



UK Tag Nationals 2025

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Core Management Personnel:

- UK Tag Nationals Director - Will Shepherd*
- Merchandise / Kit - Steve Devonshire (stevedevonshire@trytagrugby.com)
- Brighton & Hove Dolphins - Steph McCabe
- Bristol Brabazons - Jamie Dinning
- Coventry & Warwickshire Paladins - Troy Perkins & Alan Robinson
- Edinburgh Highlanders - Clodagh Nic Lochlainn
- East London Eels - Mikayla Dennyly
- Newcastle Rockets - Natasha Botto & Jack Oddie
- North London Nighthawks - Paul Evitt & Juan Ignacio Cucchi
- Manchester Worker Bees - Adam Johnson
- South London Seals - Francesca Hales & James Price
- South Yorkshire Storm - Andrea Dobson & Stephen Reilly
- Thames Valley Titans - Roger Rebelo
- West London Wolves - Sian Rankin
- West Yorkshire White Roses - Bobby Domville & Lewis Cadman
- Wigan Wizards - Bobby Domville & Lewis Cadman
- York Phantoms - Aristotle Alexopoulos

* From 2025 a new Head of Events at Try Tag Rugby will commence the project managing of UK Tag Nationals.





UK Tag Nationals 2025 Timeline

Date	Event
From Monday 7th October	UK Tag Nationals 2025 coach applications open
12pm Monday 21st October	Coach application deadline
Thursday 24th October	Tag Nationals 2025 announced
12pm Thursday 24th October	Coaching teams announced locally
Thursday 24th October	UK Tag Nationals 2025 player nominations open
Anytime from Saturday 26th October to Saturday 7th December	Regions' trials take place. Dates to ideally be announced as early as possible at a local level, providing a recommended minimum 4 weeks notice
Friday 12th December	Sponsorship deadline (to be printed on kit only)
12pm Thursday 12th December	Player nomination deadline
By 2pm Thursday 19th December	Training squads announced locally (16/18 players)
Wednesday 18th December	UK Tag Nationals kit order window 1 opens on the TTR shop (open to all players). Shop will be open earlier for regions who have selected squads early.
12pm Friday 10th January	UK Tag Nationals kit order window 1 closes
12pm Monday, 3rd February	Regional Tournament registration payment deadline for players. Payments made to local Try Tag Rugby region. Unpaid teams will be excluded from the event.
Saturday 1st March	Northern & Scottish Regional Tournament & Great Britain Trial
Saturday 15th March	Southern & Midland Regional Tournament & Great Britain Trial
Saturday 16th March	London Regional Tournament & Great Britain Trial
Wednesday 12th March	Second kit order window opens
By 2pm Thursday 27th March	Confirmed tournament 12/14 announced locally
12pm Tuesday 1st April	Final kit order date for tournament





12pm Thursday 10th April	UK Tag Nationals 2025 tournament registration payment deadline for players. Payment made to local Try Tag Rugby region. Unpaid teams will be excluded from the event.
12pm Tuesday 29th April	Final kit order date for injury replacements
Saturday 17th May	UK Tag Nationals 2025





Team Management

Try Tag Rugby recommends that each region has the following:

