



Touch To Twickenham - 2024



@ERSchoolsTouch



Our Aim

We want to stage a series of rugby events with a real difference to grow rugby.

These events will be focused on the player, whatever their motivation. We will ensure they are at heart of our decision making, whether they are playing for fun or wanting to challenge themselves.



Touch to Twickenham - Review of 2023



Touch to Twickenham 2022/23

Event philosophy

Inclusivity: Touch to Twickenham is mixed gender and anyone can play. Every team is guaranteed equal playing time at a level to suit.

Enjoyment: We want students (and teachers) to enjoy these events, regardless of their motivations.

Participation: In 2023 these events helped drive participation in students new to rugby, girls and young leaders. We want Touch to Twickenham to continue to drive participation and physical activity.

By taking part you commit to this philosophy and the Rugby Union core values of **Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline** and **Sportsmanship**.





Eligibility

We want as many students, schools and colleges to experience the non-contact game.

We will be running Touch to Twickenham events for:

- **Year 12/Year 13** (under 18) between **February-April** open to colleges and schools &
- **Year 9** (under 14) between **April-May**

Where a school/college is single gender we'd encourage them to partner with another local school/college in the same category to enable participation.

Event Details

Each event will run parallel competitions:

- **White:** If you are a school/college brand new to rugby* OR if you have a team of players who've never played (other than preparation for these events) then this is the event for you.
- **Red** – For team who have **players** who currently play rugby (including rugby league).

These events are intended to create opportunities for players who don't who already have a sufficient high level playing opportunity. Therefore teams in the **red event** are ineligible to field regular 1st / "A" team, county or pathway (inc. RFL) contact players.

(* Read on – we've got some additional support for you)



Event details (cont.)

The winning (or best placed teams) from the Red and White events will progress to a National Finals Day (subject to engagement with the event philosophy and values).

Schools/colleges are welcome to enter a team in both white/red events if appropriate.

These events offer an opportunity to inspire and develop new leaders and referees. Teams will be required to provide a Young Leader(s) or a member of staff to support with refereeing.

These events also provide a great opportunity for students to lead and manage their own team, under supervision of a member of staff.





Players

Year 12/Year 13: Players will be Year 12 or Year 13 within the school or college, though it's our expectation that due to exams etc., that the majority of players will be in Year 12.

Year 9: Players will be in school year 9.

Games will be 8-a-side and there must be at least 4 female players on the pitch at any one time.

We'd recommend a squad of 12

If an all-boys school/college is unable to partner to have female players, they will play 7-a-side and may not be eligible to progress to the finals day.

Format and Rules

Events will follow “The Touch Union” rules.

Regulation 15, including half game rule, playing down and maximum playing times, will apply throughout.

Rolling substitutions are permitted when there is a stoppage in play.

Competitions will follow a “waterfall” format – ensuring that each team is guaranteed the same amount of possible playing time.

Places in the pools will be determined by points. If two teams are level on points, positions will be decided by number of tries scored, points difference and then result between the teams





Support for new schools/colleges

- For schools/colleges who have not played rugby before, we want to support you. On signing up, we will send you a kit package, training resources and connect you to local support.

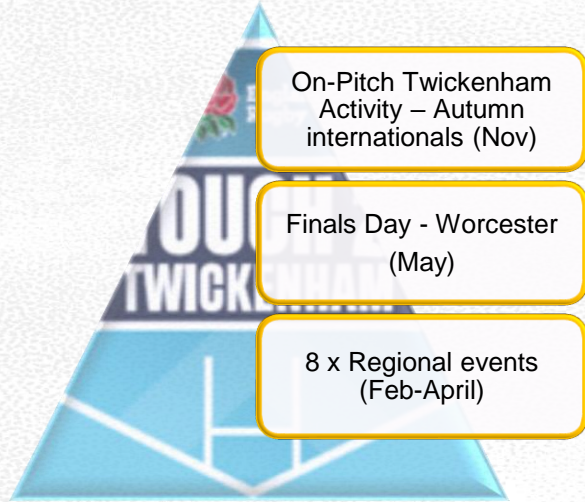
First Aid

- It is expected that each team will have a qualified First Aider in attendance with their own medical kit

Cost

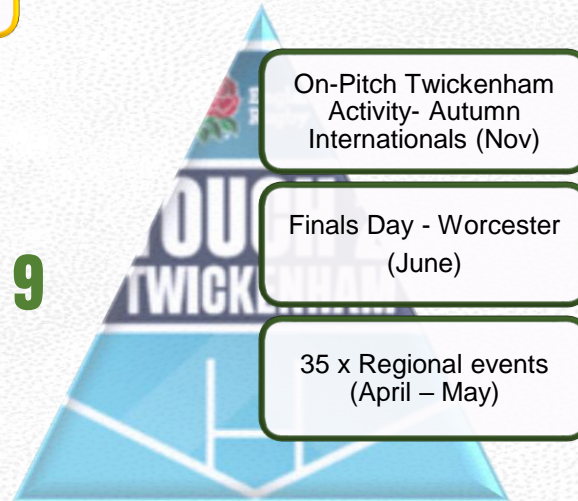
- These events are FREE. There is no entry-fee.

The Road to Twickenham - 2024



Year 12/Year 13

Year 9



Next Steps

- 1. Find your local venue and sign up here:**
www.englishrugby.com/Schools-Touch
- 2. Follow: @ERSchoolsTouch**
- 3. Share what you're doing - there may be some spot prizes!**
- 4. Enjoy taking part!**

