points for any position in the group, the following process shall be used to determine the placings:

- 5.8.1.6.1. The margin of tries scored for and against a team in all group games will be considered. The team with the highest positive margin of tries shall be ranked higher in the group competition table. If the tie remains unresolved;
- 5.8.1.6.2. The teams concerned shall be ranked by reference to the number of tries scored in all group games. The team with the highest number of tries scored in the group matches shall be ranked higher in the group competition table. If the tie remains unresolved;
- 5.8.1.6.3. The tie will be resolved by the toss of a coin between the team captains concerned.

## **5.8.2. Knockout Games**

- 5.8.2.1.** During the knockout stages, in the event of a game being drawn at the end of normal time, a drop-off will be used to determine the winner, as per FIT 5th Edition Rule 24. The drop off period will initially last two minutes. If a winner has still not been determined at the end of the two minute period, the game will continue until a try is scored.
- 5.8.2.2.** Apart from the wilful abandonment of a game, in the event of a game having to be stopped after its commencement under the provisions of the FIT 5th Edition Rules, then the following procedure shall apply:
- 5.8.2.3.** Where a game has been abandoned either at half time or at any time in the second half the result shall stand. If both teams are tied then the event organisational panel shall determine a method for deciding a winner.
- 5.8.2.4.** Where the game has been abandoned during the first half, the result shall initially be declared a draw. Then the event organisational panel shall determine a method for determining a winner.
- 5.8.2.5. Disputes at Events**  
In line with the Code of Conduct, should a dispute occur at an event, the event appeal panel for Touch Rugby shall comprise of the Event Manager, at least two other ETA Staff members.



## 6. Division 1 & 2 Mens & Womens Series

- 6.1.1.** Please note that for the avoidance of doubt, both the Mens and the Womens competitions follow the same format and are conducted on the same event days. The following section describes a single tournament that will be duplicated on each day: one for the Men's competition, and one for the Women's.

### 6.2. Tournament Dates & Venues

- 6.2.1.** The Competition is to be conducted over 2 separate days. The days form two halves of one tournament.

|         |                        |  |
|---------|------------------------|--|
| Round 1 | Saturday 20th May 2023 | Banbury Rugby Club, Bodicote Park, Oxford Rd, Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AF |
| Round 2 | Saturday 3rd June 2023 | Banbury Rugby Club, Bodicote Park, Oxford Rd, Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AF |

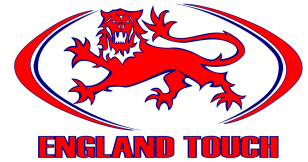
### 6.3. Entry Regulations, Deadlines & Fees

#### 6.3.1. Prioritisation of Entry Places

- 6.3.1.1.** The 16 places in the competition will initially be offered to the English teams who participated in the 2022 Elite Mens and Womens National Touch Series and the teams who finished highest in the 2022 Development Mens and Womens National Touch Series, to make up a 'Top 16'.
- 6.3.1.2.** In the case that any of the aforementioned teams do not take their offered position, the space will then be offered to the next highest ranked team from the 2022 Development Mens and Womens National Touch Series.
- 6.3.1.3.** Places will be offered for entry into the series as opposed to per event day.

#### 6.3.2. Entry Deadlines

- 6.3.2.1.** The initial set of 16 teams listed (see 6.3.1.1) should pay the deposit for entry through the England Touch Membership portal by 12th February 2023. This secures a place in the competition for the team.
- 6.3.2.2.** England Touch will manage the deadline and process for any further entries (see 6.3.1.2) after the deadline mentioned above
- 6.3.2.3.** Clubs are required to pay the remaining entry fee by 9th April 2023. Late payment of entry fees may result in exclusion from the competition.



- 6.3.2.4. In the case that a club pays the deposit and/or the full entry fee for a space in the competition and consequently withdraws, the fee is non-refundable
- 6.3.2.5. If a team withdraws before the first event day, England Touch will consider their inclusion in the second day and apply penalties, if appropriate.
- 6.3.2.6. In the case that a team withdraws from the second event day, no refund, partial or full, will be offered
- 6.3.2.7. In the case that a team withdraws from the second event day, a replacement team will not be sought and a BYE will be used in the draw
- 6.3.2.8. In the event a team pulls out of the competition up to a week before the first event day, a replacement team will not be sought and a BYE will be used in the competition.
- 6.3.2.9. Team Sheets must be completed by a club representative before the team's first game on the relevant event day.

