



**JUNIOR TOUCH**  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Junior Touch Championships CODE OF CONDUCT

In our World, everyone has the right to participate

# Introduction

This Code of Conduct provides an introduction to the policies of the Junior Touch Championships (JTC) as well as providing a framework for ethical decision making. This document is not intended to be a definitive set of rules; rather it provides an overview of our values and guidance on responsibilities.

This document is living, meaning that the Board of Trustees will review and update as required. Just as we strive to provide an excellent tournament and continue to improve our performance, we continually look to improve the Junior Touch Championships Code of Conduct.

We intend to build a positive reputation in youth Touch, one that will only be earned by having core values and collectively living up to them.

## Aims and Objectives

The following are the key aims and objectives of the Junior Touch Championships.

1. Promote participation in the sport of Touch in a safe and secure environment.
2. Provide a platform for young people to create and maintain healthy active lifestyles.
3. Inspire and motivate individuals, with a vision to improve their schooling through sporting interest.
4. Provide an event for young people to discover new skills.
5. Ensure equal team and referee access and involvement for boys and girls.
6. Help to provide key focus on fitness and wellbeing.
7. Foster cooperation between FIT member regions and national Touch associations.
8. Provide a platform for developing leadership and forging cultural exchange.
9. Celebrate ethnic diversity.

In all JTC documents, the term 'manager' and 'coach' (and their derivatives) refers to both player and referee coaches and managers.

# Our Core Values

## Touch without the side lines

The Junior Touch Championships (JTC) inspires cross border collaboration, sharing of ideas and resources and cultural exchange between all participants, across Europe and beyond. It takes pride in promoting inclusivity regardless of gender, ability, background, or country to foster the players and referees of tomorrow.

The Board of Trustees strives to look at ways of breaking down monetary barriers for participation, so may engage ethically in fundraising..

## Competition

By its very nature, Touch is a wholly competitive sport. Participants, managers, coaches and referees are encouraged to openly display their competitive nature. All participants are encouraged to strive to achieve their best just as the Board of Trustees strives to provide the best forum for that to occur. Enjoy winning but enjoy losing as well. Taking part now is critical for building the successes and visions of the future. Ensure at all times that you are gracious and respectful in winning and defeat.

## Growth is imperative

The JTC is future oriented and was created to provide the opportunity for young people to participate for National Touch Associations (NTAs) to build player and referee numbers.

Using the international aspect to capture new talent, the JTC helps to provide the opportunity for young people to grow in skill and confidence, with the ultimate vision of feeding into NTAs open divisions.

Providing a professionally organised and operated tournament will help create fond experiences and memories for participants. The view is to ensure that the positive message about Touch finds its way back to non-participants which may provide a platform for further growth and participation.

## It's not all about Touch

Skills learnt, experiences shared and optimistic attitudes among teams and individuals can have a significant impact on young people's self-confidence, skill transfer and their education. How managers, organisers and coaches behave towards young people can also have an impact on their outlook. Coaching is about transferring knowledge, experiences, advice and skills, and helping participants to realise their potential; but it also matters how this message is conveyed and received.

How Touch is played in the future is defined by how we act today.

# Code of Conduct

## Our Code of Conduct, National and EU Law

In carrying out their role before or during the Tournament, everyone involved in JTC must follow this Code of Conduct. It is also the policy of the JTC that everyone observes all national and EU laws. This includes any financial, health and safety laws and Child Protection laws. This Code takes priority over any NTA Code during the Tournament, but national law takes precedence in all circumstances.

Player and referee safety is of paramount concern. Every decision must consider safety first and everyone must place the safety and welfare of participants above all else.

The Board of Trustees is committed to providing an ethical service and product to participants, where they are able to express their talent and individuality in a safe and secure environment.

## Equality

Where an NTA subsidises players, coaches, managers or referees, NTAs are expected to provide an equal share reduction of any funding or subsidy among its players or referees. NTAs are never to overcharge a participant. All participants must be invoiced equally across all participating squads for their involvement. The Board of Trustees will always invoice teams in all divisions equally. It will promote value for money, fairness and equality with respect to team entry costs.

Coaches and managers are to embrace their role wholeheartedly, and provide to their teams and referees their experience, knowledge and skills without prejudice in order to promote growth in team and individual talent.

## Act Responsibly

The Tournament will not tolerate the use of illegal substances or recreational drugs during the Tournament. For the benefit of doubt, 'illegal substances' are any substance treated as such by WADA.

Everyone must understand the boundaries of Child Protection and apply them.

The consumption of alcohol at the venue during the tournament is prohibited. Providing alcohol to a minor remains a criminal offence.

No participant (including managers and coaches) or non-participant is expected to contend with threats or bullying.

Do not allow prejudice, conflict of interest or bias to affect objectivity. Encourage young people and reinforce efforts, participation and growth in performance over winning and losing.

## Respect and Communication

Ensure that when communicating with young people, parents, coaches, managers, referees and administration staff that you do so in a respectful and ethical manner. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect.

