



TOUCH SINGAPORE

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TOUCH SINGAPORE (TSG)

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

President's report (Jeslyn Lim)

In this eventful and busy year, there were indeed a number of highlights as well as lessons to learn. Touch Singapore (TSG) has come far and we will not forget our stakeholders and the community who have faithfully supported us. Without everyone's contribution, whether as a player, coach, referee, supporter and/or sponsor, we would not have been able to witness the record number of teams participating in the leagues and competitions like the Pan Pacific All Schools Tournament and the Singapore International Touch Knock-out (SITK).

One of the biggest highlights of the year was the Touch World Cup held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where we sent a record 8 teams. We would like to congratulate all participants for a successful campaign that saw our Mens' 50s win a Bronze and the Women's Open and 27s come in 4th. We are also very encouraged that nearly all the teams improved on their ranking from the previous edition. It is duly noted that all except one team had player-coaches and we would like to continue to develop and groom more elite coaches to prepare for the next TWC in 2023.

We have managed to grow our player membership and participation but has to learn to balance and manage the needs of both the social and elite players. We have identified areas where we still need to tighten our governance and processes. As such, we are streamlining and redefining the roles of our directors and will be proposing a change to our executive committee structure. We would like to encourage members of the community who have the passion and desire to grow and improve the sport to come forward to serve when the term of the current Exco ends next year.

I would like to thank my committee members for their invaluable input and effort, sponsors such as AAM Advisory, Fitlion, Singlife and partners like Crossroads and Worn to Win and everyone in our Touch community for their support. TSG will continue to grow, develop and evolve in response to new challenges. We will continue to strive and work as a cohesive unit to be the sport of choice in Singapore and to build a solid foundation for its growth.

Secretary General's Report (Terence Toh)

Touch Singapore(TSG) Executive Committee 2018/2019

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Treasurer: Chris McNamara chris_mcnamara@merck.com
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Elite Development Director: Chris Wall elite@touchsingapore.net
Coaches Director: Anne Goh coaches@touchsingapore.net
Referees Director: Lynda Scott referees@touchsingapore.net
Judiciary Director: Derelyn Chua judiciary@touchsingapore.net

2018/2019 has been an extremely busy period. The Executive Committee have worked very hard within a year of election to lay the foundations of Singapore Touch. Meeting with the demands of the growth, development and organisation of our sport would not have been possible without the sacrifices and volunteer time of many. We organised and ran 2 official Test Series on home soil for the first time against our neighbours Japan and Hong Kong, along with sending 3 teams to the Youth World Cup in Malaysia 2018 and sending a record 8 teams to the Touch World Cup Malaysia 2019

Challenges for the 2018/2019 period has been numerous, the need to ensure the balance of the league along with ensuring that our national and youth teams have the exposure and support required. Our National League participation crossed 100 team mark which is an amazing milestone as I do not believe there is any other sport or association in Singapore who is able to sustain such a huge number of teams on a weekly basis.

All the above would not have been possible without the efforts of our Touch community members who have all contributed in their own ways in terms of refereeing, coaching or volunteering to ensure that our Sport of Touch continues to grow in Singapore.

Without any government funding, the challenges are ever greater for us to continually grow our organisation and sport. I would like to thank our sponsors in this FY - AAM-Advisory, Worn2Win, Singapore Pools & Crossroads. Your contributions have been invaluable to what we have achieved this year.

Besides our international exploits, TSG progressed with the good work to support or organise the following grassroots competitions to as part of our objectives to continually develop and invest in grassroots Touch.

1. TRC Clifford Chance Tournament 2018
2. TSG Pan Pacific All Schools Tournament 2018 (PPAS)
3. POL-ITE, SUNIG & IVP 2018/2019
4. SEASAC Touch 2019
5. IASAS Touch 2019
6. ACSIS U14, U16 and U19 Leagues
7. TSG Singapore Junior Touch Championships 2019 (SJTC)
8. TSG Inter Teritary Touch Invitational 2019 (ITTI)
9. TSG National Junior College Championships 2019 (NJCC)

With the conclusion of the 2019 Touch World Cup, it also brought the end of a very challenging 2 year period for the Executive Committee who have worked tirelessly for the sport in laying the foundations while doing our best to support the elite aspirations of our members and community. I would like to thank the current Directors for all their hard work and volunteer time they have given to the sport. It has not been an easy ride, especially as many of us wear multiple hats from different clubs but looking back, we have achieved plenty together in these 2 years.

