Soft touch for enthusiasts

SERDANG: More than 60 teams from schools and universities across the country will look to outdo each other at the Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Touch Rugby Championships on April 21.

The tournament, which is already in its seventh edition, will be held at the university’s main campus and will see five different categories on offer — men’s Open, women’s Open, boys’ Under-18, girls’ Under-18 and boys’ Under-12.

Tournament director Mohd Arif Ab Rahman said the event is intended to promote rugby as a safe sport which can be enjoyed by all regardless of age and gender.

“Rugby is not a hugely popular sport in the country at the moment and one of the reasons is because it is perceived as dangerous,” said Mohd Arif.

“Touch rugby is a great way to get people involved in the game as it is a very safe sport with minimal physical contact between players.

“It is also a great way to learn the basics of the sport such as passing, tackling and strategies and gives players a solid platform to move on to full contact rugby if they desire.”

Prizes in the form of rugby apparel, trophies and medals will be given to the respective winners of each category.

Those interested in competing should contact 013-540 2431 for more information. Registration for the championships closes on April 17. By Fadhli Ishak

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Polytechnic Merlimau with Faridzal Ismail (front row, second from left) were last year’s champions.

UPM College 16 finished second in the women’s open last year.