Always operate within the rules and spirit of the game, promoting fair play and participation. Referees are always to ensure they are impartial. They are to apply the rules of the game consistently and fairly to the full limit of their experience and knowledge. All players and referees have limits of knowledge and skill, and all participants must display respect towards each other and accept limits exist. They must not mock, belittle or make condescending remarks publicly or privately.

Managers and coaches (both player and referee) must ensure equal participation throughout the tournament, regardless of aptitude or gender in the case of Mixed Touch or referees. It is also worth noting that managers and coaches are not to exercise their authority or position to pressure individuals into participation. Encouragement, acceptance and positive reinforcement are key items worth noting.

Ensure that at all times you display a courteous and controlled manner. Respect each and every player, manager, referee, and administrator in the delivery, spectating and conduct of the tournament.

Everyone is to treat all volunteer staff with respect. The staff of NTAs are volunteers and provide the sport with innumerable unpaid hours of effort. So too the Board of Trustees and organising committee spends countless volunteer hours preparing a tournament for your enjoyment, without the behest of reward.

## Handling Personal Information

The only personal information that the Junior Touch Championships asks for is names, country, dietary requirements and date of birth of participants. These are required to deliver the tournament and are never stored online, shared or sold. The JTC will never request an email address of a player, postal address or phone number.

The Board stores only names and country online to highlight the achievements of participants. Even so, the JTC will always treat this level of information with sensitivity. Any participant may request their name to be removed from the website or altered where there is an error in spelling free of charge. The JTC will never use any personal data for marketing.

It is a condition of team entry that all individuals provide their consent that their name and country they represent is posted online, should they meet the qualifying criteria (Most Valuable Player or number of Touchdowns).

The participating NTA must however maintain a medical record during the tournament. The NTA must manage this personal information under their Code of Conduct and country specific data protection laws but may need to be disclosed to medical staff during the tournament in case of injury. Information transferred in this manner must be protected and remain confidential in accordance with the rules and regulations associated with the profession.

## Protecting Venues and JTC Assets

The Board of Trustees endeavours to safeguard the venue (and structures erected within its limits), accommodation and the preservation of JTC assets. Everyone is responsible for ensuring that all assets are protected from waste, loss, damage and abuse.

Venues and accommodation are hired on participants' behalf, and by taking part everyone takes responsibility for the preservation of venue assets such as: fields, equipment, rooms, temporary structures and furnishings as well as intellectual property.

Accidents do happen and in this instance the participant is expected to report it immediately. Depending on the circumstances, the venue or Board of Trustees may pay for the damage itself or expect to recover the costs from the NTA the participant represents.

## Play Touch within the Rules

Always strive to enjoy taking part and play within the rules of the game. Players, referees, coaches and managers are to give their best and be competitive. But always treat the opposition, your own team, your teams' management and the officials with respect.

# Questions and Answers

## What's the purpose of a Code of Conduct?

The Code of Conduct gives an overview of our ethical standards and demonstrates our commitment to follow the laws and regulations that govern our tournament. It's not just about having rules, it's the application of these values that is important.

This document provides everyone with a starting point when thinking about integrity. It also provides an understanding on the guidelines which we've adopted in terms of sport and interacting with young people.

## Who must adhere to the Code of Conduct?

Every person who has an involvement during the lead up to the tournament and anyone in any role at the tournament itself must adhere to this Code of Conduct. That extends to include the Board of Trustees, administrators, players, referees, coaches, managers, medical staff, parents and spectators, vendors, venue staff, and suppliers.

## What is my responsibility?

Prior to getting involved in the JTC, everyone must have read this Code of Conduct and be familiar with the expectations. The squad manager or tour manager (the NTAs person of responsibility must agree to this policy). The Board of Trustees will work with NTAs to police this process, but NTAs are expected to self-certify this process. Finally you must then follow the Code in your role, and report any breach.

## What do I do if I need to report a breach?

Everyone has a responsibility to report any suspected or actual breach promptly. Reporting can be anonymous and is kept confidential.

If the breach is made prior to the tournament, you should contact your NTA President or Child Protection Officer. This should be dealt with internally within the NTA.

When a complaint is made during the event to Tournament Control, the Board of Trustees will contact the NTA and conduct a thorough investigation. We promote an open and approachable forum, such that complaints can be handled professionally and speedily. The JTC takes all complaints seriously.

Where a breach of the Code of Conduct potentially requires further action such as a sanction, a Judiciary Panel shall be formed in line with the JTC Judiciary Policy. This Panel shall have the power to impose all or any of the following penalties on any class of member:

- a. Exclusion from any games for any specified number of matches or specified time period in accordance with Appendix B of the Judiciary policy.
- b. Forfeiture of any competition and/or other points as specified.
- c. A combination of any of the above or any other disciplinary action as considered appropriate and in accordance with the objects of the JTC Trust.

# Code of Conduct Signature



I have read and understood the Junior Touch Championships Code of Conduct. On behalf of the National Touch Association and the players and staff which I represent; I agree to abide by these requirements.

I agree that I am responsible for the players, referees and staff I represent and shall enforce the Code.

National Touch Association	
Tour Manager Print Name	
Signature	
Date	

Witnessed by (Print Name)	
Signature of Witness	