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TOUCH WORLD CUP

MONDAY APRIL 29 - SATURDAY MAY 4, 2019



The Pathway to Putrajaya

The bid for Malaysia to host the 9th FIT Touch World Cup, 2019 was finalised in collaboration with the Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau - Malaysia Major Events and delivered to the Federation of International Touch (FIT) Board in January, 2014.

Six FIT member nations bid to host the Touch World Cup event and Malaysia and the United States of America were the final two shortlisted.

FIT President Erick Acker and Finance Director Paul Eggers travelled to Malaysia and held meetings with Perbadanan Putrajaya (PPJ) Executives, our proposed host city partners and conducted a thorough site inspection of the Taman Equestrian Park, Putrajaya, (TEP) the proposed competition site.

Perbadanan Putrajaya (PPJ) had been supporters of FIT Touch since 2012 via support to stage the 'Asian Club Championship' at the TEP, identifying FIT 'Touch' as a mass participation 'sport for all' in Malaysia and were eager to secure this international event as host city.

FIT were overwhelmed with the enthusiasm and support from PPJ and associated government agencies and all meetings were positive.

Federation Secretary General Bill Ker confirmed in writing that the Malaysia bid was successful and confirmed Putrajaya as host city in July, 2014.

The 9th FIT Touch World Cup, 2019 Malaysia will be the largest ever staged.

FIT Touch Malaysia (FTM) is the sole Malaysia member of FIT has both the honour and challenge as host nation to deliver a World Cup sports event to the highest standards commencing with the Opening Ceremony on the morning of Monday April 29th followed by six days of competition with the finals staged Saturday May 4th along with the closing ceremony.

History of Touch

- Started in Sydney Australia in the late 1960's
- Evolved from the professional sport code - **Rugby League**

Rugby League is the direct opposition sports code of Rugby Union.

- The 'International Federation' was established in March 1986
- There are currently 47 member nations that form the Federation



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What is this sport called 'Touch'?

- Dynamic, unique – and independent team sport
- Non-threatening – 'minimal' contact
- A unique 'run, catch & pass' game
- All ages – boys & girls – from primary school to senior competition
- Healthy social activity – a community game
- 14 players in a team
- 6 players active on the field at any one time
- Can 'substitute' players at any time

Touch is a community sport recognised as the 'sport for all'.

Why Play this Game 'Touch'?

This sport's feature is its simplicity - Touch is safe, fun, friendly and social – a team sport that offers a world of healthy active participation for a lifetime. This is emphasised by the large number of 'senior' divisions of competition that will be contested in the Touch World Cup, 2019.

The key attributes include –

- Fun & easy to play & teach
- Played by both genders
- Caters for all age groups
- Is a dynamic game
- Safe sport with minimal physical contact
- Caters for beginner, social and elite skill levels
- Clean popular image
- Fitness & health orientated
- Touch is a 'sport for all' regardless of age, weight, height or ability
- Touch is 'inclusive'

FIT Touch is a sport recognised by the Malaysian Government as a 'high potential' sport.

History of the FIT Touch World Cup

The Touch World Cup has grown in participation with each event.

From the inaugural event in 1998 where 5 nations participated in 3 categories to the most recent event in Coffs Harbour, Australia in 2015 where 25 nations contested 9 categories over 4 days and where 90 teams participated.

Malaysia will host the largest Touch World Cup in April / May 2019 with 26 nations and 117 teams. 11 playing divisions will be contested over 6 days of competition with 14 fields in use.



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The 2019 tournament will cater for –

- 2,400 players, coaches, managers and officials supported by approximately 2,000 inbound international supporters
- Minimum average stay, by the teams and officials - 10 nights with many extending to holiday pre and post event
- Monday 29th April – 9.00am Opening Ceremony / Competition Day 1
- Saturday 4th May – Competition Day 6 / Finals / Closing Ceremony

The FIT Touch World Cup 2019 has been recognised by the Malaysian government as a 'major' event that will bring a large number of inbound visitors from high spending nations, that will stay far longer than the average visitation who will support the Malaysian economy via a significant tourism spend.