1. **Regional Manager** – They will be responsible for driving their region's campaign including overseeing the selection of their teams and appointments of coaches, team managers and captains. The Regional Manager can also be a coach or a player if needed but cannot be all three. They will be heavily involved in preparing their region's team in the build up to the UK Tag Nationals and are expected to attend the tournament.
 2. **Team Coach (Voluntary Role)** – They will coach the team and help with team management before the tournament. The coach can be a player but there are strong advantages to them not being. There can only be one named coach per team. The coach should not be the captain. Regions should, where possible, have a coach for each team entered. Coaches will be key to helping drive promotion and player recruitment
 3. **Team Manager (Voluntary Role)** - They will manage the team throughout the Nationals calendar and on the day itself. The manager can be a player but there are strong advantages to them not being. There can only be one named manager per team but a manager can be responsible for multiple teams. Managers will be responsible for booking and communicating training venues; chasing players for fees and kit orders; checking kit orders; and distributing kit. The team manager will liaise between the Regional Manager and players and be responsible for tasks that the Regional Manager may wish to delegate to them.
 4. **Team Captain (Voluntary Role)** – Will be a senior player from the region who leads by example and will drive promotion and recruitment for their region. Each team must have a captain. Teams are permitted to have co-captains should they wish.
 5. **Regional Committee (Voluntary Roles)** - The Regional Committee is an optional recommendation for Regional Managers to appoint. The role of the committee would be to drive player recruitment; to identify coaches and talented players within the region; to liaise between Regional Manager and players; and to be responsible for tasks that the Regional Manager may wish to delegate to them. Committees should consist of a maximum of four people; with female and male representation; and it is up to the Regional Manager whether or not some or all of the committee are coaches or players.
- The coach, manager, captain and committee positions will be offered by the Regional Manager.
 - Appointments as coach, manager, captain or committee member are annual and are made during the registration period for each tournament with new submissions of interest welcomed.
 - The Regional Manager, plus relevant coach will have input in selecting in December 2024 the 16/18 strong training squad for each of their sides and then in March 2025 confirming the final tournament team that will represent their region at the UK Tag Nationals 2025. **It is the Regional Manager and coaches' responsibility to ensure teams are selected fairly, that they meet selection rules and are representative of their leagues.**





The Categories

In 2025 we will continue with the five categories that were in the 2024 tournament with minor changes to the age requirements to the two senior categories:

1. Mixed Open (8-a-side with a tournament squad of **up to 7** female players and **up to 7** male players per team)
2. Women's Open (8-a-side with a tournament squad of 12 female players per team)
3. Men's Open (8-a-side with a tournament squad of 12 male players per team)
4. Women's 34s (8-a-side with a tournament squad of **up to 14** female players per team who were **born on or before 31.12.91**)
5. Men's 37s (8-a-side with a tournament squad of **up to 14** male players per team who were **born on or before 31.12.88**)

NB: The age requirements for Women's 34s and Men's 37s have been changed to be fixed at three years younger than the international women's and men's categories that they are partially designed to feed players into. The names indicate the age players must turn in 2025 in order to be eligible for the category.

- Regions are welcome to enter teams in all five categories if they have sufficient strength in depth to field five teams deemed by TTR HQ to be of Nationals standard.
- New Regions are expected to enter one mixed team in their second year of operation. They are not allowed to enter more than this until their third year, regardless of playing numbers or demand.
- Continuing from 2023 regions will only be allowed to enter one team in each category. Exceptions to this rule will only be granted in cases where a region can demonstrate particular strength in depth that allows them to enter two genuinely competitive teams in a single category.
- Players will still be asked about their preference for a team however it will be made clear that this is only a preference. There is no guarantee that they will be able to play in that category and in registering to play they accept they may be asked to play in a different category.
- Great Britain squads are managed and selected separately. Being picked for a certain GB squad does not mean players will be selected for the same category in the UK Tag Nationals, nor does playing for a particular Nationals category mean an aspiring GB player can only represent that category at international level.
- There will be a Tag Nationals title in each category and for the first time in 2025 an overall Tag Nationals title will also be awarded by the region that performs the best across all categories. This will be determined on a points basis.





Eligibility

- The autumn opening period for nominations means that the 2024 Early Summer and Summer seasons will be the predominant way to gain eligibility for a region.
- For London regions only Early Summer and Summer 2024 will count towards a player's eligibility for a region.
- London players who commenced playing in Autumn 2024 shall qualify for the region that their league feeds players into in the Early Summer and Summer seasons.
- For non-London regions any league from Spring 2024 onward shall qualify a player for that region.
- Legacy players shall again be allowed. A player no longer playing in a league that qualifies them for a region shall be allowed to play for a particular region according to the following criteria:
 - o They must have represented the region in at least one of the last three years prior to the date of the 2025 tournament
 - o They must have played a league in that region in at least one of the last three years prior to the date of the 2025 tournament
 - o They are currently registered in any Try Tag Rugby league

