



Financial Hardship Assistance

Swiss Netball understands that our athletes and their families may suffer financial difficulty from time to time. As such, the Committee has worked to put aside a small amount of funding each year to support athletes playing at an elite level (Junior and Senior National Squads) towards training or tour costs. The amount is limited and will be allotted at the discretion of a sub-group of the Committee upon the receipt of applications from affected players (or parents in the case of Under 17s).

Applications should be received no later than one week following successful admission to the Senior or Junior National Squad, or no later than one week following an offer of a place in the National Open Team or U17 Team. Applications can also be made during the calendar year and will be considered when funding is available.

To be considered for financial hardship assistance, the applicant must submit a formal request (by email) to the Finance Director (contact details below). The request will be kept confidential. Only the sub-group of the Swiss Netball Committee will have detailed knowledge of the request.

The letter should include the following:

- Athlete's name and contact information (plus parents' names/contact information if relevant)
- Reason for the request
- Household tax return for the last fiscal year.

Following the receipt of the application(s), the hardship sub-group, composed of three members of the Swiss Netball Committee, will discuss the applications and funding available, and vote to allocate funding or not.

The Finance Director will communicate the decision and any related payment plan by email to the applicant.

Limitations on financial assistance:

- All approved financial hardship arrangements will expire at the end of the current season (running September – August each year).
- All approved financial hardship arrangements will be for a pre-determined time period.
- The awardee athlete must consistently attend training sessions, otherwise ongoing funding will no longer be provided and the athlete's place on the squad will be forfeit.
- Arrangements for payment may include volunteering and fundraising in support of Swiss Netball. For example:
 - Participation in fundraising events
 - Volunteer work for Swiss Netball
 - Coaching, umpiring or similar assistance.
- The decision to offer Financial Hardship Assistance is solely at the discretion of the hardship committee.

In addition, Swiss Netball recognizes that the cost of participating in tours is high. Swiss Netball will automatically waive subsequent tour fees for any athletes selected into their third (or more) tours in any one season (September – August each year).