

UK Tag Nationals 2024

Table of Contents:

1. Core Management Personnel - 2
2. Timeline - 3
3. Team Management - 4
4. The Categories - 5
5. Eligibility - 6
6. Selection (December & March) - 8
7. Player Pool - 10
8. Player Fees, Registration & Kit - 11
9. Region/Team Sponsorship - 12
10. Training - 13
11. Regional Tournaments - 14
12. UK Tag Nationals Tournament - 15



UK Tag Nationals 2024 Timeline

Date	Event
Thursday 12th October	UK Tag Nationals 2024 coach applications open
12pm Monday 23rd October	Coach application deadline
12pm Friday 27th October	Coaching teams announced locally
Friday 27th October	UK Tag Nationals 2024 player nominations open
Saturday 4th November to Saturday 9th December	Regional trials window
12pm Friday 8th December	Player nomination deadline
Thursday 14th December	Training teams announced nationally (12 players + 4 injury reserves)
Thursday 14th December	UK Tag Nationals kit order window opens on the TTR shop
Friday 22nd December	Sponsorship deadline (to be printed on kit only)
12pm Monday 8th January	UK Tag Nationals kit order window closes
Friday two weeks prior to each Regional Tournament	Regional Tournament registration payment deadline. (Individualised by tournament) - Nth & Sco (9th Feb), Sth & Mid (16th Feb), LDN (23rd Feb)
By Friday 16th February	Kit delivered to all regions
Saturday 24th February	Northern & Scottish Regional Tournament - Heaton Moor RUFC
Saturday 2nd March	Southern & Midland Regional Tournament - Oxford RFC
Saturday 9th March	London Regional Tournament - King's House Sports Ground
Thursday 14th March	Confirmed tournament 12 announced nationally
12pm Tuesday 23rd April	Final kit order date for injury replacements
12pm Thursday 25th April	UK Tag Nationals 2024 tournament registration payment deadline
Saturday 11th May	UK Tag Nationals 2024



Team Management roles open to the Try Tag Rugby Community

1. **Team Coach (Voluntary Role)** – They will coach the team and help with team management before the tournament as well as on the day. 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 cannot be the captain except where special permission has been agreed for regional communities. Regions should, where possible, have a coach for each team entered. Coaches will be key to helping drive promotion and player recruitment.
 2. **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 and there can only be one captain per team.
- The coach and captain positions will be offered by the Regional Manager.
 - Appointments as coach or captain 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 November 2023 the 16 strong training squad for each of their sides and then in March 2024 confirming the final tournament team that will represent their region at the UK Tag Nationals 2024. **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.**
 - All Regional Managers and coaches will be invited for a thank you drink after the Tournament Winner's Presentation.



The Categories

In 2024 the UK Tag Nationals will increase from four to five categories with the addition of Women's 33s:

1. Mixed Open (8-a-side with a tournament squad of 6 female players & 6 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 33s (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 38s (8-a-side with a tournament squad of **up to 14** male players per team who were **born on or before 31.12.86**)

NB: To hopefully avoid confusion about the age requirements for Women's 33s and Men's 38s they have been renamed to indicate the age players must turn in 2024 in order to be eligible for the category. As a result players in these categories will be eligible for the Women's 35s and the Men's 40s should the ITF continue these categories into a 2026 Tag World Cup.

- 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.
- There will be a Tag Nationals title in each category, not an overall Tag Nationals title.

Great Britain Players:

- In 2024, 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 squads are managed and selected separately to UK Tag Nationals squads. 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.
- Great Britain coaches and selectors will be invited and encouraged to attend the main UK Tag Nationals to watch games and players. Performance at the tournament may therefore have a positive impact on GB selections in 2025.
- Players are advised that the Regional Tournaments will be used as Great Britain trials for 2024.



Eligibility

- The autumn opening period for nominations means that the 2023 Early Summer and Summer seasons will be the predominant way to gain eligibility for a region.
- For London regions only Early Summer and Summer 2023 will count towards a player's eligibility for a region
- London players who commenced playing in Autumn 2023 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 2023 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:
 - They must have represented the region in at least one of the last three years prior to the date of the 2024 tournament
 - They must have played a league in that region in at least one of the last three years prior to the date of the 2024 tournament
 - They are currently registered in any Try Tag Rugby league