The four London regions consist of the following 2024 Early Summer and Summer Leagues:	
North London:	Finsbury Park (Monday, Wednesday & Vets), Highbury (Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday), Regent's Park, Shoreditch / Hoxton (Monday, Tuesday Men's, Tuesday Mixed & Wednesday).
East London:	Borough, Brockley-Lewisham, Canada Water (Monday, Tuesday & Thursday), Olympic Park (North), Peckham, Victoria Park (Wednesday & Thursday), Waterloo.
South London:	Balham (Tuesday, Beginner Only & Vets), Brixton (Monday & Wednesday), Clapham & Balham (Thursday & Saturday), Clapham & Wandsworth Common, Clapham Common (Friday & Sunday), Clapham Junction (Falcon Park).
West London:	Acton Wasps (Monday & Wednesday), Fulham, Hyde Park (Monday Men's, Tuesday, Wednesday & Property League), Richmond, Wandsworth Town, The Wolfpack League at Queen's Park.
<p>Super Leagues: Balham (Wednesday - Mixed, Women's & Men's Super Leagues) do not count toward regional eligibility due to these leagues attracting the strongest players from across London regardless of region.</p> <p>Players who have only played at Super League during the eligibility window will need to contact TTR to provide proof of their postcode. This will then be used to determine their regional eligibility based on the venue closest to their address.</p>	



For new players the four London regions consist of the following 2024 Autumn Leagues:	
North London	Highbury Fields, North London (East Finchley), Shoreditch-Highbury, Tottenham
East London:	Borough & Kennington, Burgess Park (Old Kent Road), Canada Water (Southwark Park Athletics Stadium), Catford-Lewisham, East London, London Bridge-Bermondsey, Olympic Park (North), Olympic Park (South), Waterloo (Monday), Waterloo & Kennington (Friday & Vets).
South London:	Battersea Park, Battersea Park Astro, Clapham Junction (Falcon Park - Monday & Sunday), Clapham South, Dulwich (Alleyns), Tooting Bec.
West London:	Acton Wasps (Monday & Wednesday), Barnes (Rosslyn Park), Chiswick (King's House Sports Ground), Wandsworth Town (Wandle Rec) West Hampstead.
<p>Super Leagues: Rotherhithe Mixed, Men's & Women's Super Leagues do not count toward regional eligibility due to these leagues attracting the strongest players from across London regardless of region.</p> <p>Players who have only played at Super League during the eligibility window will need to contact TTR to provide proof of their postcode. This will then be used to determine their regional eligibility based on the venue closest to their address.</p>	

Under 18's

Starting in 2025, the minimum age for players at the UK Tag Nationals will be 18. Players must have turned 18 by 1st January 2025. This date has been chosen to cover the entire UK Tag Nationals programme including training, not just the event itself.

We recognise that some players who are under 18 at this date have participated in previous years. These players will remain eligible to play. If this applies to you, please contact davidshiple@trytagrugby.com for further information on our transition to this new policy.

Players who are new to UK Tag Nationals and do not meet the age requirement should not nominate themselves for selection in 2025.



Trials

- All regions are encouraged to hold trials to give all players a fair chance of selection for their team.
- Regions should also give consideration to players who are unable to attend the trials for good reason.
- Regardless of whether players attend trials or not, **all** interested players **must** nominate themselves for selection online. The Regional Manager and coaches will then be responsible for selecting the best team from both those who attended the trials and those who didn't.
- Regions will be responsible for setting up trials as leagues separately on Spawtz. Anybody registering for the trial will still need to nominate themselves, registering for a trial does not automatically nominate you for selection and vice versa.
- The final player nomination deadline is **12pm on Thursday 12th December** but individual licensee regions may close registration earlier should they wish.