In view of re-election happening next year, we are reviewing the committee structure to come up with something that we believe will serve the community better. I would like to urge members of the community to step up and forward if you love the sport and believe you can contribute greatly to Singapore Touch. Serving on the Board will be very challenging but very satisfying when you are able to see the positive impact you can have on the sport and community.

Treasurer's Report (Chris McNamara)

Statement of Accounts are attached.

Sport Development

Coaching Development (Anne Goh, Coaching Director)

TSG Coaching Commission 2019 Report

2019 has been an incredible year for the Coaching Commission. This being a World Cup year, the commission organized additional events to continue with the professional development of our national and community coaches. We also continued to explore building sustainable systems to create a healthy coaching eco-culture in our Touch community.

Our key areas of development were: establishing a broad coaching base and upskilling our current coaches. The Commission also ensured that the efforts of our community coaches were recognized this year.

Summary of Courses/ Workshops

Date	Event	Number of coaches
January	FIT Introductory Coaching Course	11
January	FIT Selector Course Level 1	5
January	FIT Selector Course Level 2	14
September	Queensland Priority 10 Workshop	28

September	FIT Advance Coaching Course	15
Date	Competition	Number of coaches mentored
January	IVP	All non-playing coaches
September	SUniG	All non-playing coaches
October	POLITE	All non-playing coaches

Part of the elite coaches Coach-mentorship programme as lead up to the Touch World Cup, Touch Singapore invited FIT Coaching Commission member, Steve Hughes, to run an intense weekend of training sessions with all the national teams in March. Steve was also our World Cup Men 30s mentor-coach.

During the Youth World Cup, the FIT Coaching Commission facilitated a mentorship programme for all 3 Singapore Youth Head Coaches. They were each supported with a High Performance mentor coach identified by FIT Coaching Commission.

In recognition for their efforts, 7 coaches nominated by the Touch fraternity were presented the Coach Appreciation Awards. The commission also presented awards to all the 2019 Touch World Cup coaches and team managers, with special award, Coach Achievement Award, given to Christopher J. Wall, for his dedication to Singapore's Women Open team for the past 12 years. Khairullah Abdul Razak was handed the Impact Coach Award for his efforts with the Men 20s in the 2018 Youth World Cup.

Throughout the year, coach mentors provided feedback to our competitive coaches at various school tournaments to assist them with their match-coaching.

New coaches will be appointed for the next World Cup cycle with the first international competition, the Asia Touch Cup, coming up in October. The commission has put together a package to support our national coaches in their profession. We also have 15 coaches ready to be assessed for their FIT Advance Coaching accreditation. The commission looks forward to our continued efforts to promote and support our coaches in 2020.

Refereeing Development Report (Lynda Scott, Referees Director)

The past year has been a year of consolidation for the referee contingent of Touch Singapore. We have high numbers of referees who have not remained active or have not received coaching to support upskilling. The aim was to focus on a committed delegation of referees to ensure they are up with the trends of the game.

This past year I have been responsible for:

- Referees courses and programs
- Referee training and education
- Referee performance and appointment
- Referee competencies

Courses and Programmes

I have delivered five Level 1 courses, two Level 2 courses as well as one Level 3 course. Following each course the participants were coached where possible by senior referees and assessed when ready.

Training and Education

At this stage only a small group of senior referees are certified to run courses and assess referees. This continues to be an area of challenge for us.

Highlights

- We continue to build our referee numbers and have managed to have every game covered during the past year.
- In all Premiership level games we have been able to appoint 3 referees, other divisions have a dual buddy system.
- A small group of referees have travelled to Australia and the UK to referee in State and national events.
- Three referees were appointed to represent Singapore at the YWC, Jin Tan and Simon Bernie as referees and Lynda Scott as a referee coach.
- Three referees officiated at the World Cup - Simon Bernie, Lynda Scott and Chris Mead.