Past Touch World Cup Host Nations

- 1988 Gold Coast, Australia
- 1991 Auckland, New Zealand
- 1995 Hawaii, USA
- 1999 Sydney, Australia
- 2003 Kumagaya, Japan
- 2007 Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 2011 Edinburgh, Scotland
- 2015 Coffs Harbour, Australia
- 2019 Putrajaya, Malaysia

For all statistics and results see the FIT internet site www.international-touch.org

Membership of the Federation of International Touch

Some 47 nations are currently members of FIT. Organised regional 'commissions' head up global development.

These include –

- Europe
- UK
- America's
- Asia
- Oceania
- Middle East & Africa



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FIT Touch Malaysia

- FIT Touch Malaysia (FTM) is the sole Malaysian member of the International Federation – since 2007
- One federation member per nation
- National Sports Body dedicated to the development of the sport of 'Touch'
- Registered with the Commissioner of Sport Malaysia (PSM 2841/2008)

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26 Nations Participating Touch World Cup 2019

- ✓ Australia
- ✓ Belgium
- ✓ Chile
- ✓ China
- ✓ Chinese Taipei
- ✓ Cook Islands
- ✓ England
- ✓ Fiji
- ✓ France
- ✓ Germany
- ✓ Hong Kong
- ✓ Ireland
- ✓ Italy
- ✓ Japan
- ✓ Malaysia
- ✓ Netherlands
- ✓ New Zealand
- ✓ Papua New Guinea
- ✓ Philippines
- ✓ Samoa
- ✓ Scotland
- ✓ Singapore
- ✓ South Africa
- ✓ United Arab Emirates
- ✓ United States of America
- ✓ Wales



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The following 11 Asian nations are current members of FIT -

- ✓ China
- ✓ Hong Kong
- ✓ India
- ✓ Japan
- ✓ Malaysia
- ✓ Nepal
- ✓ Philippines
- ✓ Qatar
- ✓ Singapore
- ✓ Taiwan
- ✓ UAE

As 'Touch' is a safe, non-threatening 'minimal-contact' team sport – Asia is seen as a major region for future development that will grow in participation numbers exponentially over the next 10 years and beyond.

As 'Touch' is a game that does not require an emphasis on brute strength or height as is the case on other team sports, Asian nations can compete head to head with Western nations. At the elite level, Touch requires agility and speed and team work.

Asia nations like Japan and Singapore have been developing teams for many years and contesting regional and international competition. Japan hosted the Touch World Cup, 2003 and are tipped to win at least 1 medal in 2019.

Singapore Open Women teams have won Bronze (third in the world) at both the 2011 World Cup, Scotland and 2015 World Cup, Australia. They took on nations that had a far larger pool of players to select from and that had far greater experience.

Malaysia can join these Asian heavy weights, and Malaysians of all ages can join participation pathways as players, referees, coaches and managers that will allow them to fully engage in this dynamic sport and also challenge their Asian and international opposition head to head.

FIT Touch Malaysia has a wide range of events that include domestic and international school, junior club, University and international club competition that can attract thousands of enthusiasts to travel to Malaysia annually.

The more experienced inbound groups will bring their skills and knowledge and support the overall technical ability of the growing pool of enthusiasts across Malaysia. This will allow Malaysia to position as a major FIT Touch playing nation and highly regarded member of the International Federation.



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Categories of competition being contested at Touch World Cup 2019

The 2019 Touch World Cup will be contested by a total of 117 teams in 11 categories of competition.

These categories included (number of teams playing in brackets):

- Men's Open (17)
- Women's Open (17)
- Mixed Open (22)
- Women's 27's (7)
- Men's 30's (8)
- Mixed 30's (11)
- Men's 35's (6)
- Women 35's (4)
- Men's 40's (13)
- Men's 45's (6)
- Men's 50's (6)

For further information, please contact: -

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