



It's one of the fastest growing sports in the world.

And now Abu Dhabi is gearing up to host its first ever international touch rugby tournament. Team registrations are now underway for the tournament that will be held at the Sheikh Zayed Sports City on 15th May.

Organisers expect some 40 teams to take part in the event which promises to be an action-packed day in the sunshine, with a qualifier format that means each team has the chance to play at least two games. The knockout semi-finals will be held at around 5pm, the finals will begin at 7pm.

Matches will last 12 minutes each. As well as four different divisions of competition – juniors, mixed, corporate and seniors – there will be entertainment and quad bike demonstrations. You'll need to register your team before 8th May; contact andrew.mccarthy@pureuae.com for a form or go to www.pureuae.com/touchrugby. The rules and regulations are also available for download there.

"Touch rugby is growing increasingly popular around the world, especially in places such as New Zealand and Europe," explains event spokesman Andrew McCarthy. "We believe it is an ideal opportunity for the sport to take off in Abu Dhabi too.

"Of the teams, we expect that most will be senior sides, but at the moment things are quite flexible. In many other countries, women are also invited to play so we are looking at those possibilities. So far we've had a wonderful response."

The fantastic new sports facilities at Sheikh Zayed Sports City will be fully licensed and a range of food and beverage will be served. Entertainment will be running throughout the day with a DJ and open mic session, live bands, children's entertainment zone, and a chill out lounge.

Buses will be running from key points in Abu Dhabi to and from the stadium.

Teams will be six-a-side with a maximum of 10 per squad. Closing date for team registrations is 22nd April.

Abu Dhabi Week is the official media partner for the event.

Contact andrew.mccarthy@pureuae.com for more details.

[Originally published in Abu Dhabi Week vol 2 issue 16]