The four London regions consist of the following 2023 Early Summer and Summer Leagues:	
North London:	Finsbury Park (Monday & Wednesday), Hackney, Highbury (Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday), Hoxton (Monday & Tuesday), Regent's Park.
East London:	Borough, Brockley-Lewisham, Canada Water (Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, Peckham, Victoria Park (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday), Waterloo.
South London:	Balham (Tuesday & Beginner Only), 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 (Tuesday & Sunday), Hyde Park (Monday - Men's, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Property League), Richmond, The Pig & Whistle League at Wandsworth Town (Wednesday - Mixed & Women's Open Grade), The Wolfpack League at Queen's Park, Paddington Rec (Vets - Over 40s)*.
Super Leagues: Rotherhithe St Paul's (Thursday - Mixed, Women's & Men's Super Leagues) and The Pig & Whistle League at Wandsworth Town (Mixed & Men's Super Leagues) do not count toward regional eligibility due to these leagues attracting the strongest players from across London regardless of region.	

For new players the four London regions consist of the following 2023 Autumn Leagues:

North London	Highbury Fields, North London (East Finchley), Paddington Rec (Mixed)*, Shoreditch-Highbury.
East London:	Borough & Kennington (Monday), Canada Water (Southwark Park Athletics Stadium), Catford-Lewisham, East London, London Bridge-Bermondsey, Olympic Park (North), Olympic Park (South), Waterloo (Monday), Waterloo & Kennington (Friday).
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), Paddington Rec (Vets - Over 40s)*, The Pig & Whistle at Wandsworth Town (Wandle Rec - Saturday & Sunday) West Hampstead.

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.

*Paddington Rec Vets League will qualify players for West London Men's 40s for 2024 even if they played before Autumn 2023 in an effort to enable West London to enter a Men's 40s team for the first time. The league will not qualify players for West London Opens teams while the open mixed league at Paddington Rec shall still qualify players for North London only.



Team Selection

December 2023

- In response to feedback about selections in 2023 regions will now select 12 players per side that they anticipate playing in the tournament. They will then name four additional injury reserve players. (This can be 14 players per side and four additional injury reserves in the Women's 33s and Men's 40s).
- These injury reserves will play in the Regional Tournament along with the other 12 but they will know at the start that they will only play in Nationals itself in the event of injury or withdrawal of one of the 12.
- This is to allow each team to have good numbers with which to train throughout the extended period between initial selection and the tournament.
- Regions will confirm their training 16 following the conclusion of the player nomination period. The training 16 for each team will be announced on **Thursday 7th December**.
- All players in the tournament 12 will require full 2023/24 UK Tag Nationals kit. Those that have their kit from last year only need to order kit if they wish.
- The four injury reserves have the option to buy Nationals kit but they are not required to do so. If they do not buy kit then they should ensure they wear kit in their region's colours at the Regional Tournaments.
- There can only be one coach and one captain per team.
- Jersey numbers will be 1-16 only except where numbers have already been taken. In that event only the next available number can be used. i.e. 17, then 18 etc.

Team Confirmation - March 2024

- Following the Regional Tournaments Regions will confirm their tournament 12. The only changes to the side announced in December should be due to injury reserves being brought in. The tournament 12 for each team (14 for W33s & M38s) will be announced locally on the following dates:
 - **Thursday 29th February** for Edinburgh, Manchester, Sheffield, Wigan and Yorkshire
 - **Thursday 7th March** for Brighton & Hove, Bristol, Coventry & Warwickshire and Thames Valley
 - **Thursday 14th March** for East, North, South and West London
- A new order window shall be opened on **Thursday 14th March** until **Thursday 28th March** to allow injury reserve players brought into the tournament 12 to order kit if they have not already done so.
- In the event of injury or withdrawal of a player in the original tournament 12, teams should look to replace the player in following ways:
 - Replace the player with one of the team's four injury reserves.
 - Replace the player with one of the injury reserves from another team within their region.



- Replace the player with one of the original tournament 12 players from another team within their region should they feel that player is better suited to the team requiring the replacement following training and the Regional Tournaments.
- In the event that a team cannot find a suitable replacement from the above processes then they have three options:
 - Call up a player from their region who was not originally selected in the training squads
 - Request a player from the player pool as detailed on the next page
 - Enter the tournament with fewer than 12 players



Player Pool

- For the first time 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 main purpose of the player pool is 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 able to field a team in a certain category.
- Players will be able to nominate themselves for the player pool via the Try Tag Rugby event page and a google form following the December 2023 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. Regional Managers may be contacted for their opinion on certain players from their own region. Players removed from the pool for this reason will not be notified.
- Once selected as a tournament or injury reserve player 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 **23rd April 2024**.
- Each team shall be allowed a maximum of two players from the player pool over the course of the 2024 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

