

Touch Switzerland

To : All Representative Candidates and Participants

Re : Euros Planning

Dear Touchies,

This document contains important information for interested participants, in all roles, at the European Touch Championships 2016. Please read the information carefully, as it outlines many of the requirements and upcoming activities that are important to you. There are a common set of Q&A and other information at the end, so please read all the way through.

Information for Players

Trials will be held on Sunday the 28th of February with arrival no later than 0815 for a 0830 start. It is an unfortunate circumstance that there is not enough time in the overall calendar to offer additional dates.

The selected location for the Trials will be announced during next week at least two days before the Trials day. This is to offer us the best available playing surface based on the weather. Directions on how to get there and local arrangements will be published later, but please be responsible for making your own plans regardless.

You should bring your full equipment for all weather conditions, be ready for Astro turf, grass or rubber/wooden flooring, make your own arrangement for refreshments and food.

You are asked to wear throughout the day as your outermost layer a numbered playing top of any colour/team/sport to help us identify you visually for assessment purposes. Please do not change this top during the day.

You must be sized for playing Kit at the Trials. Samples will be available for you to try to obtain the correct sizing.

Please conduct any and all pre-training activities under your own guidance, and seek assistance from your Club if you need help preparing.

Eligibility requirements are according to FIT rules. You must be a Swiss national (evidenced by passport or birth), have been resident here for three years, or have a Swiss parent. There are some grounds for exemption on the residence issue if you have been here for more than two years. There are generally no other exemptions allowed. Your existing Eligibility is permanent if you had already established it and Represented the country based upon it. You cannot change Eligibility to another country without a three year break at the Representative level.

Performance at Trials will be measured against a standard Assessment Criteria. The criteria have been agreed by the Board and will be available on the day. All candidates will undertake the same tests. You will be directly coached through each element of the tests in small groups. A guide to the Selection Criteria is attached at the end of this message.

Your Selection status will be based on your performance at Trials. If Selected you will be assigned to a specific Team. More than sixteen players may be taken into training, and the final down-select within that group will happen at a later date under the Coach's guidance.

You will not be given access to your results during the day. You will have access to feedback at a later date, and your results will be available to your Coach.

Your point of contact at any time prior to Selection is your Club President. After selection, your point of contact is your Team Coach.

The total cost to attend ETC2016 in June will be approximately 2,000 CHF including the tournament travel, accommodation and participant costs. This does not include costs for training and other events prior to June.

Each registered team requires a dedicated full-time referee. Teams registered above this limit are not guaranteed entry to the tournament. The European Federation are currently assessing alternative mechanisms to secure referees. This will likely be a lottery system and is not guaranteed to work in our favour. While we are taking every step to ensure it does not happen, we must point out that it is possible that teams seeking registration without a referee will be declined entry.

Team Assistants will provide physical conditioning at the Tournament.

Please read the information for Coaches and Information for Referees as they contain important information that impacts you.

Information for Coaches

Each Open Division team requires a dedicated non-playing Coach. A stipend (to be finalised) will be paid by Touch Switzerland to the attending Coach.

Each Senior Division team will be assigned a Coach for the duration of training. A Senior Division Coach may also be a player, depending on their own success at Selection.

The Coaches will report to the Executive. Coaches become the point of contact for their Team after Selection. The Tour Manager is the point of contact for tour requirements.

Please read the information for Players and Information for Referees as they contain important information that impacts you.

Information for Referees

Registration requirements include a Level Two European badge (or equivalent) on or before the date of Registration (9th of March). A fitness standard will apply, with testing to be witnessed by your Club President or the Referee Director.

A stipend (to be finalised) will be paid by Touch Switzerland to the attending Referee(s).

Please read the information for Coaches and Information for Players as they contain important information that impacts you.

Information for Managers

Each Team will have an assigned Manager, who may also hold another role if Selected.

A non-playing Tour Manager is required if more than two teams are participant.