Challenges

- Large numbers of L1 referees who have not received any coaching/mentoring or feedback due to panel being unable to meet the demands of high numbers.
- I struggle to form a panel of committed and consistent referees to support newer refs.

Looking Ahead

- Selecting dedicated panel members to help with the training and education aspect.
- Supporting travelling referees to international events.
- Referee refresher course/meeting for all referees prior to next season.
- Rules and how they are implemented sessions for club representatives prior to next season.
- Sort through referee database to archive non active referees.
- Referee appraisal/feedback system, giving players/coaches a voice.

Elite Development Report (Chris Wall, Elite Director)

The Touch Singapore Elite Development Pathway was a continuing progress since the establishment of Touch Singapore, November, 2017.

Immediately suitable personnel were approached to form a panel in selecting our TSG Youth World Cup teams to compete at the Touch World Cup held in Malaysia, 2019.

As this process was new to all of the committee and Touch community it was decided to approach personnel with prior knowledge of the game, those who had a clear and fair understanding of selecting teams and finally personnel who had experience in working with the three grades selected.

All panel members approached covered a wider range of knowledge and expertise.

Youth World Cup:

Sixty players across three grades (U20B, U20G & U18G) were selected to represent Singapore. Each of the three teams were assigned a dedicated coach and management staff.

Coaches prepared coaching plans and allocated multiple training sessions per-week.

All teams were placed in the TSG league in order to gain experience, knowledge & build team relationships.

All players who attended the Touch Youth World Cup represented Singapore with pride and their on field sportsmanship was of a high standard.

Opens/ Masters World Cup:

A record number of players from Touch Singapore attended the TWC, 2019. Across eight national teams will fielded a very diverse group of players and nationalities.

National training days were set in place on two occasions.

Seven of the eight teams provided player coaches. A very difficult process across all accounts. Players did their best to delegate responsibilities amongst senior playing staff, but the overall concern was managing and changing the game plan whilst play was in action.

All players represented as our youth players did with pride.

Overall highlight was our M50s winning a bronze medal!

Highlights:

- ❖ Three teams attending the Youth World Cup, Malaysia, 2019. This really gave our players the exposure to international Touch and many learnings were gained by players, coaching staff and management staff.
- ❖ Youth players who played outstanding at the tournament or with recognition from their coaching staff were invited to the Opens training squad as a deserving reward and to add competition with Opens squad.
- ❖ Eight Opens/ Masters teams competing at the Touch World Cup. A record number for Singapore.
- ❖ Men's 50s bronze medal winners.
- ❖ WO & W27s fourth place.
- ❖ Men's 50 attending the European Champs, August, 2020.
- ❖ Japan M40's, WO and a Malaysian Mixed side toured Singapore allowing TSG players to gain further experience.
- ❖ All touring TSG teams to Perth, Australia for the Western Australia State Champs were represented in semi finals or higher.

Challenges:

- ❖ The pursuit in finding dedicated coaches for each team. Seven of the eight Opens/ Masters teams were player coached.
- ❖ Finding quality Men's opposition in order to gain competitive match play leading towards the Touch World Cup.
- ❖ Selection process and combination of coaches final input.
- ❖ The crossover roles and responsibilities between the Elite Director and the Coaching Director.
- ❖ Having professional medical staff during tournaments is needed.

Future Initiatives:

- ❖ Talent Identification through tournaments such as PanPac, POL-ITE, SEASAC, IASIS and Fitlion League, February, 2020.
- ❖ Organise a U20 development team, February, 2020 consisting of players not playing A grade Women's Touch.

- ❖ Name Open selections/ squads post Fitlion February League and monitor the youth foundation program.
- ❖ Training camps in preparation towards the Asian Champs 2020.

Judiciary Report (Derelyn Chua, Judiciary Director)

In 2019, the Judiciary has tried to make improvements on the judicial system to make the administration of justice more effective. However, the Judiciary continues to face heavy workload even though there are new clubs sending representatives as volunteers, most notably, Udon and Bedok Kings. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all club representatives* for their invaluable support and hard work during this past year. Moving forward, the Judiciary intends to start publishing its decisions so that members of the community can gain a better understanding of our work.

