



**Swiss Netball Tournament
Rules and Regulations**

2026-2027

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	3
2.	ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION	3
3.	QUALIFICATIONS AND ENTRY	3
4.	STRUCTURE OF THE TOURNAMENTS	5
5.	FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS	7
6.	MATCH REGULATIONS	8
7.	OFFICIALS AND REGISTRATION OF RESULTS	9
8.	TEAM OFFICIALS	11
9.	COMPETITION REFEREE	11
10.	TOURNAMENTS COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE	12
11.	MISCELLANEOUS PROVISOS	13



SWISS NETBALL TOURNAMENT

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

Swiss Netball currently offers the Peppermill Challenge (Peppermill) and Junior Clubs Tournament (JCT) hereafter collectively referred to as “the Tournaments” on an annual basis. The Swiss Netball Committee reserves the right to modify the Tournaments’ names as required, at any time, for marketing purposes and / or to reflect the name of a sponsor.

1.1. Peppermill Challenge

The annual Swiss Netball Championship is open to all clubs affiliated to Swiss Netball, held every March.

1.2. Junior Clubs Tournament (JCT)

The annual tournament is open to all Junior Clubs who are affiliated to Swiss Netball. Held every November, the tournament is played in age categories U11, U13, U15 & U17.

2. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1. For the purposes of these rules and regulations and unless otherwise determined by Swiss Netball, the Tournaments shall be an annual event.

2.2. The competition and all rights and properties associated with the Tournaments shall be owned, controlled and managed by Swiss Netball or through its nominee(s), which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to any sub-committee or individual(s).

2.3. The decisions of Swiss Netball, or its nominee(s), in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the Tournaments which is not provided for below, shall be considered final and binding on all parties.

2.4. It is the responsibility of all Netball Club team managers, coaches, captains and officials to ensure that they, and all participants under their responsibility at the Tournaments, are conversant with these rules and regulations

2.5. It is the responsibility of Swiss Netball and each team to provide adequate first aid cover for its players and officials.

3. QUALIFICATIONS AND ENTRY

3.1. Entry to the Tournaments is open to any Netball Club which is a Member of Swiss Netball and which is up-to-date in the payment of its annual membership fees. Membership fees are due by 31st January each year (Article 16 of the Swiss Netball Statutes). Any Netball Club owing money to Swiss Netball is ineligible to participate at the Tournaments until all monies owed have been paid in full.

3.2. Each team entered into the Tournaments must have a named non-playing umpire or two (2) named player-umpires who will umpire matches throughout the Tournaments. The minimum qualification to umpire in Tournaments is a Europe Netball C Award.

3.3. Entry to the Tournaments will be determined by the Swiss Netball Committee, at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the rules and regulations laid out herein and having due regard

to the playing standard of teams which wish to participate. In the same way, any vacancies that may appear from time to time will be addressed by the Swiss Netball Committee in whatever way it sees fit.

3.4. Age and Gender Requirements

3.4.1. All players are required to provide photographic identification as proof of age upon request to Swiss Netball.

3.4.2. Netball Clubs will be held responsible for the overall conduct (behaviour, demeanour and actions) of all members associated with the Netball Club, including players, associated officials, volunteers and spectators. Netball Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all of their players, associated officials, volunteers and spectators have all been made aware of and adhere to the *Swiss Netball Codes of Conduct*.

3.4.3. Peppermill

3.4.3.1. All players must be female and over the age of eighteen (18) years as at 23:59 on 31st December immediately prior to the start of the Peppermill.

3.4.3.2. For any player under the age of eighteen (18) years, the player's Head Coach and Parent/Guardian must complete and return the *Swiss Netball Age Banding Waiver Form* before the player is eligible to compete in any Swiss Netball Tournament. By completing this form, the Head Coach and Parent/Guardian are determining that this player demonstrates the physical, emotional, social and technical ability as well as maturity to compete in an adult Competition.

3.4.3.3. If a Netball Club enters two or more teams no player can play for more than one team.

3.4.4. JCT

3.4.4.1. Age categories shall be determined by the Swiss Netball Committee to ensure a viable tournament takes place per age category. The categories are U11, U13, U15 and U17 and will be confirmed upon receipt of all Netball Club entries.

