

# Netball Northern Ireland Selection Policy

## OBJECTIVE

Netball Northern Ireland (NNI) selects and manages national squads and teams to represent Northern Ireland in International netball matches and World Netball (WN) sanctioned events. The events include but are not limited to the Netball World Cup (NWC), World Youth Netball championships (WYNC), Commonwealth Games\* and Europe Netball Championships (EN).

The National Programme comprises of: -

- NNI Warriors
- NNI Performance Pathway
- NNI Academy

The National Programme objectives are to select squads and teams, as determined by NNI, in preparation for competition in line with the Performance Pathway and, provide the best opportunity for national team success in international competition.

\*For Commonwealth Games, Netball Northern Ireland select and make nominations to Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland.

## PROCEDURES

### 1. Selectors

1.1. Selectors for national squads will comprise of, but not be limited to:

NNI Warriors	Head Coach (Chair) National Selector 1 National Selector 2
NNI Emerging Warriors	Emerging Warriors Head Coach (Chair) National Selector 1 National Selector 2
NNI U21	U21 Head Coach (Chair) National Selector 1 National Selector 2
NNI U19**	U19 Head Coach (Chair) National Selector 1 National Selector 2
NNI U17	U17 Head Coach (Chair) National Selector 1 National Selector 2
<p>Note: The Head Coach will act as Chair. The Pathways Manager will oversee the selection process but will not be involved in the final selection. **This squad will run only in years that has appropriate competition opportunities</p>	

1.2 National Selectors are appointed via a recruitment and selection process conducted by the Pathways Manager, alongside the Head of Workforce.

1.3 All selectors will have performance level coaching experience and/or selecting experience; hold a minimum Level 2 coaching certificate and/or have experience as a national/international player.

1.4. The Appointments Panel (NNI Warriors Head Coach, Squad Head Coach) has authority to amend the composition of a selection panel at their discretion, including the appointment of trainee selectors.

1.5. Where the National/U21/U19/U17 coach is not available for selections, the Appointments panel has authority to appoint an additional selector to the panel.

1.5.1. The unavailable coach will continue to have input into the selection of this squad.

1.6. The National Selector's roles and responsibilities may be amended from time to time.

## 2. Athlete Eligibility

2.1. Athlete eligibility for selection for WN Events:

2.1.1. Must be born in Northern Ireland or have at least one parent or grandparent born in Northern Ireland.

2.1.2. Must be a registered member of Netball NI and not at any time be involved with any unaffiliated events, competitions and/or fixtures.

2.1.3. Must qualify to compete for Northern Ireland under the [rules and regulations of World Netball](#) as amended from time to time.

2.2. Athlete eligibility for selection for Commonwealth Games, please refer to [Netball NI Commonwealth Games Netball Nomination Policy](#).

## 3. Selection

3.1. Selections can be made throughout the following events:

3.1.1. Local and National Netball Leagues

3.1.2. Shield and Plate Competition (Youth & Senior)

3.1.3. National Trials

3.1.4. National Squad Camps

3.1.5. School and University Events

3.1.6. Academy Competition

3.1.7. International Test Matches & Tours

3.1.8. Video footage

## 4. Squad & Team Composition

4.1. Athletes may be invited onto any squad they are eligible for throughout the season as a team member or training partner. This addition should be made known to all relevant NNI personnel, coaching and management teams.

4.2. The official team in all squads will comprise of 12 athletes.

4.3.21. Where a team is entered into a competition where the squad comprises of a different number of athletes, NNI will follow the rules of the competition.

4.4. Where an athlete is selected in one squad and is eligible for another, if the athlete is subsequently selected in the more senior squad, their position in the original squad may be replaced at the discretion of the Coaching Team. This addition should be made known to all relevant personnel, coaching, management teams and the athlete.

## 5 Selection Criteria

5.1. In exercising their discretion selectors may select based on the following selection criteria.

5.1.1. Previous international and national performances.

5.1.2. Current international and national performance.

5.1.3. Current level of skill and fitness.

5.1.4. Current or potential injury or illness condition which will impair, inhibit, or prevent the participant's performance to the requisite level.

5.1.5. Composition and balance of the team including but not limited to position coverage.

5.1.6. Gaps at national level.

5.1.7. Post maternity leave which may have resulted in a lack of competitive opportunity in the recent past.

5.1.8. Other factors considered by the selectors to be relevant and/or important.

5.2. Late trialists or athletes who refer themselves for selection must provide evidence of fitness, and technical ability on application. This could be in the form of footage and fitness test results or references from an accredited coach.

5.3. The decision to include or exclude athletes from 5.2 shall rest with the Selection Team, including, but not limited to level of playing experience, current level of physical fitness test and current positional distribution within the squad.