### 6.3.3. Entry Fees

#### 6.3.3.1. Total Entry Fee per Team

The entry fee for one team to enter the 2023 England Touch Division 1 & 2 Mens & Womens Series is £600.

#### 6.3.3.2. Deposit

The deposit amount is £200. Clubs will therefore be required to pay the remaining balance of £400 by the deadline mentioned in 6.3.2.3

## 6.4. Competition Structure

- 6.4.1.1. The competition is formed of one single tournament played across the two event days.
- 6.4.1.2. The winner of the series will be the winner of the competition after the final has taken place.
- 6.4.1.3. Further play-off and knockout games will be used to establish a final ranking of the 8 teams within each division.
- 6.4.1.4. Due to the competition format, no promotion or relegation is available between Divisions during the 2023 season.

### 6.4.2. Ranking & Seeding

#### 6.4.2.1. Creation of Divisions 1 & 2

The 16 teams entered are ranked into the draw according to their finishing position in the 2022 Mens & Womens (MW) Series. The 'Top 8' teams form Division 1, the 'Bottom 8' teams form Division 2. In the unlikely event any team who did not enter the 2022 MW Series is entered, they will be ranked after that of the lowest finishing competitor in the 2022 MW Series. In the unlikely circumstance of multiple teams entering the event who did not compete in the 2022 MW Series, they will





be ranked in alphabetical order respectively, after that of the lowest finishing competitor in the 2022 MW Series.

### 6.4.3. Event Format

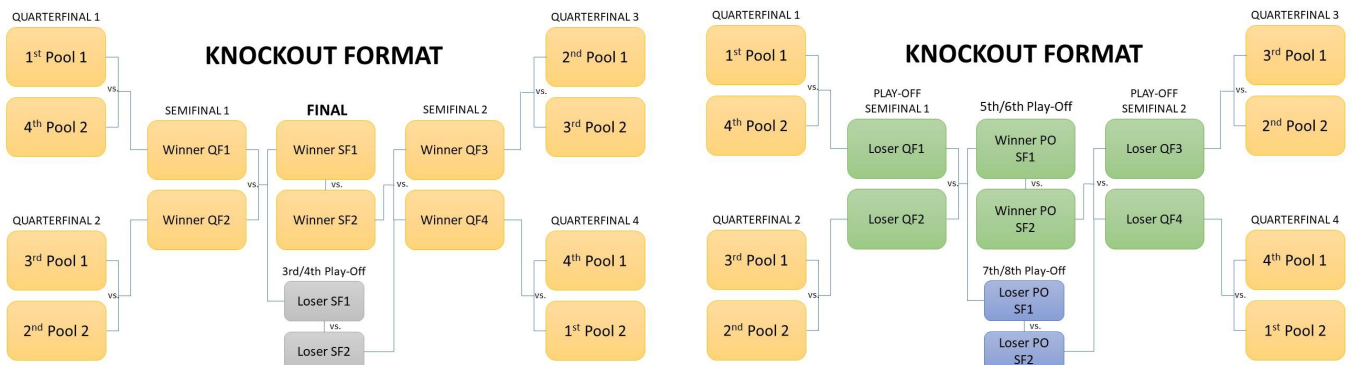
**6.4.3.1.** Before the event, the 8 teams in a Division are divided into 2 pools of 4 teams using a serpentine distribution. This distribution is used as the theoretical difficulty of each pool is then made even.

| POOL 1 | POOL 2 |
|--------|--------|
| 1st    | 2nd    |
| 4th    | 3rd    |
| 5th    | 6th    |
| 8th    | 7th    |

**6.4.3.2.** Teams play three (3) 40 minute long games during an event day (see 5.6) unless a BYE exists within the draw.

**6.4.3.3.** Teams play the other 3 teams in their pool on the first event day.

**6.4.3.4.** Teams play 3 knockout games on the second event day to determine their finishing position. The knockout format is shown below.