There are a number of costs associated with taking part in the tournament. The three main central costs are detailed below:

- £25 - UK Tag Nationals 2024 Tournament Registration Fee
 - To be paid onto the team statement in April 2024 by those players selected in the final tournament squads.
- £15 - Regional Tournament Registration Fee
 - To be paid onto the team statement in January 2024 by those players playing in the regional tournaments.
- £42.50 - Subsidised Kit Fee (exact sum dependent on items and quantities ordered - players with 2023 kit are not required to buy kit again)
 - For the 2024 tournament kit will be ordered via the Try Tag Rugby shop. Players will therefore pay directly to the shop rather than onto the team statement.
 - Kit prices for 2024 are subsidised well below retail prices for kit and are detailed below.
 - Only those players selected in a 2024 tournament 12 who did not buy kit for the 2023 tournament shall be required to buy it this year.
- **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

- The 2023/24 UK Tag Nationals kits will be used again for the 2024 tournament. Only Brighton shall receive new kits in the region's inaugural year.
- 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
- Jerseys and singlets will both be subsidised from £32.95 and £29.95 respectively to be priced at **£22.50**
- Shorts and tights will both be subsidised from £22.50 and £29.95 respectively to be priced at **£20**
- Players may order more than one top and more than one pair of shorts/tights if they wish
- All coaches will be provided with a £20 shop voucher (plus free postage) that they can use towards a normal kit order, towards Nationals playing kit (whether a player-coach or not) or towards their region's mid-layer top



Region/Team Sponsorship

- Teams will have until Friday 22nd December to find a kit sponsor. The following details apply in the event that a team or player finds a potential sponsor.
- Teams will be encouraged to obtain team kit sponsorships. The existing Great Britain Tag Rugby sponsorship brochure includes a section for seeking Nationals team sponsorship.
- Team sponsorship with the company logo on the shirt is proposed to be £750 per team within each region.
- All team sponsorships will be managed centrally by TTR.
- In addition to the main team shirt sponsorship, teams will also be able to get additional sponsorships to help with costs of travel or accommodation. There would not be a deadline for seeking smaller sponsorship as this would not include the sponsor being printed on the kit. Any smaller sponsorships must also be notified to TTR.
- Securing sponsorship for a region or team will not be considered an influencing factor in whether a player gets selected.



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, Wednesday, Thursday or on a Saturday from 11am – 2pm.
 - o Yorkshire Regions: No training on weekday evenings on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.
 - o Manchester Region: No training on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.
 - o The exception to the above for London, Yorkshire and Manchester 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 the Spring, Nationals training must not clash with it.

Best Practice Notes for Training

It is up to the Regional Managers, coaches and captains for each team to decide what level of training they would like to undertake prior to the event. In addition to the guidelines above, consideration should also be given to the following deciding on what training to undertake:

- The number of training sessions and the timing should be such that it will not impact upon players and referees being available for regular leagues or one day events.
- Quality is often better than quantity. There is no point holding lots of sessions if only a few people from the team are able to attend. It would be much better to hold a few sessions with the majority of the players attending.
- The Great Britain teams will only be training every other week in 2024. It is recommended therefore that Nationals sides train less frequently than that to reflect the different commitment level required for Nationals compared to GB.
- Tag Rugby is a social game and the bulk of your players will be young working professionals or who have young families and are unlikely to have lots of free time.
- Consideration should also be given to those players in your squad who are also likely to have Great Britain training.
- With a limited number of training sessions likely to be possible, it is important for those organising the training sessions to ensure the correct content.



UK Tag Nationals Tournament

Date: Saturday 11th May 2024

Venue: University of Warwick

Timings: Matches will start no earlier than 10am and finish no later than 7pm

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
- 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. A national champion will be awarded in each category rather than an overall tournament winner. Players of the tournament shall also be awarded in each category.

Live Streaming

The intention will be to continue the tournament's partnership with 247.tv and the RFL's OurLeague app to ensure live streaming of the main pitch including all five Grand Finals. In response to feedback from players, coaches and staff we will explore the viability of live streaming a second pitch without commentary and potentially recording matches on other pitches.

Team Photos

As with previous tournaments an official team photo schedule will be put together to provide teams with a lasting memory of the day. An additional photographer will also caption action shots of the tournament.

Tournament After Party and Regional Manager and Coach Drinks

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