A stipend (to be finalised) will be paid by Touch Switzerland to the attending managers.

The Team Manager is responsible for all matters pertaining to the Team.

The Tour Manager is responsible for the organisation and administration of the tournament and training events, and assists coordination amongst Team Managers. The Tour manager will report to the Executive, and takes input from the Coaches.

Information for Assistants

Team Assistants provide physical conditioning at the Tournament. The number of Assistants will be finalised when Team numbers are confirmed.

A stipend (to be finalised) will be paid by Touch Switzerland to the attending Assistants.

Answers to Common Questions

This is a selection of the most common questions. Most of these are addressed above, but we include them here again for your convenience. Future Q&A will be issued if necessary.

Maybe I'm not good enough to attend Trials?

You should not think this way. If you are playing Touch in Switzerland, you are welcome to come and attend - even if you only want to learn about it! There is space for developing players amongst the Teams, and the experience will be very valuable to your future development and enjoyment of the sport. In 2014 we sent development teams to the Italian Euros with great success, and if you are up for it, and can develop to the required standard under the coaching and training program which will follow, then you could be the one that scores a winning touchdown!

What Teams are being sent?

The Teams being sent will be decided following Trials based on the number of persons interested and the range of skills and performance, ages and gender. Considerations include the number of candidates in each Division, the performance of candidates, and the overall goals and priorities of Switzerland as determined by the Board of Clubs.

Do I decide which team I can play for?

Switzerland is not yet blessed with a high population of players. Since we are aiming to send a range of teams, and these teams share the player base from which to draw candidates, the decision as to who goes where is complex. We will listen to your input on your preferences, but we may respectfully ask you to help us make the complex picture work in the interests of making Switzerland's participation as broad as we can. We have engaged independent Selectors alongside the Coaches, with the Board governing the process and decisions, so we feel strongly that this is a sensible approach that offers a fair outcome as a whole.

Are the assessments Pass/Fail?

No. The assessment criteria are based on relative-performance and will rank you amongst all of our candidate players. This means that some people will be at the top, others in the middle, and others at the lower end. This is helpful to us in determining how to best integrate the range of skills to provide each team with a good mix of personnel at an appropriate standard, remembering that Seniors and Opens have quite different requirements not least in physical age and fitness! Our objective is to provide a quality outcome for as many people as possible.

How are players Selected?

Selection will be according to criteria established by the Board of Clubs. The Selection criteria may apply differently for each Team according to the goals of that Team as determined by the Board of Clubs and Coaches. If you are Selected but refuse to participate, it may impact your future involvement.

When will I know if I have been Selected?

Following Trials, the Board will determine what Teams we will send. Once that decision is made, the Selectors will determine the allocation of individuals to those Teams. This process will likely take a number of days. All notifications of Selection will be publicly broadcast, so if you have heard no news, it probably means that Selection has not been completed, and you should wait patiently.

What if I am not Selected?

We would still love to have you involved in the overall program. We need opposing teams to help with training, there are a number of non-playing roles still to be filled, and we may need to draw on additional candidates if teams are reduced due to injury or other circumstances.

What if we do not have enough Referees?

The Tournament entry conditions place certain requirements on entry. These will be managed as best we can. We are actively seeking alternative referees through a yet-to-be-finalised mechanism that Touch Europe has indicated will be available to us.

What if I am unsure about my Eligibility, or need an Exemption?

Please re-read the summary of the Eligibility rules above. If you do not understand, please get in contact with your Club. You can always turn up at Trials and help out, and your attendance and input would be greatly appreciated! If you believe you will need an Exemption to play, you should make this known on or before the Trials. The administrative process for the application involves an international assessment panel, so please notify us as early as you are able. Please note that there is very little leeway in Exemptions under the modern understanding of the rules.

How was the budget Cost calculated?

The cost is based on our expectation of the air fares, accommodation and included meals, event participation fees, and monies for the required support staff according to the tournament rules. It is an estimate that we expect is correct within one or two hundred francs.

