

# NATIONAL SQUAD ASSISTANT COACH

## VOLUNTARY ROLE DESCRIPTION



### Why Do We Need You?

- **Performance Standards:** To support your Head Coach to drive performance standards to increase the success of our National England Squads on the world stage.
- **Leadership:** To support your Head Coach in providing strong leadership for your National Squad.
- **Coaching:** To deliver in person expert technical and tactical coaching to our athletes.
- **Athletes:** To ensure the ongoing development, wellbeing and performance of athletes.
- **Workforce:** To work in collaboration with other coaches and staff to promote the “One England” professional culture, which is key to the success of the England Touch Performance Programme.
- **Environment:** To maintain a positive and professional coaching environment that promotes both the physical and psychological welfare of athletes.
- **Vision & Strategy:** To support your Head Coach’s vision and strategy and ensure alignment with the key strategic priorities of England Touch.

### What You’ll Do

- **Recruitment:** Assist your Head Coach with the appointment of support staff for your National Squad.
- **Talent Identification:** Formally identify talent at the primary talent ID event in the domestic calendar: National Touch Championships and/or Junior National Touch Championships; as well as informally at National Touch Series, Regional Touch Series and other domestic events.
- **Athlete Selection:** Collaborate with your Head Coach and any other Assistant Coaches on the selection of talented athletes into your National Squad for the upcoming campaign (from initial squads to selected representative teams).
- **Environment:** Agree clear values/behaviours/expectations of athletes and staff from the outset.
- **Game Planning:** Support your Head Coach with the formation of a Game Plan for each competition within the cycle. Ensure that the objectives of the Game Plan are aligned with the strategic priorities of England Touch and all athlete and staff roles are clearly defined.
- **Session Design:** Support your Head Coach with the creation of a structured training programme and detailed sessions plans to deliver at training camps and ensure timely communication of session plans in advance of camps.
- **Coach Development & Mentoring:** Present Continued Professional Development (CPD) modules/workshops on key technical/tactical game areas and/or other areas of coaching.
- **Reporting:** Provide information and reports to your Head Coach and/or the Performance Leadership Team as required in a timely manner and within agreed deadlines.
- **Feedback:** Collaborate with coaches/staff to provide regular in-game/training feedback on athlete performance and formal written feedback for athletes post selection and post competition. Ensure there is opportunity for the athletes’ voices to be heard during this process also.
- **Review:** Support your Head Coach with the review/appraisal of support staff performances.
- **Welfare:** Support athlete and staff wellbeing by supporting the provision of a safe and supportive training and competition environment.

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### Who You Are

#### Qualifications:

- England Touch Association (ETA) or Federation of International Touch (FIT) Coaching Qualification (Level 1) is essential for Opens Assistant Coach roles. Note that it will be mandatory for all Opens Assistant Coaches to attain the ETA or FIT Level 2 Coaching Qualification during the 2025-2028 Performance Cycle.
- England Touch Association (ETA) or Federation of International Touch (FIT) Coaching Qualification (Level 1) is desirable for all Youth, Seniors and Masters Assistant Coach roles. Note that it will be mandatory for all coaches to attain the ETA or FIT Level 1 Coaching Qualification prior to international competition and to attain Level 2 during the 2025-2028 Performance Cycle.
- Current Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Certificate is essential for Youth and Opens Head Coach roles and desirable for Seniors and Masters Head Coach roles. All successful candidates must be prepared to go through the DBS certification process if they do not have a current DBS certificate.
- Current Emergency First Aid in Sport Qualification is desirable.
- Completed Continued Professional Development (CPD) Modules and Workshops in Touch and/or similar sports is desirable.
- Completed coaching qualification from other sports or general coaching qualifications or modules (awarded by UK Coaching or similar) is desirable.

#### Skills & Experience:

- Good leadership skills with the ability to inspire and motivate athletes and staff.
- Good management skills with the ability to build positive relationships with staff, delegate tasks and manage conflict.
- Good technical and tactical knowledge and understanding of Elite Touch.
- Good contemporary game knowledge and understanding (i.e. awareness of current trends).
- Ability to demonstrate analytical thinking in order to assess athlete, team and opposition performances and identify areas for improvement.
- Understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of England Touch's key opponents is desirable.
- Good organisational skills with excellent attention to detail.
- Ability to cope with pressure/change and maintain a positive approach to your coaching.
- Good verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to represent England Touch and communicate effectively with the media, sponsors and any other key stakeholders.
- Willingness to participate in coach and personal development opportunities.
- Commitment to upholding England Touch's policies, in particular the Code of Conduct.

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Alongside everything outlined above, we expect our Opens Assistant Coaches to be the leaders of the England Touch High Performance Programme. Below are areas we expect coaches to work within:

### (1) National Perspective: “One England, One Vision”

- Every decision must reflect the ethos of “One England”, prioritising what is best for the sport nationally.
- Align decisions with overarching High Performance strategic priorities to strengthen collaboration and sport development across regions.

### (2) Elite Leadership & Coach Development

- Serve as leaders of the programme, mentoring and elevating performance across all levels—from Open squads to regional and youth coaches.
- Champion Continuous Professional Development (CPD), best practices in coaching, and a high-performance culture aligned with the **Coaching Excellence vision**.

### (3) Innovation & Competitive Advantage

- Bring strategic foresight to enhance England Touch’s elite standing and performance edge.
- Drive innovation across training methodologies, athlete welfare, analytics, and game strategy.
- Be a forward-thinking coach who shapes not only on-field outcomes but also the future direction of the programme.

The Opens Coaches are defining roles for England Touch. These roles carry the responsibility of shaping culture, driving performance, and preparing our athletes for success on the international stage. The leadership and vision of those appointed will be pivotal in delivering long-term excellence for our sport.

## Role Details

Department	Coaching Pathways & Performance
Supported by	Head Coach, Head of Coaching and Pathways & Performance Leadership Team
Supporting	Athletes, Fellow Assistant Coaches of your Squad, Performance Support Staff of your Squad and Pathway Coaches.
Hours	Between 5-10 hours of planning and review work weekly with an increase in hours pre, during and post international tournaments - with an understanding that online evening meetings and weekend camps and tournaments (including weekdays and weekends) is included in this role.
Role Duration	From appointment until the end of the 2025-2028 Performance Cycle, culminating with the Touch World Cup 2028 in New Zealand, including the review process post event. Note that this is a performance related role, which will be reviewed and renewed by the High Performance Appointments Panel following every individual competition in the cycle.
Expenses	Pre-approved expenses (travel, accommodation, etc) for training/tours.
Location	Work from home and various other locations as required and agreed. Preferably UK based as attendance at camps, competitions and events is essential.