## 7. Division 3 & 4 Mens & Womens Series

### 7.1. Tournament Dates & Venues

- 7.1.1. The Competition Series is to be conducted over 2 separate event days. A singular, complete competition is held on each day

|         |                      |  |
|---------|----------------------|--|
| Round 1 | Sunday 21st May 2023 | Banbury Rugby Club, Bodicote Park, Oxford Rd, Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AF |
| Round 2 | Sunday 4th June 2023 | Banbury Rugby Club, Bodicote Park, Oxford Rd, Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AF |

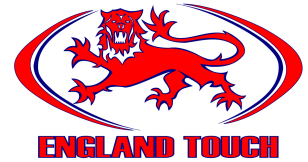
### 7.2. Entry Regulations, Deadlines & Fees

#### 7.2.1. Prioritisation of Entry Places

- 7.2.1.1. Places will initially be offered to the teams who participated in the 2022 Development Mens & Womens National Touch Series.
- 7.2.1.2. Spaces will then be opened to any further teams or clubs wishing to enter the competition, at which point, places will be offered on a first come first served basis.
- 7.2.1.3. The maximum number of places available on each day for each competition is 16 Mens and 12 Womens. This is based on the demand for spaces in 2022.
- 7.2.1.4. If there is greater interest for places, England Touch will manage this depending on the circumstances. England Touch will endeavour to accommodate as many teams as possible at each event.
- 7.2.1.5. Places will be offered for entry into each individual event day as opposed to the whole series.
- 7.2.1.6. Teams and clubs are free to enter however many days of the competition they wish.

#### 7.2.2. Entry Deadlines

- 7.2.2.1. The teams mentioned in 7.2.1.1 should pay the deposit for entry through the England Touch Membership portal by 12th February 2023. This secures a place in the competition for the team.
- 7.2.2.2. After this time, entry is open to all, payment of a deposit secures a place in the competition, there is no further deadline for deposit as such.
- 7.2.2.3. Teams should pay the remaining balance by 9th April 2023. This is the theoretical cut off for entry into each event provided places are still available.



**7.2.2.4.** In the case that England Touch cannot accommodate a team wishing to enter, due to spaces available or other circumstances, England Touch will fully refund any entrance fee paid for the relevant event.

**7.2.2.5.** In the case that a club pays the deposit and/or the full entry fee for a space in the event and consequently withdraws, the fee is non-refundable

**7.2.2.6.** Team sheets must be completed by a club representative before the team's first game on the relevant event day

### **7.2.3. Entry Fees**

#### **7.2.3.1. Total Entry Fee per Team per Event**

The entry fee for one team to enter one round/event the 2023 England Touch Division 3 & 4 Mixed Series is £300

Across the 2 events, the total cost for entry to the series is £600

#### **7.2.3.2. Deposit**

The deposit amount is £100 per event. Clubs will therefore be required to pay the remaining balance of £200 by the deadline mentioned in 9.2.2.3

## **7.3. Competition Structure**

### **7.3.1. Competition Points**

#### **7.3.1.1. Competition Points**

Competition points are the points awarded at the end of each event day, are used to determine rankings for future events and also the final standings of the competition. The number of points awarded to a team is dependent on their finishing position on an event day and the number of teams who take part in the event.

#### **7.3.1.2. Competition Points available at an Event**

The maximum number of competition points available at each event is calculated by multiplying the number of teams taking part on the day by 2. The first placed team will receive the maximum number of competition points. (E.g. in the case of 16 teams attending an 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 taking part.

#### **7.3.1.3. Competition Final Standings**

The winner of the 2023 England Touch Mens/Womens National Series - Division 3 will be the team who has accumulated the most competition points over the 2 event days.

A winner of the 2023 England Touch Mens/Womens National Series - Division 4 may be awarded depending on the number of teams who enter the series.



#### **7.3.1.4. Tie for Position**

During, between or concluding events, the position of any teams tied on competition points will be determined by the margin of tries scored for and against each of them. The team with the highest positive margin will be ranked higher in the standings. If the tie remains unresolved; the team that has scored the highest number of tries will be ranked higher. If the tie remains unresolved; the tie will be resolved by a coin toss.

### **7.3.2. Ranking & Seeding**

#### **7.3.2.1. Creation of Divisions**

Once the teams competing in each event day are ranked as per the below, teams may be divided into two (2) separate Divisions (3 & 4) depending on the number of teams entered. England Touch holds the right to divide competitions up as they see fit to facilitate the tournament.

