



Expression of Interest Swiss Netball Senior Training Squad (U21 & Open Team)

Executive Summary

- **Purpose** of this document is to provide all the key information (application process, eligibility, fees) for athletes to consider when deciding if they wish to trial for the Swiss Netball Open Team Squad programme and potentially compete in the Europe Netball Open Championships that are scheduled on 12 – 15 May 2022 and also an opportunity for athletes interested in trialing for the U21 Europe Netball Challenge Competition to follow an 8 month training programme, ready for U21 trials early next season.
- **Action** is kindly requested by our Netball Centres to share this information with any potential athlete whom they feel has the right desired qualities and ability to potentially be part of this exciting plan.
- **Deadline** to submit additional names and details of any athlete wishing to take part in this programme is Monday 4 October 2021 (it is not necessary to re-submit details for those athletes already included in the May submission).

Background

Swiss Netball are exceptionally lucky to have a solid and experienced coaching team in place for our National Squad. We have both in-country coaches, Moniek Van Rossum and India Shibil and also our Head Coach, Vanessa McErlain-Naylor who is UK based. A squad of 15 players has already been selected to compete in the Open Championships (Oct 2021) where we will play four matches, helping our ultimate aim (in line with our Swiss Netball strategy) of gaining World Ranking – which may well be reached with the matches scheduled for May 2022.

Swiss Netball have successfully trialed, selected and fielded an U17 National Squad since 2010 and have entered Netball Europe U17 Challenge Competition winning either gold or silver since 2011. In 2019 we won gold and made history by moving up to the Championship section for the first time ever playing against the big four European Countries. We also feel that we now have the capacity to field an U21 team in the Europe Netball Competition. This will be a first for Swiss Netball.

To be able to succeed in all age groups, we need to have enough athletes who are *eligible, motivated, committed and willing to train regularly and who have the ability, skill and desire to represent Switzerland on the international stage.

Our vision of training a **Junior Squad** which will include **U17s and U19s** and a **Senior Squad** which will include **U21 and Open athletes** is going to be put into practice. We aim to enter Netball Europe U17, U21 and the Open Team competitions offered by Netball Europe and other events when available and appropriate. Please note: An athlete in the Junior Squad may also be selected for the Senior Squad if deemed appropriate and within the age banding regulations. This also applies to an athlete in the Senior Squad.

Process and Eligibility

We kindly request our Netball Centres to share this information with any potential athlete whom they feel has the right desired qualities and ability to potentially be part of this exciting plan. The qualities we are looking for are motivation and commitment to train throughout the year, which is approximately one weekend a month in-person training, combined with the ability and the skill set to participate at the U21 and/or Challenge Open level as well as the desire and *eligibility to represent Switzerland. There is no minimum age for playing in the Open Championships however we are very aware of duty of care to players on and off the court and encourage our Netball Centres to only put forward athletes who they deem mature enough to handle the physical and emotional parts of the programme. We will also reach out to our Individual Members and post information on our social media platforms to ensure all areas are covered. The deadline to submit names and details of any athlete wishing to take part in this programme is **Monday 4 October 2021**. Clubs that have already submitted names for these trials are kindly requested to follow up with their nominees to register with Swiss Netball. Athletes can only register for the trials once they are an Individual Member of Swiss Netball.

The cost of the trials is CHF 100.- and every athlete put forward must be an Individual Member of Swiss Netball. Please visit the Swiss Netball website: www.swissnetball.ch (top right "Member Registration") to become an Individual Member of Swiss Netball. If an athlete registers and then no longer wishes to trial, no refund will be given. Once their nomination has been received and the athlete is an individual member of Swiss Netball, registration will be opened up in Eventene, the Swiss Netball Event portal.

*Eligibility = Swiss National or 2 years residency in the country

September 2021

The full season training fees (October-July) are CHF 600.-. There will also be a 2022 Summer training programme for an additional fee to keep athletes fit and motivated, ready for the U21 and/or Open Team selections in September 2022.

Athletes who trialed in September and were selected for the Open Team and who wish to trial again in October must still register via Eventene. Attendance to trials for the 15 selected athletes will be treated on a case-by-case basis. No trial fee is required.

COVID regulations

All athletes 16+ must show at every training session a valid COVID certificate and photo ID stating that they are eligible to play. A valid COVID certificate is considered to be a certificate stating that the individual is fully vaccinated, recovering from COVID or has had a negative PCR test (valid for 72 hours) or an antigen test (valid for 8 hours). This needs to be shown at the reception desk at the entrance to the training centres. This is the current situation and subject to change.

Competition Entry Fees

Athletes selected onto a representative team, in this case the Open Championships that are scheduled to take place in May 2022 (and also the U21 in October 2022), will need to pay competition entry fees in addition to the training fee. The costs of each competition will be divided equally among the selected athletes and fees will cover, amongst other things, costs for:

- Kit
- Flights
- Accommodation
- Food
- Competition entry/umpires
- Coaches allowances
- Team Manager

Approximate estimation of the competition fee is between CHF 1500.- and CHF 2000.-.

The total tour fee is dependent on many factors such as length of competition, destination etc. and on the cost of flights. If the cost is lower than quoted above for whatever reason, then that is surely a good thing! If the competition is cancelled and Swiss Netball organizes another event in country then the costs may differ. By agreeing to trial, the athlete is agreeing to pay these fees if selected. Athletes are encouraged to individually approach their local club, commune or canton for assistance with these costs and to endeavour to fundraise at local level before competition to help reduce the individual financial burden.

Swiss Netball recommends that athletes are adequately insured in case of not being able to attend competition at the last minute (e.g. in the event of illness or injury) so that they can claim back associated costs from their own insurance. COVID related insurance is also currently essential.

Financial hardship assistance

Swiss Netball understands that our athletes or their families may experience financial difficulty from time to time. As such, the Committee has worked to put aside a small amount of funding each year to support elite athletes to cover Programme and competition fees (National Squad and representative teams). The amount is very limited and will be allotted at the discretion of a sub-group of the Committee upon the receipt of applications from interested players (or parents in the case of minors).

Anyone wishing to obtain more information should please contact the Swiss Netball Committee Finance Director (finance@swissnetball.ch).