3.4.4.2. All players must be female and under the relevant age as at 23:59 on 31st December immediately prior to the start of the JCT. It is a coach's responsibility to check all ages prior to competition. In the event a player is found to be in an ineligible age category, the team will be disqualified from the tournament.

3.4.4.3. A player may play in a maximum of two age categories for which she is eligible. The age categories must be adjacent i.e., a player eligible for U13 may additionally play in U15 but not U17. Any player required to play in another age category must be nominated on both teams' registration sheets before the start of the event.

3.4.4.4. No player can play for more than one team in one age category.

3.4.4.5. In the event of a clash of age category matches, a player registered to play in two age categories may only nominate to play in one of the scheduled matches, i.e., she may not play a half for one team and a half for another. The schedule will not be adapted to account for any clashes. The Competition Referee must be informed of any such instances before the start of the day's play.

3.5. Individual Membership Licence

3.5.1. Each registered player on the team sheet must hold an Individual Member Licence of Swiss

Netball and must have paid the prescribed membership fee at least 48 hours prior to playing.

3.5.2. Any individual owing money to Swiss Netball is ineligible to participate at the Tournaments until all monies owed have been paid in full.

3.5.3. It shall be the responsibility of the participating Netball Club to ensure that each player on its Team Sheet holds a Swiss Netball Individual Membership Licence and as such, is registered as a member of the relevant Netball Club. If any player who participates in the event is not a member of Swiss Netball, the Netball Club will be fined a penalty fee of CHF 100.- payable within seven (7) days of the event. Proof of individual membership must be submitted to Swiss Netball within seven (7) days.

3.6. Entry Fees

Swiss Netball is entitled to charge an entry fee to the Tournaments. Entry fees for all teams entered by a Netball Club must be paid to Swiss Netball no later than seventy-two (72) hours before the Tournament

3.7. By entering a team in the Tournaments, Netball Clubs agree they will abide by these rules and regulations and that they are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the Tournaments.

3.8. Team Registration

3.8.1. Team registration sheets for each participating team must be duly completed providing the requested information on each player and then lodged with Swiss Netball prior to the commencement of the Tournaments. All required information must be provided at least fourteen (14) days before the event.

3.8.2. Netball Clubs may only register up to twelve (12) players per team entered. Their names must appear on the relevant team registration sheet.

3.8.3. Any additions to the team registration sheets and/or bench officials submitted in advance must be logged with Swiss Netball no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the start of the tournament.

3.8.4. After this period, only through illness or injury with supporting documentation may any alternations be made to the team registration sheets. These can be logged with the Competition Referee no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the tournament and must be supported by a medical certificate, or under extreme circumstances (these will need to be demonstrated) with supporting documentation.

3.8.5. Any person that is not registered on the team registration list is not permitted at any time to enter the court area.

3.9. Netball Clubs will be held responsible for the Overall Conduct (behaviour, demeanour and actions) of all members associated with the Club, including players, associated officials, volunteers and spectators. Netball Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all of their players, associated officials, volunteers and spectators have all been made aware of and adhere to the Swiss Netball Code of Conduct.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE TOURNAMENTS

4.1. The Tournaments will be contested between as many teams as shall be determined by Swiss Netball. The Swiss Netball Committee reserves the right to restrict the number of entries in future years should it be deemed that the number of entries exceeds capacity.