Great Britain Players:

- In 2025, it is not compulsory for Great Britain players to take part however it is an elite event and all Great Britain players would be expected to want to take part.
- Great Britain coaches and selectors will be invited and encouraged to attend the Nationals to watch games and players.
- Players are to be advised that the Regional Tournaments will be used as Great Britain trials for 2025.
- Players not selected for Great Britain are to be advised that GB coaches will be in attendance at Nationals and performance at the tournament may have a positive impact on GB selections in 2026.





Team Selection

December 2024

- In response to feedback about selections in 2023 and 2024 regions will now select a training squad of 16 players per Women's and Men's Opens side and 18 players per Mixed Open, Women's 34s and Men's 37s. All these players will train in preparation for the Regional Tournaments with the expectation that they will play at that before final selections are made for the UK Tag Nationals itself.
- The final squads selected for UK Tag Nationals shall contain 12 players for Men's Open and Women's open, and 14 players for Mixed Open, Women's 34s and Men's 37s.
- All players will be entitled to buy kit when selected in the training squad but are not required to. If a player does not buy kit then they should ensure they wear kit in their region's colours at the Regional Tournaments. **NB: full kit in your region's current design is compulsory for anyone selected at Nationals.**
- The order window following the March tournament 12/14 squad confirmation will be very short, so players are strongly advised to order early to ensure they don't miss the second window.
- The training squad size is to allow each team to have good numbers with which to train throughout the extended period between initial selection and the Regional Tournaments.
- Regions will confirm their training 16/18 following the conclusion of the player nomination period. The training 16/18 for each team must be submitted to TTR HQ by **Monday 16th December** at the latest. Internal TTR regions will be announced on **Thursday 19th December** which is also the final date that licensed regions can announce their teams.
- There can only be one coach and one manager per team.
- Teams may have co-captains if they wish.
- Jersey numbers will be 1-18 only except where numbers have already been taken. In that event only the next available number can be used. i.e. 19, then 20 etc.
- **Teams may be announced individually by region in advance of this date.** Regions choosing to announce prior to the deadline date must agree this with TTR HQ in advance so that email and social media graphic templates can be shared and the Nationals shop opened.
- The [UK Tag Nationals Representatives' Code of Conduct](#) is available to coaches, team managers and players detailing the expectations of them as regional representatives and clarifying the rules around training and competition.

Team Confirmation - March 2025

- Following the Regional Tournaments Regions will announce their final Nationals teams no later than **Thursday 27th March**
- A new kit order window shall be opened on **Thursday 12th March** until **Monday 1st April** to allow selected players to order kit if they have not already done so.





Player Pool

- As was the case in 2024, players who were unsuccessful in being selected for their region's training squads will be given the option to enter a player pool.
- The player pool has two main purposes:
 - To avoid talented, Nationals standard players missing out on selection for the tournament due to playing in a region with particular strength in depth or where a region isn't fielding a team in a certain category.
 - To provide Regional Managers and coaches with a quick, hassle free way of finding replacements at peak periods or with limited time frames ahead of the tournament.
- Players will be able to nominate themselves for the player pool via Spawtz and a Google Form following the December 2024 announcement of squads.
- This player pool shall be managed centrally and will not be able to be viewed by Regional Managers, coaches, captains or other players.
- TTR HQ staff will vet the players that register for the pool and will remove players who are not of sufficient standard to play Nationals. Players removed from the pool for this reason will not be notified. Licensees may be contacted for their opinion on certain players from their own region.
- Once selected as in a training squad in December, players cannot withdraw from selection for their region to enter the player pool.
- The player pool is not intended as a way for regions to improve the quality of their team.
- The replacement player should not be expected to attend training as they may well be based in another region. It is likely that the player will not be able to join up with the team before the tournament itself.
- The player in the pool shall be given the opportunity to order kit until **29th April 2025**.
- Each team shall be allowed a maximum of two players from the player pool over the course of the 2025 Nationals programme.
- Regions are not obliged to use the player pool if they do not wish to do so and are welcome to look for replacements within their own region's playing community.
- Players from the pool who go on to represent a region in the UK Tag Nationals shall not be deemed eligible to qualify for that region on legacy rules in subsequent years.