What is this Stipend?

The dedicated personnel that are required to attend the Tournament in non-playing roles will have a stipend calculated to cover some of their costs in addition to any Tournament fees that apply. We cannot attend without these people volunteering to take up these roles, and we should not punish them financially for allowing us all the opportunity to participate.

Why is the location not yet published?

We have three facilities on hold, and will select the best one available according to the weather as we get closer to the date. Astroturf is bad when icy, grass may be closed in rain or snow, and indoors is always our fallback. We will make the decision as close to the date as possible, and still give you enough time to change your travel plans if at all possible.

What happens next?

Further communications will come on a regular basis through your Club until Selection is complete, and through your assigned Coach after Selection is complete.

What if I have more Questions?

All questions at the present time should be directed to your Club President. After Selection, your questions should go to your Coach as a first point of contact, and to your Club President otherwise.

Selection Criteria

This guide details the areas that are being tested as part of the assessment for Selection, and a description of the sorts of ideas and capability we are looking for you to demonstrate.

Your performance in each group will help guide your Selection and allocation to Teams.

TECHNIQUE	<i>Diving</i>	Are you able to dive and score
	<i>Passing</i>	Accuracy, at a distance, left and right, and when running
	<i>Catching</i>	Catching in general play, for the long ball, and on the run
	<i>Handling</i>	Use of both hands. How much control do you really have?
	<i>Touching</i>	Attacking and defending at a Touch
	<i>Scout</i>	Scoop at half on the run without losing speed, both sides
TACTICS	<i>Core Attack moves</i>	Understanding moves, plays, defensive strategies
	<i>Vision / Awareness</i>	Are you aware of what is happening, what could happen, and any critical events
	<i>Field Positioning Awareness / Subbing</i>	What position are you and where's your domain on the field in defence and attack
	<i>Core Defence Moves</i>	can you execute i-defence & shutdown defence from your position
	<i>Driving</i>	Drive and win the advantage over the toucher
	<i>Defence Midfield</i>	Defend and win the advantage over the driver / attacker
PHYSICAL	<i>Agility / Evasiveness</i>	Quick change of direction & late fast footwork
	<i>Endurance</i>	See what your skillsets are like fresh and then under fatigue
	<i>Burst Speed</i>	A short sprint. Fast, fast, fast.
	<i>Strength</i>	Leg, Gluts and Core Strength
	<i>Fitness</i>	Can you stay in the game until the end?
GAMEPLAY	<i>Speed while in Defence</i>	Can you retreat and still provide pressure?
	<i>Awareness</i>	Understanding your responsibility in Defence and Attack. Being aware of where you should be at crucial moments in the game
	<i>Play calling</i>	Can you spot the next play, make the call, and get it happening?
	<i>Play selection</i>	Are you making the right calls, and at the right time?
	<i>Knowledge/Rules</i>	Do you know what the whistle means? Can you set up for what will happen next? What is this freeze rule anyway?
	<i>Subbing</i>	Do you understand subbing patterns and can you execute them at speed with your teammates
PERSONAL	<i>Patterns / Moves</i>	Your position's roles within patterns or moves in attack and defence. and can you execute them well and at speed?
	<i>Teamwork</i>	Are you a team player? Can you sacrifice a decoy run so your teammate can score? Do you make the team stronger?
	<i>Commitment</i>	Do you take easy options and let people score on you, or are you the type to dive and leave skin and sweat on the field?
	<i>Communication</i>	Does your mate next to you know what you're about to do next?
	<i>Discipline</i>	Are you that one person always in trouble with the ref? Are you that one person always costing your teammates possession?
	<i>Leadership</i>	Can you see a play-on? Are you going to call it and score what might be the winning score? Or will you let someone else do it?
	<i>Collaboration skills</i>	Are you able to execute patterns well with someone you've never played near? Can you adapt to a position that is not yours?