- 4.2.** The Tournaments shall consist of placement matches, with the ranking of teams established on a point score basis, followed by two semi-finals, one playoff match and one final match.
- 4.3.** Teams will be awarded points for placement matches as follows:
- 5 points for a win
 - 3 points for a draw
 - 1 point for more than 50 per cent of the winners' score
 - 0 points for a loss
- 4.4.** The Tournament tables will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team. Where two (2) teams are level on points:
- 4.4.1.** Goal average (goals for divided by goals against) shall be used to determine their relative positions, i.e., the team with the higher average score over the course of the competition stage shall take precedence.
- 4.4.2.** In the event that goal average does not differentiate between the teams, then goal difference shall be applied, i.e., precedence shall be given to the team with the greater difference between goals scored and goals conceded.
- 4.4.3.** In the event that goal difference does not differentiate between the teams, then the result of the previous round match(es) between the two teams will be the decider.
- 4.4.4.** In the event that the previous round match result does not differentiate between the teams, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence.
- 4.4.5.** In the event that neither goal average nor goal difference nor the previous round match result nor goals scored can differentiate between the teams, the positioning on the competition tables will be decided using the extra time process between the teams concerned as outlined below (Regulation 4.7) for Semi-Finals and Finals. In the event that neither goal average nor goal difference nor goals scored can differentiate between the teams, the winner will be decided with extra time process between the teams as outlined below for Placement Matches/Finals.
- 4.4.6.** Where one of the teams has its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals scored affected by conceded fixtures, then all goals scored by and against conceding team(s) in all fixtures shall be omitted from the calculations of both teams level on points. For example, in the event that one team received 5 points for a conceded fixture, then the goals scored by and against both teams level on points, in all games against the offending team, will not be included when its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals is calculated.
- 4.5.** Placement Matches: In the event of a tie the draw will stand.
- 4.6.** Semi-finals will be played 1 v 4, 2 v 3 with winners progressing to the final. Finals will be played by the two teams ranked first and second in the competition tables following placement matches. A playoff match will be played for third place between the two teams ranked third and fourth in the competition tables following placement matches.
- 4.7.** Semi-finals and Finals procedure for extra time where a winner is required:
- 4.7.1.** There shall be a two (2) minute interval at the end of full time. During this interval, substitutions and / or team changes may be made swiftly.
- 4.7.2.** Extra time shall consist of two (2) halves of four (4) minutes each, changing over at half time without a break. Teams shall change ends at half-time. Substitutions will not be allowed at this

point. The Centre Pass is taken by the team entitled to the next Centre Pass.

4.7.3. During extra time, normal injury or illness procedures shall apply (refer to Regulation 6.3).

4.7.4. In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time, a visual signal shall be used to indicate that play shall continue until one team has a two (2) goal advantage.

4.8. Peppermill

4.8.1. The Peppermill will take place over one (1) day with matches consisting of **fifteen (15) minute halves with five (5) minute interval at half-time.**

4.8.2. Where there are five (5) or fewer teams playing in the Peppermill, placement matches will be played between all teams, i.e., each team will play each of the other teams.

4.8.3. Where there are six (6) or more teams playing in the Peppermill, a draw will take place in advance of the tournament to order the teams into a list. Each team will play placement matches against the two (2) teams listed above and the two (2) teams listed below it, i.e., a total of four (4) placement matches.

4.9. JCT

4.9.1. The JCT will take place over one (1) day with:

The U11 and U13 matches consisting of **twelve (12) minute halves with four (4) minute interval at half time.**

The U15 and U17 matches consisting of **fifteen (15) minute halves with five (5) minute interval at half-time.**

4.9.2. Where there are five (5) or fewer teams playing in an age category, placement matches will be played between all teams, i.e., each team will play each of the other teams in its age category.

4.9.3. Where there are six (6) or more teams playing in an age category, a draw will take place in advance of the tournament to order the teams into a list. Each team will play placement matches against the two (2) teams listed above and the two (2) teams listed below it, i.e., a total of four (4) placement matches.

4.9.4. The above outlines ideal circumstances, but Swiss Netball reserves the right to adapt match durations to optimize scheduling based on the number of teams entered and availability of venues, courts and their timings.

5. FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS

5.1. Matches will be played wherever possible on a court with adequate surrounds and surface and with ancillary facilities for participants, including changing and showering facilities for teams and officials, unless otherwise agreed by Swiss Netball (If this is not possible all officials and teams will be made aware before arrival).

5.2. Swiss Netball is responsible for arranging the venue.

5.2.1. It is the responsibility of Swiss Netball to conduct a risk assessment for the Tournaments in advance.

- 5.3.** Swiss Netball must provide the Order of Play for teams and the umpires with confirmation in writing of the date, its start time, and travel directions (including post code) a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the date of the event.
- 5.4.** Netball Clubs will be responsible for arranging their own travel, at their own expense, and should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays. All teams are advised to arrive at the event location at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the commencement of the tournament.