Player Fees - Registration & Kit

The following three costs will be charged to players selected for the 2025 UK Tag Nationals where applicable.

- £26 - UK Tag Nationals 2025 Tournament Registration Fee
 - To be paid to the player's region by **12pm Thursday 10th April 2025** by those players selected in the final tournament squads.
- £21 - Regional Tournament Registration Fee
 - To be paid to the player's region by **12pm Monday 3rd February** by those players playing in the Regional Tournaments.
- £49.90-£56.90 - Subsidised Kit Fee (exact sum dependent on items and quantities ordered)
 - For the 2025 tournament kit will again be ordered via the Try Tag Rugby shop. Players will therefore pay directly to the shop and regional licences will not need to be invoiced for kit.
 - Kit prices for 2025 are subsidised below retail prices for kit and are detailed below.
 - Jerseys - £29.95
 - Singlets - £27.95
 - Shorts - £21.95
 - Tights - £26.95

Jersey, singlets and shorts are available in unisex or women's cut.

We are very aware of the overall costs for taking part in this event, so are doing our best to keep our costs to a minimum by subsidising kit prices by on average £5 per item. Regions are on a two year kit cycle, see below for details of which regions are on which year of the cycle.

- **Regions or teams may advertise additional costs** to players nominating themselves for that region in order to give advance notice of any fees they may look to collect locally. These may include, but are not limited to, costs associated with training, socials, transport or accommodation.

Playing Kit

- Coventry & Warwickshire, Edinburgh, Manchester, Newcastle, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Wigan, York will all receive new kit for 2025 either due to feedback from players and Regional Managers or due to a required branding update.
- Brighton & Hove, Bristol, East London, North London, South London, Thames Valley, West London will reuse their 2023/24 UK Tag Nationals for 2025 before receiving a new kit in 2026.
- New players will choose to order a jersey/singlet and a pair of shorts/tights.
- Returning players may choose to order additional/replacement items should they wish.





- Players may order more than one top and more than one pair of shorts/tights if they wish

Off-Field Kit

- The midlayer tops will be ready to purchase on the shop and are available to everyone in the community. These will be made to order.

Kit Perks for Regional Managers and Coaches

- All Regional Managers will be entitled to a free midlayer top in their region's design as a thank you for their work organising their teams. These will be made and sent to each Regional Manager.
- All coaches and team managers will be provided with a £30 shop voucher that they can use towards Nationals playing kit (whether a player-coach or not) or towards their region's midlayer top.





Team Sponsorship

- Teams will be encouraged to obtain team sponsorships. A UK Tag Nationals sponsorship brochure will be circulated to all Regional Managers and then it is their responsibility to forward it to their coaches, managers and players.
- Team sponsorship with the company logo on the shirt is £995 plus VAT per team within each region. This would be used to cover the cost of jerseys or singlets for all players in the team.
- All team sponsorships need to be approved centrally through TTR HQ but can then be serviced directly by the region.
- Any potential sponsors must align with Try Tag Rugby's brand and core values. TTR reserves the right to reject any proposed sponsorship if they do not believe the sponsor is appropriate.
- The sponsorship amount will be required to be paid directly to TTR HQ who will then issue the relevant players with shop discount codes to order their fully subsidised jerseys / singlets.
- Teams will have until **Friday 12th December** to find a team sponsor with the company logo on the kit.
- In addition to the main team shirt sponsorship, teams will also be able to get official team sponsorship without a logo on the kit. These are charged at £595 plus VAT. There would not be a deadline for seeking smaller sponsorship as this would not include the sponsor being printed on the kit (though keep in mind other parts of the sponsorship offering such as being offered a live streaming slot are time sensitive). Any smaller sponsorships must also be approved and paid to TTR HQ.





