



## **Scottish Touch Association The 2013/14 Scotland National Squad Selection Process**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to detail clearly to players, selectors, coaches and other interested parties the selection process for the 2014 European Championships.

This document applies to the 2013/14 national squad training cycle, which begins in September/October 2013 and finishes at the end of the 2014 European Championships.

This document should be read in conjunction with the current *Selection Policy for the National Squad*, which details the behaviours and actions required of national squad players.

### **Objectives**

This process is based on the following objectives for the national squad:

To select players to form teams to achieve the best possible results at the 2014 European Championships.

To use an open and fair selection process that gives players a fair chance to challenge for international selection.

## **Landmark dates**

17<sup>th</sup> August 2013 – Scottish National Touch Championships

7<sup>th</sup> September 2013 – Open Trial

12/13<sup>th</sup> September 2013 – Invitations to players to join specific national training squads

September 2013 to April 2014 – National Squad Training Camps

April 2014 – Final Squad selection

April to July – National Squad Training Camps

7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> August 2014 – European Championships in Swansea

## **Selection Process**

### 17th August and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2013

The Scottish National Touch Championships and the Open Trial will be used to observe all players who have indicated a desire to be selected for Scotland.

### 28/29<sup>th</sup> September 2013 (TBC)

First national squad session. All players to sign player agreement and place training kit orders

NSMC and NSCD will outline the training cycle, the selection process and any other matters.

9/10<sup>th</sup> April 2014 – Final playing squads and train-ons announced on the STA website and via e-mail.

## **National squad structure**

The final 2014 national squad will be made up of the following teams. It is anticipated that each team will have 16 players plus up to 2 train-ons (up to 4 train-ons in Mixed teams):

### Open Divisions

Men's Open (MO)

Women's Open (WO)

Mixed Open (XO)

### Masters Divisions

Mixed Masters (XM)

Women's 27s (W27)\*

Men's 30s (M30)\*

Men's 35s (M35)\*

Men's 40s (M40)\*

\*Masters teams are subject to change, depending on player numbers and number of countries entering the division, and the decision will be made by the NSMC at an appropriate time.

## **Selection and assessment criteria**

Selection of the final teams will be based on two principles:

- assessment of players as individuals, as per the *STA Player Development and Technical Curriculum* document and below
- consideration of the final make-up of teams, as per to the team criteria below.

## **Individual criteria**

In considering players as individuals, selectors will assess the following areas: individual skills; team skills; fitness; vision and decision-making; communication; mental strength; and performance-oriented behaviour.

### Individual physical skills:

Attack skills: passing, catching, dumping, scooping, diving, sidestepping, swerving, scoring, support running.

Defence skills: making the touch, body position, balance and weight distribution, ability to quickly get back onside.

Team skills:

Positional awareness: correct positioning in attack and defence; rarely caught out of position; awareness of team-mates' and opponents' positioning; support running and use of support runners; gets back into position without disrupting others.

Sub-unit skills: driving, switches, wraps, buddies and quickies, switch defence, wrap defence.

Team skills: ability to interact with team-mates; knowledge and application of attack patterns/policies/moves/game plan; knowledge of rules; maximises strengths and minimises weaknesses; cohesive and adaptable: ability to both lead and/or to follow; unselfish; positive attitude to referees/officials; encouraging and supportive.

Defence skills: knowledge and application of defence policies; commitment; stays calm under pressure; communication; reads attacking play.

Response to instructions: ability to carry out a game plan; ability to carry out instructions from coach/captain/team-mates.

Fitness:

Evidence of adequate and improving levels of fitness, speed, power and strength.

On-field: ability to maintain physical and mental performance over a game and/or tournament with minimal visible fatigue; high work-rate in games; quick recovery; consistently error-free; contributes on both attack and defence.

Vision and decision-making:

Vision: sees what is happening/read the game; evidence of peripheral vision and knowledge of positioning of team-mates and opposition; reads tactical play and trends in a game; sees things early; reacts quickly; good understanding of teammates' and oppositions' strengths and weaknesses.

Decision-making: ability to select the right option in attack and defence that will benefit the team; decisive and acts/reacts quickly; confident in taking options; takes responsibility; reacts quickly to assist a team-mate's decision; does not rely unduly on others for direction.

### Communication:

Communication: talks positively and effectively for the benefit of team; clarity and precision of communication; clear and audible communication in defence; vocal but not distracting; assists others to see problems and opportunities; encouraging and supportive and positive towards team-mates; influences game via communication.

### Mental skills:

Mental toughness: performs tasks well while under stress and pressure; repeats training field form and skill in match situations; brushes off errors and/or poor decisions and remains focussed; reacts positively to setbacks (opposition scoring, injury etc); is highly motivated and able to maintain that; steps up in big games.

Discipline: respectful of officials and opposition; remains disciplined and focussed following refereeing decisions; supportive and encouraging of team-mates in difficult situations; reacts positively and encouragingly following mistakes; remains calm in face of provocation and/or intimidation; commitment to maintaining high personal standards in any situation; helps team-mates to keep discipline.

### Performance-oriented behaviour:

Personal preparation: committed to proper and adequate personal training; follows appropriate nutrition and hydration habits; has an appropriate sport-life balance; manages injuries and illnesses effectively; plans for potential sport-life clashes; reviews team and squad resources about tactics/techniques/game plans etc.

Training session behaviour: punctual and appropriately prepared for training; trains to achieve the best results for player and team; behaviour helps team effectiveness and harmony and does not hinder these; high work-rate and motivation and attention.

Self-improvement: seeks to understand own strengths and weaknesses; seeks advice on practical ways to address weaknesses and to maximise strengths; researches and asks questions; open and receptive to feedback and advice; shows commitment to improving self as a player and an athlete.

## **Team selection criteria**

When considering the formation of specific teams, selectors will cover the following areas: the balance of a team; skill mix within a team; combinations; ability of players to play in more than one position; and national squad strategy.

### Team balance:

The number of players in each position, physical attributes for different positions, balance of utility players and specialists, balance of leaders and followers.

### Skill mix:

Mix of playmakers and workhorses, mix of strong attackers and strong defenders and leaders in both areas, mix of attacking strengths such as strong passers and scoopers and steppers and finishers.

### Combinations:

Potential for particular players to form attacking or defensive subgroups, existing effective combinations of players.

### Covering positions:

Coach's strategy of utilities vs specialists, players who can cover mid-link, players who can cover link-wing, injury cover or potential tactical changes.

### National squad strategy:

How many teams are being selected and in which divisions, which divisions are being targeted for medals, which divisions are targeted for development.