5.5. Start of Play and Late Arrivals

- 5.5.1.** Captains must toss for centre pass well before the start of each game and notify the umpires and scorers of the result.
- 5.5.2.** All teams must be on court, in position and ready to play, at the time and on the court as stated in the playing schedule.
- 5.5.3.** No team may start a game with less than five (5) players.
- 5.5.4.** Any team not on court as noted above will concede the match. Zero (0) points will be awarded to the team conceding the match.
- 5.5.5.** In this instance the team waiting on court in position and ready to play at the correct time will be awarded a win (5 points) and a 5-0 victory result.
- 5.5.6.** The Umpires must record on the Score Card, the name and arrival time of the team who arrived late.
- 5.5.7.** In the event that a match is abandoned for any reason, e.g., due to serious injury, the result of that match will be determined by the Competition Referee with consideration for the score at the time play was suspended.

6. MATCH REGULATIONS

- 6.1.** All matches shall be played to the [World Netball Rules of the Game](#) currently in force except where specific Tournaments regulations may apply.

6.2. Central Timing

- 6.2.1.** Central timing will be used except where specifically communicated otherwise by Swiss Netball. Matches will start and finish on the Umpire's whistle.
- 6.2.2.** All matches will consist of two (2) halves with a break at half time and change over times after matches. Timing will be determined by Swiss Netball Committee and communicated in advance with the schedule.
- 6.2.3.** In the event of time and venue constraints, Swiss Netball may adapt the match schedule and timings to fit the day.
- 6.2.4.** Central timers will commence timing when the match is started by a hooter or similar device.
- 6.2.5.** The central timers will signal the end of each half to the Umpire by a hooter or similar device.
- 6.2.6.** An Umpire's whistle shall start and stop the match and signal the end of each half of the game.

6.2.7. Play will be stopped when instructed by the Umpire by signalling appropriately and blowing his / her whistle. To resume play, the Umpire shall blow the whistle.

6.2.8. The time keeper will inform the courts when 30 seconds and 10 seconds remain before the start of the match, as well as during an interval before the start of the next half.

6.3. Match Incidents and Substitutions

6.3.1. In extreme circumstances and in consultation with the Competition Referee, the umpire may decide to abandon a match, for example, following a serious injury or if the safety of players and / or officials is considered to be at risk. In this instance, the scores for a match abandoned in the first half will be averaged across all other matches. The scores for a match abandoned in the second half will be marked as per the scores at half time. Swiss Netball accepts most netball injuries i.e., knee, ankle, etc., fall outside this exemption regulation.

6.3.2. For injury / illness / blood, the umpire will follow standard protocol. The concerned player must be substituted immediately.

6.3.3. During half time, substitutions and team changes may be made by both teams providing they take place promptly.

6.3.4. For Tactical Changes, the umpire will follow standard protocol. Tactical Changes will only be allowed for teams with an extra set of bibs to allow for very swift changes. Umpires may refuse a request for tactical changes when they are not executed efficiently.

6.3.5. An Accident / Incident Report must be duly completed by the team concerned for any injury or accident, on or off the court, using the Accident / Incident Report Form available from the First Aider. The completed report shall be provided to the Competition Referee immediately after the match. This procedure will be followed for all injuries and accidents, regardless of whether or not medical treatment is given.

6.4. Balls and Bibs

6.4.1. Swiss Netball will provide at least two (2) size five (5) netballs for each match.

6.4.2. All players must wear positional bibs and teams must have a spare set in a different colour in case of a clash of colours.

6.4.3. In the event of a clash of colours, a toss of a coin between the captains will decide which team retains their original colours.

6.5. Players are reminded that they may not wear anything that could endanger themselves or other players. Before the start of each match, captains must ensure that all of their players have removed all jewellery, including friendship bands on wrists and ankles, and all earrings and studs on any part of the body (entire ear, nose, etc.). Without exception no taping of ears is accepted.