#### **7.3.2.2. Initial Ranking for Round 1**

Teams are ranked into the draw according to their finishing position in the 2022 Mens & Womens Series. In the event a team has entered who did not enter the 2022 Mens & Womens Series, they will be ranked after that of the lowest finishing competitor in the 2022 Mens & Womens Series. In the case of multiple teams entering the event who did not compete in the 2022 MW Series, they will be ranked in alphabetical order respectively, after that of the lowest finishing competitor in the 2022 MW Series.

#### **7.3.2.3. Ranking for Round 2**

Teams are initially ranked into the draw according to their finishing position in Round 1. England Touch holds the right to promote or relegate teams between divisions, similar to 8.3.2.3 depending on the number of teams entered into the competition. In the case of teams entering Round 2 who did not enter Round 1, they are ranked as per 7.3.2.2.

### **7.3.3. Event Format**

**7.3.3.1.** Before the event, teams are divided equally into pools.

**7.3.3.2.** Teams play at least six (6) 20 minute long games during an event day (see 5.6) unless a BYE exists within the draw. The minimum number of games a team will play is five (5).

**7.3.3.3.** Teams play the other teams in their pool during the morning of the event

**7.3.3.4.** A knockout competition will then follow in the afternoon where teams qualify based on the finishing positions of each team within their pool. England Touch will create a format that is fair and that satisfies all points above.



## 8. Division 1 & 2 Mixed Series

### 8.1. Tournament Dates & Venues

- 8.1.1. The Competition Series is to be conducted over 3 separate event days. A singular, complete competition is held on each day

|         |                         |  |
|---------|-------------------------|--|
| Round 1 | Saturday 17th June 2023 | Burton Rugby Club, Battlestead Croft, Branston Rd, Tatenhill, Burton-on-Trent DE14 3EZ |
| Round 2 | Saturday 1st July 2023  | Burton Rugby Club, Battlestead Croft, Branston Rd, Tatenhill, Burton-on-Trent DE14 3EZ |
| Round 3 | Saturday 15th July 2023 | Burton Rugby Club, Battlestead Croft, Branston Rd, Tatenhill, Burton-on-Trent DE14 3EZ |

### 8.2. Entry Regulations, Deadlines & Fees

#### 8.2.1. Prioritisation of Entry Places

- 8.2.1.1. The 32 places in the competition will initially be offered the 24 teams who participated in the 2022 Elite National Touch Series and the 8 teams who finished highest in the 2022 Development National Touch Series
- 8.2.1.2. In the case that any of the aforementioned teams do not take their offered position, the space will then be offered to the next highest ranked team from the 2022 Development National Touch Series.
- 8.2.1.3. Places will be offered for entry into the series as opposed to per event day.

#### 8.2.2. Entry Deadlines

- 8.2.2.1. The initial set of 32 teams listed (see 8.2.1.1) should pay the deposit for entry through the England Touch Membership portal by 12th February 2023. This secures a place in the competition for the team.
- 8.2.2.2. England Touch will manage the deadline and process for any further entries (see 8.2.1.2) after the deadline mentioned above
- 8.2.2.3. Clubs are required to pay the remaining entry fee by 7th May 2023. Late payment of entry fees may result in exclusion from the competition.
- 8.2.2.4. In the case that a club pays the deposit and/or the full entry fee for a space in the competition and consequently withdraws, the fee is non-refundable
- 8.2.2.5. In the case that a team withdraws from a single event day, no refund, partial or full, will be offered



- 8.2.2.6. In the case that a team withdraws from a single event day, a replacement team will not be sought and a BYE will be used in the draw
- 8.2.2.7. In the event a team pulls out of the competition up to a week before the first event day, a replacement team will not be sought and a BYE will be used in the competition.
- 8.2.2.8. Team Sheets must be completed by a club representative before the team's first game on the relevant event day

### 8.2.3. Entry Fees

#### 8.2.3.1. Total Entry Fee per Team

The entry fee for one team to enter the 2023 England Touch Division 1 & 2 Mixed Series is £900.

#### 8.2.3.2. Deposit

The deposit amount is £300. Club will therefore be required to pay the remaining balance of £600 by the deadline mentioned in 8.2.2.3

## 8.3. Competition Structure

### 8.3.1. Competition Points

#### 8.3.1.1. Competition Points

Competition points are the points awarded at the end of each event day, are used to determine rankings for future events and also the final standings of the competition. The number of points awarded to a team is dependent on their finishing position on an event day and the number of teams who take part in the event.

