

The Dutch Selection Procedure

This document describes the basic process and elements of the selection procedure of the Dutch national roundnet team for international tournaments like the European and World championships. This document was written by a voluntary committee in the early months of 2026. This document will contain the formalities regarding selection and the process, and will be used as a foundation for the development of this process in the upcoming years.

version history.

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Written on initiative of Roundnet Netherlands



introduction

Roundnet is still a new sport, and hence, the way we select people for the national team is still under development in the long run. However, in this stage it is ever more important to communicate clearly to players how one is selected and based on what metrics: hence this document. On the other hand this document also serves as a guideline for Roundnet Netherlands to follow and easily lead the process of selecting.

format

The general form of this selection is two-stage. In the first stage a selection committee is formed and based on the ranking, players are invited to show their interest. The second stage is a selection performed by the committee with input from past performance, ranking and a selection day.

outline

The first question to be answered is why players are selected for a national tournament, based on what formal and informal metrics. Thereafter, the timeline of the selection procedure is described. The process of forming a selection committee is thereafter discussed, including its requirements. The selection day setup and design are then described, and the document is concluded with elements on how further ongoing development is guaranteed.



1. Worlds 2026 formal selection proposal

Format:

Saturday & Sunday (confirmed): Mens & Womens Squads, 5 Teams per Squad - as played at the 2026 Worlds Championships. Each nation will be able to field 5 Women and 5 Mens Teams, which will compete over this two-day event in their respective division.

Thursday/Friday (confirmed): 3 women, 3 men and 1 mixed team per nation.

Eligibility for the Dutch National Team 2026

Roundnet players who wish to represent the Netherlands must meet one of the following criteria:

- You hold Dutch nationality.
- You are a permanent resident of the Netherlands.
- You have been living permanently in the Netherlands since the start of this calendar year (January 2026).

and

- You have not represented another country in an official international tournament within the last 36 months.

Selection of the Dutch National Team

In the 2026 season, the Dutch national team will be determined using the Dutch ranking (tournament performance), the selection day, and the players' availability and motivation. At the start of the outdoor season, a selection committee will be appointed, consisting of independent individuals without conflicts of interest, as well as players who are ranked so highly that their place in the final selection is already secure.

As in previous years, a national ranking will be established in 2026. Points can be earned based on performances in all previous official Dutch tournaments. This ranking is based on individual results. More information about the ranking can be found on the [website](#).

In 2026, a Selection Day will also take place, organized by the selection committee together with the selection-day committee. This day will be dedicated to evaluating the abilities of candidates for the Dutch national selection.

The full selection will be chosen by the selection committee, whose work is supervised by Roundnet Netherlands. This document outlines the conditions and criteria for selection.



2. Values for selecting players

When selecting players for the Dutch national roundnet team, the selection committee works with a set of shared values that guide every decision. Within these values, **on-court performance (1)** carries the most weight (~80%). Objective results, such as the Dutch ranking, selection day performance and recent tournament performances form the starting point for evaluating players. These metrics give the clearest and most transparent picture of a player's current level. Once performance has been assessed, additional factors are considered: **Growth Potential (2), Culture & Community (3) and Roundnet Fitness (4)**. These elements become increasingly important when players are close in performance and help the committee decide who best fits the team.

Within this broader evaluation, ranking remains the strongest indicator. The committee may deviate from what the ranking suggests, but only with clear and well-grounded reasoning (for example, when a player is progressing rapidly, returning from injury, or consistently performing above their ranking in recent tournaments). If such a deviation is made, the committee must be able to explain why. This keeps the process fair and transparent while acknowledging that rankings alone cannot capture everything about a player's development or impact.

Ultimately, these values support one shared goal: *to select the strongest possible squad for international competition, while also ensuring long-term development of Dutch roundnet and fostering a positive team culture on and off the court.*

Criteria for selection players

1. Performance pillar

a. Ranking and tournament performance

Dutch National Ranking and tournaments

- Where does the player currently sit in the national ranking? This provides a baseline for consistent performance over time.
- How have they performed in their most recent tournaments? Are they on "peak form"

International Tournaments

- have they played any international tournaments, how was their performance

b. Skill

Hitting: Can they finish the point? We are looking for good power, smart placement, and not making silly mistakes (hitting the rim or the ground).

Defence: Can they read the hitter, react quickly, and get the ball up cleanly for their partner?



Setting: Are their sets easy to hit? Can they save a bad pass and still give their partner a decent setup?

Serving: Can they hit tough serves (like cuts and drops) and actually get them on the net? Do they give away too many free points with double faults?

Tournament Play: Do they show up and perform well at real events, or are they only good during practice?

c. Consistency

Can they keep a high level for multiple tournament days. If they miss an easy shot or lose a game they should have won, how do they bounce back after these upsets?

d. Experience

Exposure to high-pressure environments

2. Growth pillar

a. Potential

Do they have the natural talent that suggests they could become one of the best players in the country with more training?

Learning Speed: When a coach gives them a tip, do they try it right away? How fast do they pick up new skills?

b. Continuity

Long-term Plan: Do they plan on playing Roundnet for the next few years, or are they likely to quit or move away soon?

c. Commitment to roundnet

Showing Up: Do they come to almost every practice and training session?

Extra Effort: Do they practice on their own time (like doing drills in the park or going to the gym) to get better?

3. Culture & Community Pillar

On court: They are a player who communicates clearly and plays a style that naturally fits with their partner's strengths.