7. OFFICIALS AND REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

It is the joint responsibility of the match and technical officials to carry out their duties and facilitate the match responsibly, without disruption or any interference.

The match and technical officials work as a team, before, during and after the match until all paperwork is completed and submitted for the relevant match.

7.1. Official Bench and Umpires Bench

- 7.1.1.** Technical officials will be seated at the Official Bench.
- 7.1.2.** Match officials will be seated at the Umpires Bench, directly next to the Official Bench.
- 7.1.3.** The documentation to be completed, agreed and signed for each match are as follows:
 - 7.1.3.1.** 2 x Swiss Netball Score sheets
 - 7.1.3.2.** 1 x Injury & Game Management sheet
- 7.1.4.** The above three documents must be submitted by the technical officials to the Competition Referee immediately after the match.
- 7.1.5.** No Team Officials or players are allowed at the Official Bench for the duration of the match and immediately after when all paperwork is being completed by the Officials.
- 7.1.6.** During an interval, the captain and/or any other player may approach the umpires at the Umpires Bench to seek clarification on a specific rule.

7.2. Match Officials

- 7.2.1.** The Match Officials are the umpires.
- 7.2.2.** Swiss Netball will assign umpires to all matches and will ensure that umpires of the highest available standard are assigned to the Semi-finals, Playoff and Final match unless an umpire has a perceived conflict of interest, in which case, the next next-best qualified umpire should be used. A conflict of interest may be disregarded when assigning umpires if a substitute umpire of the appropriate standard is not available. A conflict of interest shall for this purpose, be the following:
 - 7.2.2.1.** a family member (child, sister, or mother) of the umpire is a member of the team competing in the relevant match; or
 - 7.2.2.2.** the umpire is a member of or is an appointed coach for a Netball Club competing in the relevant match.
- 7.2.3.** Umpires should dress and act professionally at all times.
- 7.2.4.** In the event that an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied: if another umpire of the appropriate standard is available then they may umpire the match. Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire may be used. The team of the umpire that failed to arrive will be penalised with a reduction of 5 points before the play-off positions are determined.

7.3. Technical Officials

- 7.3.1.** The Technical Officials are the scorers.
- 7.3.2.** Two (2) scorers will be required for each match.
- 7.3.3.** Each team entered must provide competent scorers. Team Officials should be non-playing and

arrangements must be made in advance.

7.3.4. Both participating teams are responsible to provide one score keeper each for each match. These two score keepers form part of the Technical Officials for the match and shall act in a professional and non-biased way for the duration of the match. The two score keepers will each keep score on a separate score sheet and concur with each other after each goal is scored.

7.3.5. The score keepers are jointly responsible for the following:

7.3.5.1. Keeping an accurate record of the score

7.3.5.2. Verify the score with the umpires during each interval and after the match

7.3.5.3. Advise the centre pass when a centre pass check is requested by the umpires

7.3.5.4. Notify the umpires when a wrong centre pass is indicated before the centre pass is taken

7.3.6. The score sheets must be checked at the interval, as well as after the match, and then signed by both score keepers and both umpires. The score sheet as signed off and agreed by the match and technical officials is final.

7.3.7. In the event of any discrepancy where the score keepers and umpires cannot agree on the score during an interval or after a match, the interval will be extended and the Competition Referee will be consulted, until the discrepancy is resolved. Should the aforementioned happen during an interval, the umpires will inform the Coach of each team what the official score is. The match will resume thereafter.

7.3.8. The official score is the score jointly recorded by the score keepers on the score sheet, and not a score reflected anywhere else, e.g. electronic boards, manual score boards, etc.

7.3.9. If a team is unable to provide the required Technical Officials, then that team will forfeit the match.

7.3.10. Swiss Netball will provide match score sheets on the day.

8. TEAM OFFICIALS

8.1. Netball Clubs may register a maximum of up to three (3) team officials per participating team. These may include a coach and a primary care person. Only bench players (a maximum of five (5)) and team officials are allowed to sit on the official team bench during matches being played by that team.