#### 8.3.1.2. Competition Points available at an Event

The maximum number of competition points available at each event is calculated by multiplying the number of teams taking part on the day by 2. The first placed team will receive the maximum number of competition points. (E.g. in the expected case of all 32 teams attending an event, 64 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 taking part.

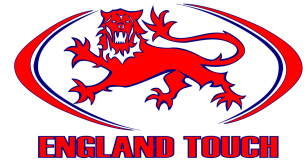
#### 8.3.1.3. Competition Final Standings

The winner of the 2023 England Touch Mixed National Series - Division 1 will be the team who has accumulated the most competition points over the 3 event days.

The winner of the 2023 England Touch Mixed National Series - Division 2 will be the team who finishes 17th in the competition point standings after the 3 event days are concluded.

#### 8.3.1.4. Tie for Position

During, between or concluding events, the position of any teams tied on competition points will be determined by the margin of tries scored for



and against each of them. The team with the highest positive margin will be ranked higher in the standings. If the tie remains unresolved; the team that has scored the highest number of tries will be ranked higher. If the tie remains unresolved; the tie will be resolved by a coin toss.

## 8.3.2. Ranking & Seeding

### 8.3.2.1. Creation of Divisions 1 & 2

Once the teams competing in each event day are ranked as per the below, the top 16 teams will form Division 1 and the bottom 16 teams will form Division 2.

### 8.3.2.2. Initial Ranking for Round 1

Teams are ranked into the draw according to their finishing position in the 2022 Mixed Series. In the unlikely event any team who did not enter the 2022 Mixed Series, they will be ranked after that of the lowest finishing competitor in the 2022 Mixed Series. In the unlikely circumstance of multiple teams entering the event who did not compete in the 2022 Mixed Series, they will be ranked in alphabetical order respectively, after that of the lowest finishing competitor in the 2022 Mixed Series.

### 8.3.2.3. Ranking for Round 2

Teams are initially ranked into the draw according to their finishing position in Round 1. However, the teams that finished 15th and 16th will be demoted to 17th and 18th, effectively relegating them to Division 2 for Round 2. Also, the teams that finished 17th and 18th in Round 1 will be promoted to 15th and 16th, effectively upgrading them to Division 1 for Round 2.

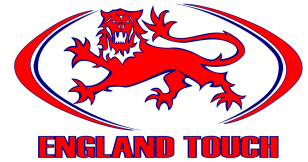
### 8.3.2.4. Ranking for Round 3

Teams are ranked into the draw according to the number of competition points they have accumulated from Rounds 1 and 2. In the event of a tie for positions, please refer to 8.3.1.4.

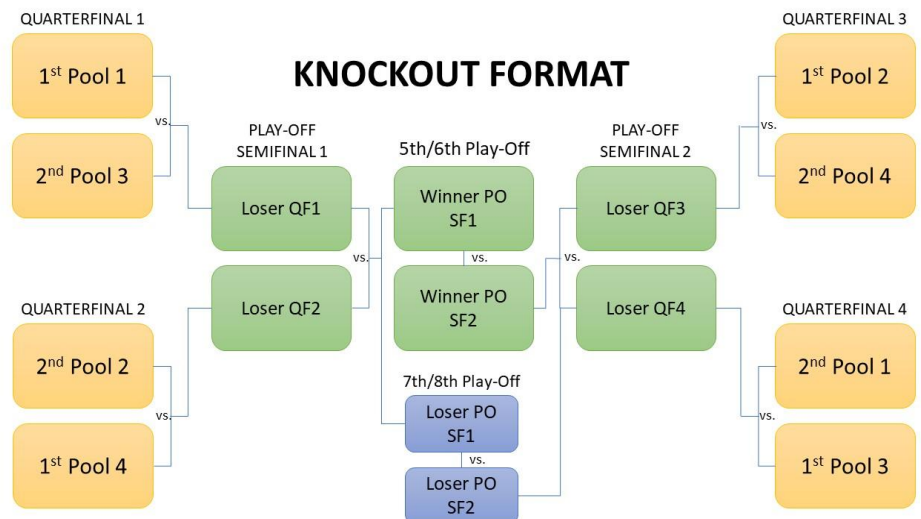
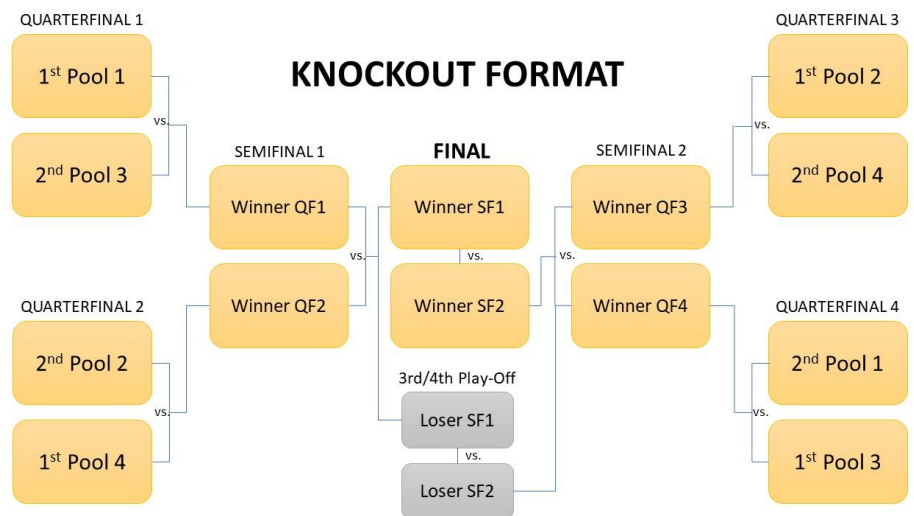
## 8.3.3. Event Format

