

# Role Description: National Squad Coach

## Summary

Scottish Touch is embarking on a new era and is looking for coaches to become part of the future of Touch at the highest level in Scotland. Following a period of great and consistent success at European level, Scottish Touch is seeking individuals who want to continue to develop the game and improve Scotland's elite players. This is an exciting time to become involved, as Scottish Touch starts a new phase ahead of the 2016 European Championships and building towards the 2019 Touch World Cup in Malaysia.

## The National Squad: Outlook and Changes

To help you understand a little about the National Squad, here is what it is going to look like:

- Scottish Touch will always attempt to have a squad in every available playing division (Men's Open, Women's Open, Mixed Open, Men's 30s, Men's 35s, Men's 40s, Women's 27s and Senior Mixed)
- Head Coaches will be in-post for all squads, irrespective of whether that squad has competed in past tournaments. With considerable assistance, the 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 an Open division squad over other Open squads in the lead up to Euros 2016.
- There will be a progression towards players playing for Senior squads over Open squads if they qualify. This will be used as a general guiding principle rather than a rule.
- 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 future of the National Squad involves the selection of initial squads after the Scottish National Championships in September 2015, followed by an estimated two National sessions prior to Christmas 2015.
- Coaches will join the High Performance group, receiving regular technical and coaching theory updates and attending a weekend coaching workshop.

## Preferred Attributes

- Coaching experience of a Representative/National Touch team is preferred but not essential. Experience outside of the sport of Touch will be considered.
- Coaching qualifications relating to Touch are preferred. We would expect candidates to be FIT/TFA Level One/Intermediate qualified and, for Open squads, preferably Level Two/Advanced. However, we are willing to look at candidates without formal touch qualifications, and qualifications from other sports will be considered.
- 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. A desire to evaluate and improve these skills.
- Knowledge of the technical requirements for elite Touch, including a strong understanding of techniques, game-plan strategies, drills for skill acquisition and fitness. Much more important than this, is a desire to learn from other National Coaches/the High Performance team and to develop both as an individual and as a member of a group of National Coaches.
- 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.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

- To attend the Scottish Touch National Championships or, if unavailable, arrange for a suitable representative to attend.
- To attend all National Squad training sessions (initially one per month and increasing in the lead up to International Competitions) and coaching workshops.
- To create season-long strategic plans for your squad and undertake player evaluation and self-evaluation, all with the assistance of the High Performance team.
- To design and deliver squad coaching programmes leading to the key international tournaments each season, and as part of an over-arching multi-year plan for the team and players.
- To assist with the recruitment of a suitably-sized player base to form the basis of an initial squad prior to final selection.
- Lead and manage your squad's management team, including assistant coach, manager and support staff. This includes clear job descriptions and roles.
- To 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. The High Performance Director and Coaching Director have obligations to provide a significant quantity of coaching and technical assistance and expect a certain amount of commitment from National Squad Coaches to maximise the benefits of this assistance.
- Co-operate with the National Squad Director in respect to all logistical and administrative requirements of the National Squads, with the assistance of Team Managers.
- Attend the European Championships 2016 and lead your squad to the best of your ability in all preparatory sessions, tours and events.

### **Specific Details**

- Applications for National Squad Coaches will close on 14 August 2015.
- Decisions will be announced on 17 August 2015. This is also the date on which the role will officially commence.
- The position will be held by the successful Coach until at least 24 July 2016 (2 weeks after the 2016 European Championships). It is expected that, following an evaluation of Coach performance by the High Performance 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 24 July 2016 (or at the High Performance team's discretion) applications may be opened up for that Coach's position on 25 July 2016.
- The appointment of National Squad Coaches will be made by the High Performance Director, National Squad Director and Coaching Director.
- The STA would prefer to appoint non-playing head coaches where possible, particularly at Open level.
- 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.