## 6 Selector Responsibilities

6.1. The selectors decision is final and the reason for selection is not required as part of the selection process.

6.2. Any final selection decision rests with the appointed Head Coach of the team.

6.3. Where an athlete is unable to fulfil squad commitments the Selection Panel can promote eligible athletes to the relevant squad.

6.4. The Selection Panel can make changes and substitutions to squads and teams at their discretion including but not limited to, injury/illness, physical fitness standards, marked decrease in on court performance.

6.5. A selector with a conflict of interest must notify the Pathway Manager of the conflict as soon as they become aware it exists.

6.6. A selector with a conflict of interest will complete the Conflict-of-Interest form. If a Conflict of interest is deemed too significant, a replacement selector will be brought in from the pool of national selectors.

6.7. A selector may advise the Pathway Manager of another selector's conflict of interest if the risk has been overseen.

6.8. A selector will:

6.8.1. Act with integrity and objectivity in all aspects of the selection process in complying with this protocol.

6.8.2. Ensure all selection materials, discussions and meetings remain confidential to the Selection Panel and appropriate NNI staff.

6.8.3. A selector who is unable to meet the requirements of this clause (6.8) may resign or be removed and replaced on the panel.

## 7. Post-Selection Requirements

### 7.1. Feedback & Wellbeing

7.1.1. Successful and unsuccessful athletes will be advised of the outcome of selection to squads prior to public announcement. This will be communicated within one week of the trials taking place.

7.1.2. The Pathway Manager will attend all key squad selection trials/events, where possible, and will ensure the standard operating procedures for squad selection are followed.

7.1.3. Individual feedback will be provided to squad athletes throughout the period of their involvement.

7.1.4. Squad athletes not selected for the National Team of 12 for International Events will be given feedback should they request it.

7.1.5. An athlete may lodge an appeal due to non-selection to a squad or team.

### 7.2. Terms and Conditions

7.2.1. Athletes agree to abide by the NNI Playing Agreement and all other NNI related policies referenced within this agreement.

7.2.2. Athletes should not anticipate guaranteed selection into a squad or to be selected for competitions based on successful prior selections throughout the player pathway.

## 8. Deselection

8.1. An athlete may be removed from a squad/team due to:

8.1.1. Failure to adhere to the NNI Player Agreement.

8.1.2. Injury or illness resulting in athlete's incapacity to fulfil obligations.

8.1.3. Breach of the Integrity – Business Conduct and Ethics Policy, Anti-doping, and other policies deemed applicable to the National Programme. All Netball NI policy documents can be found [here](#).

8.1.4. Selection of another WN Member Country or organisation.

## 9. Appeals

9.1. An athlete, who fails to be selected for a squad or team, may appeal against omission from the team or squad as set out in this section.

9.2. The only grounds for such an appeal are that the Selection Panel, in making their decision, did not comply as outlined in this Protocol.

**NB: There is a £300 administration fee to appeal.**

## 10. Appeals process

10.1. Notice period:

10.1.1. The athlete is advised to discuss their proposed appeal informally with the Pathways Manager (PM) and a member of the Selection Panel to try to find a resolution.

10.1.2. The athlete, the PM and member of the Selection Panel should meet informally within forty-eight (48) hours of the selection decision.

10.1.3. Should the athlete wish to progress to formal appeal the following procedure applies:

10.1.3.1. Any formal appeal against omission from the team must be lodged in writing (Notice of Appeal) to the NNI Executive Manager within five (5) business days of the announcement of the selection decision.

10.1.3.2. The Notice of Appeal must be accompanied by a summary of arguments and evidence in support of the appeal.

10.1.3.3. An appeal may be withdrawn by the athlete at any time through written notification the PM.

10.1.4. Failure to comply with the appeal time frame will result in the appeal being dismissed.

10.2. Appeal Panel

10.2.1. Where the Executive Manager is authorising an investigation into the appeal, an Appeals Panel will be established.

10.2.2. The Executive Manager will nominate appointees to the Appeals Panel for endorsement by the NNI Board.

10.2.3. The Appeals Panel will consist of three members including:

10.2.3.1 A person with knowledge of the sport and with international competition experience.

10.2.3.2. A person with legal background to chair the appeal.

10.2.3.3. Any other person deemed appropriately skilled and experienced with the function of an Appeals Panel, as appointed by the Executive Manager.

10.2.4. Persons party to or directly interested in the appeal may not act as a member of the Appeals Panel.

10.2.5. The Appeals Panel will investigate and consider the matter determining whether:

10.2.5.1. The matter should be dismissed because there is no credible evidence, submission, or argument to satisfy the grounds of the appeal.

10.2.5.2. The matter should be referred to the Selection Panel for further consideration.

10.2.6. The Appeals Panel does not have the power of selection or re-selection. Where appropriate, the Appeals Panel may refer the matter back to the Selection Panel for consideration.