8.3.3.1. Before the event, the 16 teams in a Division are divided into 4 pools of 4 teams using a serpentine distribution. This distribution is used as the theoretical difficulty of each pool is then made even.

| POOL 1 | POOL 2 | POOL 3 | POOL 4 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1st    | 2nd    | 3rd    | 4th    |
| 8th    | 7th    | 6th    | 5th    |
| 9th    | 10th   | 11th   | 12th   |
| 16th   | 15th   | 14th   | 13th   |



- 8.3.3.2. Teams play six (6) 20 minute long games during an event day (see 5.6) unless a BYE exists within the draw.
- 8.3.3.3. Teams play the other 3 teams in their pool during the morning of the event
- 8.3.3.4. Teams who finish 1st or 2nd in their group will qualify for the upper tier knockout competition. Teams who finish 3rd or 4th in their group will qualify for the lower tier knockout competition.
- 8.3.3.5. Teams play 3 knockout games in the afternoon of the event to determine their finishing position. The knockout format is shown below.







## 9. Division 3 & 4 Mixed Series

### 9.1. Tournament Dates & Venues

- 9.1.1. The Competition Series is to be conducted over 3 separate event days. A singular, complete competition is held on each day

|         |                       |  |
|---------|-----------------------|--|
| Round 1 | Sunday 18th June 2023 | Burton Rugby Club, Battlestead Croft, Branston Rd, Tatenhill, Burton-on-Trent DE14 3EZ |
| Round 2 | Sunday 2nd July 2023  | Burton Rugby Club, Battlestead Croft, Branston Rd, Tatenhill, Burton-on-Trent DE14 3EZ |
| Round 3 | Sunday 16th July 2023 | Burton Rugby Club, Battlestead Croft, Branston Rd, Tatenhill, Burton-on-Trent DE14 3EZ |

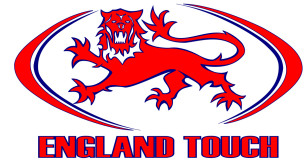
### 9.2. Entry Regulations, Deadlines & Fees

#### 9.2.1. Prioritisation of Entry Places

- 9.2.1.1. Places will initially be offered to the teams who participated in the 2022 Development National Touch Series.
- 9.2.1.2. Spaces will then be opened to any further teams or clubs wishing to enter the competition, at which point, places will be offered on a first come first served basis.
- 9.2.1.3. The maximum number of places available on each event day is 32.
- 9.2.1.4. Places will be offered for entry into each individual event day as opposed to the whole series.
- 9.2.1.5. Teams and clubs are free to enter however many days of the competition they wish.

