

The Future of Netball in the Netherlands

Netball is growing fast in the Netherlands, and now we're ready to take the next big step. After two successful years of the National Netball League in multiple cities, the sport has evolved into a competitive and connected community, driven by passionate players and volunteers. While the league continues to thrive and talent is emerging, the Netherlands still lacks one key piece, a national netball team.

In 2026, we're going to start laying the foundation for an open Dutch national team, bringing together the best players from across the country to represent the Netherlands. A national team will raise the standard of the game across all levels. It helps create a clear pathway for talented players to progress, and we want to be able to attract experienced coaches to help develop our athletes, and increase public interest in netball. With more visibility and support, we can expand club programs, and strengthen the foundation of the sport throughout the Netherlands.

Our Vision

Creating a recognised national team takes more than just talent. It requires a strong foundation, a committed support team, and sustainable structures. Our long term vision includes building a professional coaching and support staff, including a performance director, head and assistant coaches, a team manager, and performance specialists in areas such as data and sports science. Securing funding through sponsorships and gaining support from NOC*NSF will also be critical to taking this next step forward.

To move towards this vision, we're launching a national team program in 2026. This will be a pilot phase focused on learning, refining our approach, and gaining valuable experience. Through a less formal structure, we can build momentum while creating a practical foundation for future development. This approach also gives us something tangible to offer to interested coaches and performance staff a starting point to engage with, contribute to, and help shape. It provides a basis for future applications for funding and recognition, and serves as a stepping stone towards a fully established, officially recognised national team. We believe this phase is pivotal to progressing netball in the Netherlands.

National Squad Training Plan

Based on conversations with Netball France and insights from their successful model, we're proposing a training structure that is geographically inclusive, practical, and focused on player and team development. The program will be open to players aged 18 and above, with a series of monthly training camps running from February to August 2026 held during a weekend day. The sessions will cover netball systems and strategy, match play, tactical development, and

team skills. To ensure fair access and reduce the travel burden for players, the camps will rotate between different cities. Final venue selection will consider accessibility for the coaching team, the quality of available facilities, and geographic representation of selected squad members locations in the country are represented throughout.

Please note that this approach is currently only for a mixed open squad. Once we have established this we'll be able to further develop an U21 squad.

From training to competition

Towards the end of the program, we plan to enter the team into an international match against Netball France in France, offering players a valuable opportunity to experience competitive play at a higher level. We will also enter the team into an advanced mixed netball tournament (most likely in the UK), giving the squad additional match exposure in a challenging environment. These events will provide a strong conclusion to the training phase and help us evaluate the program's success while showcasing the potential of a Dutch national netball team on and off the court.

Player eligibility

To be eligible for selection to the squad, players must be 18+ and meet **at least one of** the following criteria, aligned with [World Netball eligibility rules](#).

- **Citizenship:** The player holds Dutch nationality (i.e. holds a Dutch passport).
- **Birthplace:** The player was born in the Netherlands.
- **Heritage:** A parent or grandparent was born in the Netherlands.
- **Residency:** The player has lived in the Netherlands for a minimum of 24 consecutive months prior to selection and has not represented another country during that period.

Call for performance staff

We will shortly be promoting the roles we have available, which will include:

- Performance Director
- Head Coach
- Assistant Coach
- Team Manager
- Sport Science Specialist
- Performance Analyst

We are looking for three members from different netball clubs in the Netherlands to join the selection panel for the national team performance staff. This panel will play a key role in shaping the future of the national team. Panel members will support the selection process alongside

Dominique Gunnink (National team project lead) and Delle Benton (working group), both of whom are from ANC.

To ensure fair representation and broad input from the netball community, we are committed to forming a diverse panel that reflects a range of clubs and experiences from across the Netherlands. If we don't receive enough applications from other clubs, the opportunity will also be opened to ANC members. If you would be interested in being on the selection panel for these roles, please send your letter of motivation to netballnetherlands@outlook.com.

In the case you are interested in applying for one of the performance staff roles and believe you would also be a strong fit for the selection panel, please indicate your interest in both. However, to ensure an unbiased recruitment process, applicants cannot be part of the panel for the role(s) they apply for. Job specs to be posted soon!

Find Out More

There's a lot more to share. We'll be hosting a virtual information session where we'll walk through the full proposal, explain how you can get involved, and answer any questions.

To get this pilot program off the ground, there will be an element of self-funding required from participants. We'll share full details of the proposed budget during the virtual presentation, including a breakdown of costs and what support will be provided. The session will also cover how the squad selection process will work, the number of players we aim to include in the training squad, and other key details about the program structure. Whether you're a player, coach, or supporter, this is your chance to learn more and get involved in shaping the future of netball in the Netherlands.

[Join us on November 2nd](#) to learn more about the national team vision, the upcoming training program, and how you can be part of this exciting next chapter for netball in the Netherlands!