9. COMPETITION REFEREE

9.1. A Competition Referee will be appointed by Swiss Netball.

9.2. The Competition Referee will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising during the day of the tournament including, but not limited to:

- Altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary.
- Determining if teams and / or players are in breach of these Regulations and imposing an appropriate penalty (including disqualification of any individual or team).
- Maintaining and being responsible for a confidential Competition Referee's Logbook (if appropriate).
- Upholding the decision by any medical advisor, including but not limited to the team first aiders, regarding the participation of a player.

- Managing any cases of unsportsmanlike behaviour including instances of teams predetermining the outcome of a match.
- Managing any matter not covered by the Regulations.
- Consulting with additional people to assist with the tournament.

The final decision will lie with the Competition Referee.

10. TOURNAMENTS COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

10.1. On the day of the event, the following complaints should be directed to the Competition Referee in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows:

10.1.1. Where the complaint relates to the competition format or management, including (but not limited to) the schedule, the opposing team, playing surface or other playing arrangements, a complaint must be lodged, before the start of the match (or as soon as possible after the issue becomes apparent during the match) to the Competition Referee by the relevant Team or Match Official following the *Swiss Netball Complaints Policy and Procedure*. The complaint must be then acknowledged by the Competition Referee who will decide what action should be taken.

10.2. Where the complaint relates to any of the matters not described in Regulation 10.1 the complaint shall be dealt with as set out below.

10.2.1. A person may lodge a complaint concerning:

- A participant at the tournament (including a player, match official, technical official, coach, team official or Swiss Netball Committee)
- A supporter or other person attending the tournament
- A team as a whole; or
- The governance or administration of the tournament.

10.2.2. The subject of the complaint may be one or more of the following:

- Breaches of the *Swiss Netball Code of Conduct* including verbal or physical abuse, assault, threatening behaviour or harassment by a member or a supporter.
- Standard of umpiring or timekeeping.
- Non-members playing a game.
- Breaches of Swiss Netball's Statutes.
- Any other conduct or incident which the Competition referee considers may be subject to a complaint.

10.2.3. A complaint may be lodged by making the complaint in writing to the Competition Referee within one hour after the event being complained about. In exceptional circumstances, the Competition Referee may, in their absolute discretion, consider complaints received outside the one-hour period following the event being complained about.

10.2.4. The complaint must be then acknowledged by the Competition Referee who will decide what action, if any, should be taken.

10.2.5. The Competition Referee's decision in relation to decisions taken under Regulation 10.1 or 10.2 is binding. Nevertheless, where a complaint lodged with the Competition Referee is not resolved to the satisfaction of either party, either party may appeal the decision to the Swiss Netball Committee by following the *Swiss Netball Complaints Policy and Procedure* within 24 hours following the event being complained about.

11.MISCELLANEOUS PROVISOS

- 11.1.** All participants acknowledge that participating in the sport of netball involves a risk of personal injury. When taking part in the Tournaments, each player, team member, team official, other official or spectator, participates at her or his own risk and must hold personal accident, health and personal liability insurances. To the extent permitted by law, each participant waives any and all claims, causes and rights of action against Swiss Netball, the Organising Committee, event organisers, players and match officials of whatever nature and in any jurisdiction or forum that she may have as a result of such participation.
- 11.2.** For the avoidance of any doubt, Regulation 11.1 applies to pregnant participants (players, umpires, officials, team managers and coaches). Pregnant individuals should only participate with approval from their doctor. Swiss Netball observes the [World Netball Pregnancy Guidelines](#) and strongly recommends that all pregnant participants take note of these guidelines and follow the advice provided.
- 11.3.** It is the responsibility of relevant Netball Clubs participating in a match to ensure that any damage to property is insured.
- 11.4.** If any of these rules and regulations are held by any competent authority to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of the Regulations shall not be affected thereby.
- 11.5.** These rules and regulations shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with Swiss law.
- 11.6.** Any questions regarding these rules and regulations can be addressed to:
admin@swissnetball.ch.
- 11.7.** Swiss Netball reserves the right to amend these Regulations each year in advance of the Tournaments.