#### 9.2.2. Entry Deadlines

- 9.2.2.1. The teams mentioned in 9.2.1.1 should pay the deposit for entry through the England Touch Membership portal by 12th February 2023. This secures a place in the competition for the team.
- 9.2.2.2. After this time, entry is open to all, payment of a deposit secures a place in the competition, there is no further deadline for deposit as such.
- 9.2.2.3. Teams should pay the remaining balance by 7th May 2023. This is the theoretical cut off for entry into each event provided places are still available.
- 9.2.2.4. In the case that a club pays the deposit and/or the full entry fee for a space in the event and consequently withdraws, the fee is non-refundable



**9.2.2.5.** Team Sheets must be completed by a club representative before the team's first game on the relevant event day

### **9.2.3. Entry Fees**

#### **9.2.3.1. Total Entry Fee per Team per Event**

The entry fee for one team to enter one round/event the 2023 England Touch Division 3 & 4 Mixed Series is £300

Across all the 3 events, the total cost for entry to the series is £900

#### **9.2.3.2. Deposit**

The deposit amount is £100 per event. Clubs will therefore be required to pay the remaining balance of £200 by the deadline mentioned in 9.2.2.3

## **9.3. Competition Structure**

### **9.3.1. Competition Points**

#### **9.3.1.1. Competition Points**

Competition points are the points awarded at the end of each event day, are used to determine rankings for future events and also the final standings of the competition. The number of points awarded to a team is dependent on their finishing position on an event day and the number of teams who take part in the event.

#### **9.3.1.2. Competition Points available at an Event**

The maximum number of competition points available at each event is calculated by multiplying the number of teams taking part on the day by 2. The first placed team will receive the maximum number of competition points. (E.g. in the case of 32 teams attending an event, 64 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 taking part.

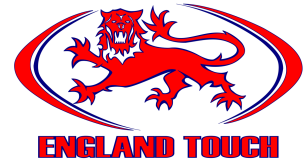
#### **9.3.1.3. Competition Final Standings**

The winner of the 2023 England Touch Mixed National Series - Division 3 will be the team who has accumulated the most competition points over the 3 event days.

A winner of the 2023 England Touch Mixed National Series - Division 4 may be awarded depending on the number of teams who enter the series.

#### **9.3.1.4. Tie for Position**

During, between or concluding events, the position of any teams tied on competition points will be determined by the margin of tries scored for and against each of them. The team with the highest positive margin will be ranked higher in the standings. If the tie remains unresolved; the



team that has scored the highest number of tries will be ranked higher. If the tie remains unresolved; the tie will be resolved by a coin toss.

### **9.3.2. Ranking & Seeding**

#### **9.3.2.1. Creation of Divisions**

Once the teams competing in each event day are ranked as per the below, teams may be divided into two (2) separate Divisions (3 & 4) depending on the number of teams entered. England Touch hold the right to divide competitions up as they see fit to facilitate the tournament.

#### **9.3.2.2. Initial Ranking for Round 1**

Teams are ranked into the draw according to their finishing position in the 2022 Mixed Series. In the event a team has entered who did not enter the 2022 Mixed Series, they will be ranked after that of the lowest finishing competitor in the 2022 Mixed Series. In the case of multiple teams entering the event who did not compete in the 2022 Mixed Series, they will be ranked in alphabetical order respectively, after that of the lowest finishing competitor in the 2022 Mixed Series.

#### **9.3.2.3. Ranking for Round 2**

Teams are initially ranked into the draw according to their finishing position in Round 1. England Touch holds the right to promote or relegate teams between divisions, similar to 8.3.2.3 depending on the number of teams entered into the competition. In the case of teams entering Round 2 who did not enter Round 1, they are ranked as per 9.3.2.2.

#### **9.3.2.4. Ranking for Round 3**

Teams are ranked into the draw according to the number of competition points they have accumulated from Rounds 1 and 2. In the event of a tie for positions, please refer to 9.3.1.4. In the case of teams entering Round 3 who did not enter Round 1 or 2, they are ranked as per 9.3.2.2.

### **9.3.3. Event Format**

**9.3.3.1.** Before the event, teams are divided equally into pools.

**9.3.3.2.** Teams play at least six (6) 20 minute long games during an event day (see 5.6) unless a BYE exists within the draw. The minimum number of games a team will play is five (5).

**9.3.3.3.** Teams play the other teams in their pool during the morning of the event

**9.3.3.4.** A knockout competition will then follow in the afternoon where teams qualify based on the finishing positions of each team within their pool. England Touch will create a format that is fair and that satisfies all points above.