Club representatives: Paul Foden (Bro'Town) | DJ De Villiers (Bucks) | Kang Yanyi (Honey Badgers) | Andrew Lee (Honey Badgers) | Tee Liang Sheng (Legiste) | Marc Goh (Legiste) | | Lynette Lee Ai Ling (MBFC) | David Joseph Rollings (MBFC) | Anthony Kwan (Monsoon) | Derrick Ng (Monsoon) | Simon Stacey (TRC) | Jamie Salamon (TRC) | Christopher John Paul Low (Todaks) | Gideon Luo (Todaks) | Jeremy Teo (Udon) | Jasveen Sidhu (Udon) | Narene Yong (Bedok Kings) | Daphne Lai (Bedok Kings)

Sponsorships and Marketing Report (Chris Hallewell, Sponsorships & Marketing Director)

Sponsorship

The general sponsorship landscape currently is very challenging with many companies reducing costs in this space and looking to provide more reciprocal or in kind sponsorships rather than cash funding. As a not for profit organisation those in kind sponsorships can assist on a small level however, there is a requirement to bring in tangible cash funding.

The past year has seen a number of partner changes for TSG. Firstly we came to an end of our sponsorship agreement with AAM Advisory for the sponsorship of the league. We have been very fortunate to have received the support of Lee Sanders since the formation of TSG and his continuance of sponsorship from our previous league structure. I would like to thank Lee and AAM for their support and his continued involvement as a league player moving forward. Securing Fitlion.com as the new primary sponsor of the National Touch League on a 2 year contract has ensured that the league continues to maintain a stable revenue stream to cover ongoing costs and maintain as low a league entry fee as possible for participating clubs.

With Worn2Win joining the TSG sponsorship ranks in 2018 their continuance as the primary sponsor for the SITK tournament ensured we were able to invest further on the infrastructure of the tournament and supporting the growth and exposure we were able to gain with well known international players from overseas wishing to take part in the tournament such as Tony Eltachi and Peter Walters, though unfortunately Peter's interest came too late to enter a team, though he assures me he wishes to bring a Galaxy squad next year.

We have enjoyed a number of one off sponsorships from Singapore Pools for the YWC and JSTC tournaments and along with some minor one off partnerships with Boost Juice, F45 and Old Chang Kee for the league finals which added to the match day experience for our grand finals events.

We have welcomed Singlife to the TSG portfolio as our referee sponsor which has been a great addition as we have been without a referee programme sponsor since the end of the Cisco relationship. This has brought valuable revenue in to support issuing all referees with a new jersey and also provided funding to support the referee development programme set out by Lynda Scott.

It was great to kick off the F&B programme with food service provision and the Crossroads bar since the build of the TRC clubhouse. These services are vital to the ongoing development of the community spirit allowing players to get together over a drink after a game and for people to network within the community. The bar has been a great addition in general and the operational management from Crossroads is excellent with a percentage of sales agreement in place, this is a useful revenue stream for TSG.

The food service aspect remains a significant challenge as it is very hard to judge expected purchase on match days and there is a high risk of wastage on the day for our vendors. We have used Echo Cafe, Rubato, Soho 51, Munets and Sidecar across the past 3 seasons alone for core service provision with varying levels of success, however it is becoming increasingly unviable if uptake is low.. We have catered as best we can based on community feedback but it remains a major challenge as uptake is so variable. For the food services to succeed it requires the full support of the playing community to pick up a bite on match days rather than heading over to Grandstand for lunch, though we appreciate the options available at Grandstand provide more variety.

We are continuing to actively identify and attract new sponsorship partners and would ask the community to please keep TSG in mind if they know of businesses looking to sponsor a sport or competition to gain their brand more exposure.

Marketing

The TSG marketing continues to predominantly be oriented around social media via Facebook & Instagram. Content is focussed on tournament photography and videography as well as sharing news from around the world of Touch either at a club or NTA level. The broad remit for marketing communications means that we have become spread a little thin to maintain a continuous stream of content for the community to engage with and we will need to address this as we move forward in to the next exco cycle where we can increase the bandwidth of the marketing comms team and look into other social platforms to continue to showcase the sport and reach new potential touch players as we aim to increase playing numbers for the sport in SG.

End of Annual Report