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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Netball Ireland (NI) is committed to providing all athletes who wish to represent NI and the Republic of Ireland (ROI) the opportunity to succeed at international level. This policy sets out how the organisation will carry out the assessment and selection of players across the various squads.

2.0 SCOPE

This policy will be followed by the International Squad Manager (ISM), squads' coaches and team management, and relevant NI committee members regarding the eligibility and selection criteria of national squads' players.

Players are first selected to participate in a "long squad" – a long squad is a group of players that will train together, and be provided with the opportunity to improve their skills and abilities through access to high quality netball coaching, with the view to be further considered for selection on each international playing squad. Players selected to the long squads may be given the opportunity to represent the ROI at Europe Netball (EN) and other worldwide events.

NI is fully committed to the principles of equality and opportunity for all players, as per NI's Inclusion Policy (NI-1012).

3.0 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to play for any NI national team at an international event, a player must:

- be a citizen in accordance with the laws of the ROI; or
- be born in Northern Ireland; or
- have at least one parent or grandparent born on the island of Ireland; or
- have resided in the ROI (as established by the player's physical presence) for a period of 24 months immediately prior to the start of the relevant international event.
- Be a fully paid member of NI, therefore falling under the jurisdiction of EN and World Netball.
- Age groups criteria;
 - An Under17 (U17) player must be under 17 as of the 31st December in the year prior to the European Competition and/or as per competition rules.
 - An Under 19 (U19) player must under 19 as of the 31st December in the year prior to the Competition and/or as per competition rules.

Document prepared by Mo Crilly, International Squad Manager, and completed by Alesha Clark, Honorary Secretary	Date: 29/04/2021
Approved by: _____ Lynette Wall, President	Date: 03/06/2021

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- An Under 21 (U21) player must be under 21 as of the 31st December in the year prior to the Competition and/or as per competition rules.
- There is no age limit governing Open squad selection, but NI have a specific duty of care to all players under 18 years of age that may be selected to this squad.

4.0 NATIONAL SQUADS

4.1 Selection Criteria for players;

- Coaches will select the players for their long squad by invitation or at a trial session. Squad numbers may vary year on year.
- Players must be affiliated with NI.
- If a player from any national or development squad is talent identified by a coach from a different NI squad, they may be invited to train for that squad. This would only be in exceptional circumstances and with consideration of NI's duty of care. The coach must first consult the ISM before any such invitation can be issued.
- Players may be selected to play in international events and other relevant competitive opportunities.
- All players must participate in regular fitness testing as set out by the head coach in order to maintain their position on the squad.
- Other than in exceptional circumstances a new player will not be selected for international events unless they have completed 4 training sessions with the relevant long squad. A training session is a squad session of 4 hours or longer. An exceptional circumstance must be made in writing to and approved by the International Squads Manager prior to the player being selected.

4.2 Selection process;

- A minimum of two selectors (which includes the head coach) are required during trials for subsequent squad selection.
- All trials will be organised and managed by the ISM and team management.
- Initial trials will be held annually in line with each squad's competition year, at the head coach's discretion, and as soon as possible after the squad's planning meeting.
- Information on trials – including date/s and any fee – will be sent to all NI affiliated schools/clubs at least 3 weeks before the trial date/s and will be advertised on the NI website and social media platforms.
- All requests to participate in trials must be returned to team management one week in advance and with the appropriate fee paid into the NI account prior to the trial date. Late entries will not be accepted without the head coach's authorisation. When registering for trials, players will be notified of required fees if selected to the squad.
- Each player will be assessed and graded by all selectors throughout the day. As well as paying attention to the ability of players, selectors will consider match

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experience, combinations with other players, consistency, determination, creativity, how they respond to match conditions, as well as their interaction with other players and the coach.

- Players selected to the long squad will train together for their calendar year until the head coach makes their final team selection for each competition.
- Selection to any competitive opportunities throughout the year will be at the discretion of each head coach.
- The number of players selected will be at the discretion of the head coach/selection panel based on the standard of players.
- The final selection of players will be carried out by the head coach/selection panel at a suitable time prior to the competitive opportunity.
- Player contracts and registration forms must be completed by all long squad members and returned to the ISM directly or via the team manager by the agreed date (as set by ISM at time of selection, typically prior to the next training session).
- Player fees are to be paid in line with the squad fee payment schedule, as communicated by the team manager. No squad member can partake in national squad activities where fees are outstanding.
- The annual financial cost associated with squads' training are predictive (and dependant on the squad/coach's requirements and level of activity), and fees may therefore be altered during the season. TM will discuss with the squad any potential increase in fees, explaining the need for this increase and what the additional fees will cover. Once agreed with the squad, TM will notify the ISM and players will be given up to 2 months to make additional payment/s.

5.0 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

NI's Youth Development Squad is a training group that provides a player pathway to national squads' selection through access to high quality netball coaching.

- Any youth player who would like to participate and develop their netball skills is welcomed by NI. International eligibility criteria is not applicable.
- NI believes that the foundation for developing netball in the ROI is to have fun while developing basic netball skills in a safe team environment.
- NI encourages teamwork, inclusion, and making friends alongside achieving new netball goals and skills.
- Making training fun and challenging will ensure players want to return and grow their performance across all levels of competition.
- As a team sport, netball has many benefits, including the development of resilient players open to learning, promotion of physical and mental wellbeing, as well as individuals improving and fulfilling their potential.

6.0 ANTI-DOPING AWARENESS

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All squad players must respect and comply with the terms of NI's Anti-Doping Policy (NI-1014).

7.0 APPEALS PROCESS

Any unsuccessful player who wishes to appeal the decision can do so within 48 hours of the selection announcement via NI's complaints process – see NI-1015 Complaint, Dispute and Disciplinary Policy for further information.

8.0 DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version 01: This is a new Policy

Version 02: Updated as per 'Change Control – 001' and approved as of 10-Jan-2023

Version 03: Updated as per 'Change Control – 003'

9.0 ABBREVIATIONS & DEFINITIONS

NI Netball Ireland

ROI Republic of Ireland

ISM International Squad Manager

EN Europe Netball

10.0 REFERENCE

NI-1012 Inclusion Policy

NI-1014 Anti-Doping Policy

NI-1015 Complaint, Dispute and Disciplinary Policy