**POST: NATIONAL SQUAD COACHES (Seniors)**

**LOCATION: Varies**

**RESPONSIBLE TO: Joint National Squad Co-ordinators (Seniors)**

**APPROXIMATE WEEKLY TIME COMMITMENT: 1 day/month + prep and availability at Euros.**

We are looking for someone to coach one of the senior national squads (M30, M40 or Senior Mixed) towards the 2018 European Touch Championships and by doing so drive excellence within the game at this level in Scotland.

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| **Responsibilities** |
| General Role:* Head coach for the relevant national squad team
* Co-operate with the National Squad in respect to all logistical and administrative requirements of the National Squads, with the assistance of Team Managers

Key Focus Areas:* Attend the European Championships 2018 and lead your squad to the best of your ability in all preparatory sessions, tours and events
* create season-long strategic plans for your squad and undertake player evaluation and self-evaluation, all with the assistance of other coaches
* commit a sufficient period of time to self-improvement, both in respect to the technical elements of Touch and the group/individual player emotional management elements of Touch

Additional Responsibilities:* assist with the recruitment of a suitably-sized player base to form the basis of an initial squad prior to final selection
* attendance at coaching workshops
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| **Person Specification** |
| Essential:* Leadership and communication skills, especially the ability to be aware of the effects of effective (and ineffective) communication on group dynamics and individual player psychology
* Sufficient time and resources to attend all National Squad sessions, coaching workshops and selection events, together with the willingness to put aside time for strategic planning and player evaluations. However, unavailability for a small proportion of sessions will not automatically prohibit you from fulfilling the role.
 | Desirable:* Coaching qualifications relating to Touch
* Knowledge of the technical requirements for elite Touch, including a basic understanding of session planning, leadership, game plan strategies, drills for skill acquisition and effective strength & conditioning.
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| **Skills/Experience** |
| * Coaching experience at Club/Representative/National Touch team level
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**Context and Background Information**

* Head Coaches will be appointed for all squads. Head Coaches will play an active part in recruiting new players within divisions that may require additional numbers.
* Scottish Touch will not ‘prioritise’ selection for Open division squads in the lead up to Euros 2018 or World Cup 2019. There is an established National Selection Policy which allows 2 age-grade + 2 years players only to be selected into squads. This is to encourage and enable progress throughout all squads and bring as much new young talent into the National Squad set up as possible to continue to develop and grow the sport in Scotland. Where coaches wish to select additional players who fall into the above age grade, and that player has also been selected by that squad coach, cases should be presented to the Selection Committee for negotiation and agreement.
* National Squads will train frequently, at top quality venues, all together as one Nation harnessing the quality of all National Coaches and players to create a unified, high performance environment.
* The short-term schedule for the National Seniors Squads involves selection of initial squads after trials in December 2017. Training will be once a month (one day suggested as opposed to a full weekend) during January to July.
* Coaches will join the High Performance group, receiving some technical and coaching theory updates and attending a weekend coaching workshop (NOV 2017).

**Specific Details**

* Applications for National Squad Coaches will close on 29 Sept 2017.
* Decisions will be announced on 13 Oct 2017. This is also the date on which the role will officially commence.
* The position will be held by the successful Coach until at least 31 July 2018 (2 weeks after the 2018 European Championships). It is expected that, following an evaluation of Coach performance by the National Coaching team at this stage, National Squad Coaches will continue in-post for a second season, after which it would be mandatory that the post would be re-opened for applications. In the event that a Coach does not wish to continue after 31 July 2018 (or at the National Coaching team’s discretion) applications may be opened up for that Coach’s position on 01 Aug 2018.
* The appointment of National Squad Coaches will be made by the National Coaching Team.
* In the event that a potential Coach continues to play at International level, it is highly preferred that National Squad coaches do not play for a squad other than the one in which they play. Therefore, applications from player-coaches will be accepted, however, special circumstances will be required to allow a coach to play for one team and coach a different one.

Applications must be made on the application form found at <http://www.scottishtouch.org.uk/volunteering/volunteer-documents/> and sent to saraebbett@scottishtouch.org.uk