



## Tony Trad

As a coach, Tony Trad is arguably one of the best the game has seen. Having won 5 World Cups, Tony does more than think creatively about the game, he trusts himself to run with his creative ideas and that is the true essence of innovation. It is his innovations that have changed the way the game is played and have many trying to emulate his style of play.

Many of the plays, strategies and theories of today's game have come from Tony's innovation and vision.

Impressively he is a coach who is not afraid to tell other coaches what he is doing and discuss new innovations in the game. He shares his thoughts and insights in an endeavour to help other coaches develop and grow the game. Tony sees this as a challenge to himself to learn from others and keep developing. He has no fear in his coaching but rather sees it as a personal challenge to keep improving and making himself, his players, and the game better.

Tony began his representative coaching career at the 1995 Nationals on the Gold Coast with the New South Wales Mixed Open team winning his first series. The following year he coached the New South Wales Mens Open team in the second State of Origin series held in Coffs Harbour. He continued to represent New South Wales as Coach of the Mens team up until 2002 then became Head coach from 2014 to 2022.

During this time Tony coached the West Tigers Mens team in the NRL Touch Premiership in 2018 losing the final 4-5 to the Broncos. The following year his team finished a creditable third.

His appearance at the inaugural National Touch League in Coffs Harbour in 1997 was with the Mets Open Womens Team who lost in the final 1-2 to the experienced Brisbane Cobras. In 1998 he was appointed coach of the Mets Mens Open team a position he held in 1999, 2000 and 2020.

In 2023 that he held two other coaching positions with the Mets, the Womens Open the and the Mens 45 years and back in 2003 he coached the Mets Mens 40 years team at the National Touch League.

In 2011 he was named as a Finalist in the NSW Sports Volunteer Awards, and in 2012 Tony was appointed as NSW Coaching Director where his role was to present coaching courses as well as mentoring coaches seeking to progress into higher accreditation and develop their knowledge of the game and of coaching techniques and strategies in general, a position he still he holds today. That same year, and up until the present time he has conducted Education and Trends of the game seminars for Selectors to upskill that arm of the sport.

Over the last 13 years as New South Wales Coaching Director and Touch Football Australia's Mens Open Coach he has conducted countless Foundation, Talent and Elite Coaching Courses and Seminars across the country in locations such as Rockhampton, Parkes, Mudgee, Nelson Bay.

His contribution to the sport in New South Wales in the coaching arena is unparalleled and he was rewarded in 2005, 2009 and 2017 at the NSW Blues Awards by being named Coach of the Year for his efforts with Western Suburbs.

In 2015 he was inducted into the NSW Touch Hall of Fame. At the 2023 Blues Awards he received the Rod Wise Medal for NSW Touch Volunteer of the year and in 2025 he was appointed a Member of the NSW Touch Association's Organisational Review Steering Committee.

At the National level Tony was first appointed an Australia Touch Association coaching position for the 2001 Trans Tasman Test series with his final appointment as a Test coach in 2018. It was the start of along and successful career as a national coach with 34 Test caps. From 2001 to 2010 his teams suffered 6 loses but at the same time had 12 victories. However, from 2012 to 2018 he had 21 victories and suffered only one loss as a Test coach.

At the 2005 All Nations Championships he received 10 caps winning the Mens Open title and losing only one game in the rounds. Tony's 59 World Cup caps from 1999 to 2019 boast an equally impressive record. His initial appointments in the Mixed Seniors and Mixed open division saw him with a 15 to 3 win-loss record then as the Mens Open coach his record swelled to 39 wins, one loss and one draw, a truly remarkable feat at the highest elite level available in the world.

As the Emu's Mens Open Coach and TFA Head Coach he assisted in selecting and creating pathways for aspiring National Coaches and Mentored these Coaches to prepare them for international competition. Part of this process included mentoring players in the teams he coached, providing feedback on performances good or poor, and creating programs to rectify any deficiencies in the individuals or teams itself.

In his role as National coach of the Mens Open team he has conducted coaching courses to aspiring coaches at all levels from park to National accreditation. In 2023 he presented Coaching Philosophies and Trends of the game at the Queensland Touch Association's Conference and on many occasions at the New South Wales Touch Association's conferences. With the assistance of Peter Bell and Tara Steel in 2011 he re-wrote the Coaching Courses to the current Foundation, Talent and Elite coaches.

Tony has presented Trends of the Game seminars to New Zealand Community Coaches in Auckland and Counties Manukau. He has been a keynote speaker many times at corporate events and Business conferences.

In 2019 Tony was part of the TFA 8th Edition Rule Book review Committee making significant change to the rules to reflect the current game. His contribution was of such importance that Touch Football Australia made a video of Tony explaining the new rules and how the changes differed from the old rules.

From 2022 to the present time Tony assisted the Elementz Club in New Zealand developing their Coaches and players, setting up HP structures, camps and programmes. The same year he created and ran the Touch Her Way program for Female Coaches designed to assist Female Coaches progress through pathways and into Elite Coaching Positions

In 2023 he assisted the Fijian National Teams prepare for the Pacific games by running a series of camps, Providing High Performance guidelines and Leadership seminars.

2024 saw Tony Conduct Coaching Clinics/Seminars in Belgium, France, and Germany. He travelled to the USA and assisted the National Team as Technical Advisor, providing Coach Education and Camp structure advice as well as game Analysis. He also developed and rolled out the Emerging Blues Program in NSW designed for identified 15- to 18-year-old players with the objective of arming them with the necessary skills and information to enhance their chances to progress to High Level Touch.

Also, in 2024 he attended Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia Touch Associations conducting Foundation, Talent Courses as well as Coaching Workshops. Not only did Tony present these courses to aspiring coaches he also upskilled local established coaches on how to present the course ensuring long term sustainability in the Alliance States. In 2025 after the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer and Board Members to Touch Football Australia Tony was appointed as a Member of the TFA Policy Review Steering Committee looking at the future direction of the sport in line with the stakeholders' needs.

In summary, Tony has had a distinguished and commendable career in Touch. Tony has an impressive record; At 104 Australian caps, he is our most-capped international coach. He has been the NSW Coach Director and Head of High Performance since 2012. He mentors coaches at all levels within his home Region, Sydney Mets, NSW and Internationally. Tony has led Western Suburbs TA to 8 State Cup titles and 5 Vawdon Cups across Men's and Mixed Open.

Tony was inducted into the Touch Football Australia Hall of Fame in 2015 and after a stellar career in the many roles he 'played', he retired from his position as the Australian Men's Open coach after the 2019 World Cup. As well as coaching the Australian Emus, Tony has also been Head Coach of the Wests Tigers in the NRL Touch Premiership, New South Wales in the Touch State of Origin and the Sydney Mets in the National Touch League.

Tony is a Hall of Famer at his Home Club Western Suburbs, His Region Sydney Mets, NSW Touch and Touch Football Australia. He was also named in the NSW Touch Jubilee Mens Open Team and has been awarded the National Sports Medal. He has had a successful career coaching, Mens, Womens, Mixed and Seniors at the highest levels and is considered by many to be the greatest Coach of all time.

The coaching fraternity is eternally grateful for his contribution.