Training

- Teams are encouraged to organise training sessions in advance of the event however these must not interfere with normal leagues either from a player or referee point of view. Unless approved in advance then all training sessions must meet the following guidelines:
 - o London Regions: No training on weekday evenings on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or on a Saturday from 11am – 2pm.
 - o West Yorkshire: No training on weekday evenings on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.
 - o Manchester: No training on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.
 - o Wigan: No training on Monday.
 - o The exception to the above for London, West Yorkshire, Manchester and Wigan regions is unless the training is held after all the games in the league have been played and there are no other leagues being run at other venues on that night.
 - o Other Regions: To avoid players having to decide between training and either playing/refereeing in a league we strongly recommend training sessions are not held on the same night as a league unless it is held after all the games in the league have been played and there are no other leagues being run at other venues on that night.
 - o **ALL Regions:** Once Great Britain training resumes on Sundays from 12pm-4pm in April 2025, Nationals training must not clash with it.





Regional Tournaments & Great Britain Trials

- All regions will take part in a Regional Tournament in 2025 with Newcastle and York joining the Northern & Scottish event.
- There will be three separate tournaments:
 - The **Northern & Scottish** tournament will consist of Edinburgh, Manchester, Newcastle, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Wigan and York and will take place at **Cochrane Park, Newcastle** on **Saturday 1st March 2025**.
 - The **Southern & Midland** tournament will consist of Brighton & Hove, Bristol, Coventry & Warwickshire and Thames Valley and will take place at **Park House School, Newbury** on **Saturday 15th March 2025**
 - The **London** tournament will consist of East, North, South and West London and will take place at **Kings House Sports Ground, London** on **Sunday 16th March 2025**.
 - The tournaments will be held in March to provide all teams with an exposure to high level, 8-a-side, international rules, competitive tag and to aid in the selection process confirming the final 12/14 in each Nationals side.
- The tournaments will again be utilised as Great Britain trials with GB coaches in attendance. Players will be contacted a month prior to their tournament with instructions on registering themselves for consideration in the GB trials.
- The tournaments are not intended to match the size or scale of Nationals. They are stripped back versions of the main tournament with the focus on the matches and trials. This should be clearly communicated to players both by TTR HQ and by the regions themselves.
- Tournament kit will have arrived with the regions by this time so players are able to wear it while playing in the competition. Players who did not order kit shall instead need to wear kit in the colours of their region.





UK Tag Nationals Tournament

Date: Saturday 17th May 2025

Venue: University of Nottingham

Timings: Matches will start no earlier than 9am and finish no later than 7pm

Note - The University of Nottingham, Highfields Sports Complex is an outstanding venue and a significant step up on the university of Warwick in 2023. The venue is regularly used by England touch and last year hosted the 2024 Touch World Cup.

Tournament Rules

The tournament will be played with full international rules according to the International Tag Federation's latest [Rulebook](#). Key differences to standard Try Tag Rugby leagues include:

- All games shall be played in the 8-a-side format
- Any player may take kick-offs in Mixed Open
- 50:10s
- Bonus box

Teams in all categories will play through a seeded pool phase during the first half of the tournament which will determine the level of competition they progress into for the knockout stages. There will be a Tag Nationals title in each category and for the first time in 2025 an overall Tag Nationals title will also be awarded by the region that performs the best across all categories. This will be determined on a points basis. Players of the tournament shall also be awarded in each category.

All players must wear their region's latest UK Tag Nationals kit in order to play.

Guest/Invitational Teams

In 2025 we will again seek one guest regional team from outside the UK in each open category.

- There will be one space in each open category allocated to an invitational team from another member nation of the ITF
- The team and its squad must be verified by the equivalent ITF member nation
- The invitational team would be expected to have their own team kit, consisting of jersey/singlet and shorts/tights. If they don't then they would be able to order a kit through an ITF approved supplier.

Live Streaming

The intention will be to continue the tournament's partnership with 247.tv to ensure live streaming of Pitch 1 & 2, including all five Grand Finals.





Team Photos

Team photos will be available so that teams will have a lasting memory of the day. Action shots of the tournament will be shared on our social media.

Tournament After Party and Regional Manager and Coach Drinks

Following the tournament winners' presentation all Regional Managers will be invited for a thank you drink to recognise their contribution to their region and the successful running of the tournament.

