



JUNIOR TOUCH
CHAMPIONSHIPS

Junior Touch Championships REFEREE DEVELOPMENT

In our World, the future of Touch depends on strong foundations

Introduction

National Touch Associations are provided with an early warning of policy introduction. This provides a generous amount of time to implement the necessary

This policy will come into force on the 1st day of January 2018.

Notwithstanding this, NTAs are invited to adopt this policy prior to its introduction on the above date.

Scope

History

The sole purpose of the tournament is to provide a pathway for the retention of young people and provide a pathway into open categories at an international level. Both player and referee age demographics at current international tournaments is increasing, and the long term sustainability of the sport in Europe is in question.

To combat this, the JTC Trust aims to increase the participation of young people. The long term sustainability and growth of the sport is paramount.

The delivery of the tournament provides a focus for young people and NTAs, and delivers a route or pathway for the retention of young people.

Equally so, the recruitment and retention of both young players and referees is critical to the long term success of the sport in Europe. Increased player base and skill cannot be successful, without the foundations of referee recruitment and development, and vice versa. Participating NTAs must therefore invest in parallel both facets of the sport.

You can find our aims and objectives within the Trust Deed.

Objectives

This policy will ensure that the sport and tournament is sustainable, through the development and recruitment of young players and referees.

In addition, the policy ensures that the tournament has the sufficient number of referees to officiate every game.

Finally, the policy will ensure that referee development is given the same priority within NTAs competing at the Junior Touch Championships as player development.

Junior Referee Provision

It is the policy of the JTC Trust that any National Touch Association entering 2 or more teams into the Junior Touch Championships must also enter into the tournament a minimum of one junior referee.

The definition of a 'junior referee' is one who has not yet turned 21 years of age by 31/12.

To clarify; this provision is not a quota as there is no requirement to provide referees by percentage of teams entered. But a junior referee is to be entered into the tournament by each attending NTA (see exemption below).

This provision should not be read as a negative or a barrier to participation. The sustainability of the tournament and local practise depends entirely on the equal investment of both facets. This policy outlines the importance of this as well as the responsibilities of NTAs.

Referee Academy

The Touch Europe Referee Academy, established in 2014 to provide junior referees for JTC2014, seeks to assist Touch associations with the training of junior referees ready for the tournament. The JTC Trust will coordinate with the European Referee Commission, and seek assistance through its Referee Academy to ensure access to coaches and opportunities throughout the year. However, it is the responsibility of an association's National Director of Referees to identify and recruit referees.

Badge Requirement

The minimum badge requirement for a junior referee at the tournament is Level 1 EU. It is recommended that the referee gains as much experience as possible and ideally will at least be eligible for a L2 upgrade at the tournament.

Legacy

The legacy of the JTC Trust is to provide a pathway for participants and an opportunity for NTAs to encourage participation at a youth level. The JTC Trust believes that the sport can only develop fully if all aspects of the sport are developed equally and opportunities are afforded to players and officials.

It is a benefit to the sport and to each NTA to encourage a junior referee and provide the necessary training and support.

Recruiting and training players should be the priority in year one with referee development built on the foundation of enthusiasm born out of participation.

The Trust anticipates the support and understanding of the purpose of this policy.

Support

The JTC Trust carries out numerous fundraising events throughout the year. It is the intention of the JTC Trust to provide monetary support to any junior referee at the tournament. The Trust will allocate any funds raised to junior referees in accordance with its support policy, but cannot guarantee the level of support it can offer.

In addition, the JTC Trust will also seek support from the European Referee Commission during the year to provide specific support and coaching in line with its aims.

Exemptions

The JTC Trust does not intend to erect barriers to participation and the requirement to develop junior referees should not be considered as such.

Reinforcing the purpose of this policy, as well as understanding the difficulties that arise with developing Touch Associations, an exemption is offered as follows:

1. For the first year of an association's involvement at the Junior Touch Championships, there will be no condition to provide a junior referee.
2. Any association only entering one team into the Junior Touch Championships, whether their first year or not, will not be required to (but may still) provide a junior referee. This is to assist associations where resources are limited and every effort is put into entering one team in an attempt to grow the sport at junior level.