Off court: Beyond just being a good athlete, the ideal player is someone who makes the whole team better just by being there. They don't just play for themselves; they bring a positive energy that keeps the team's spirit high.

They don't just show up to play their games and leave; they are committed to growing the sport specifically here in the Netherlands.

4. Roundnet Fitness

Endurance: How fit are they, can they keep a high level for 2 tournament days.

Athleticism: Speed, agility and power.



Injury proneness: Does their body hold up well over a long season or do they have a history of getting injured often.



3. Timeline and procedure

Procedure

1. At the start of the outdoor season (APRIL), Roundnet Netherlands proposes a selection committee based on the criteria described in **Chapter 4**.
2. The clubs review this proposal and approve the committee through a voting process.
3. Once approved, the selection committee is formed and meets online at the beginning of the season.
4. After the indoor season concludes (APRIL), the mid-season ranking is created.
5. The **top 20** players in both the Open and Women's divisions are invited to show their availability for the national team.
 - a. These players receive an invitation to participate in the selection day.
6. Registration for selection day also opens for players without an invitation, but they must provide additional motivation.
7. The selection committee reviews all applications and decides which additional players have a realistic chance of selection. These players receive an invitation for the selection day (see **Chapter 5**).
8. The selection committee is present during the selection day to observe and evaluate players.
9. After the event, the selection committee submits its proposed national team selection to the board of Roundnet Netherlands (see **Chapter 2**). This includes the reserve list, team composition and shorthand argumentation.
10. The board reviews the proposal and checks whether it aligns with the established values and guidelines.
11. Once approved, the selection becomes final and is publicly announced.

Timeline 2026

April 1st	Publication of the full procedure.
April 20th	Selection day invitations and opening open signup for selection day.
May 4th	Deadline for sign-up selection day.
May 18th	Official Selection day invitations.
TBD <i>based on availability</i>	Selection day.
Juli 5-20	Selection deadline.
September	Worlds 2026.



4. Selection committee

Because the Dutch roundnet community is still growing, we don't yet have a large group of people with enough knowledge and experience to run the national team selection from the outside. For this year this means that we will include players in the selection committee who most definitely would be selected themselves. While this isn't ideal, it's currently the best way to ensure that the people evaluating performances actually understand the level of play, the player field, and the competitive context.

By setting clear requirements, values, and safeguards, we aim to create a selection committee that is skilled, fair, and transparent while still being realistic about the size of our community.

Roundnet Netherlands will propose a selection committee containing 3-5 members. Roundnet Netherlands will ensure the committee members are well-qualified and that there is enough diversity within the committee, including gender diversity and representation of different communities if possible.

All committee members must adhere to the following values:

- **Integrity:** Act honestly, transparently, and without (personal) bias in all selection decisions.
- **Knowledge:** Possess sufficient insight into the level and performance of Dutch roundnet community.
- **Commitment:** Be motivated and able to invest time in reviewing tournament results, player development, selection events and other relevant data.

Additional requirement for committee members who are also candidates for the national team

- **Skill level:** Have a playing level high enough that RoundnetNL can confidently consider them a national team member for that year, ensuring participation does not create a conflict of interest in the selection process.
- **Field presence:** To effectively evaluate players under pressure and monitor their progression, committee members should be present at multiple Dutch Grand Slams or other tournaments during the season.

Once the profiles and requirements for the selection committee are set, Roundnet Netherlands will put together a proposed list of committee members, including a few reserve options in case someone declines. This proposal is shared with the clubs so they can give feedback or raise concerns.



If the clubs agree with the proposed composition, Roundnet Netherlands will formally invite the selected individuals and the committee will be officially formed.



5. Selection day | Date 2026: TBD

The Selection Day is a new (experimental) part of the national team selection process. Its goal is to make the selection more transparent and to give players an extra opportunity to show their skills in a structured environment. It is not the leading factor in the selection; it is only one additional source of information, alongside rankings, tournament results, and season-long performance.

Not attending Selection Day is not a problem and will not count against any player. The committee understands that players may be unavailable and will continue to base their decisions primarily on objective results and the full set of selection criteria.

The Selection Day is an important new event in forming the Dutch national roundnet team. Its purpose is to create a structured environment where the selection committee can evaluate players directly through drills, gameplay, pressure situations, and different doubles formations. This allows the committee to verify what rankings and tournament results already show, compare players who are close in level, and evaluate aspects that cannot be measured through results alone, such as communication, adaptability (compatibility, physical resilience, and tactical awareness). Selection Day helps the committee gain a complete picture of each player's level and suitability for the national squad.

The date of the Selection Day is chosen based on the availability of the selection committee, as their presence is essential. The date will be released as soon as possible.

The organizing committee (1–2 people) works together with the selection committee to prepare and run the event. Players can sign up for the Selection Day through a form on the Roundnet Netherlands website: [\[link\]](#).

Signup and Admission

On **April 20th**, Roundnet Netherlands sends out the first invitations to the players who are already on the committee's radar and simultaneously opens the open signup. Players who wish to participate must submit their registration **no later than May 4th**.

The signup is open to all players, but participation is not automatic. As stated in the procedure, the selection committee reviews all registrations and admits every player who has a reasonable chance of joining the national selection, based on results, ranking, or demonstrated potential. This ensures the event remains focused, fair, and competitive, while still allowing room for motivated players outside the top 20 to earn their spot.



Responsibilities Selection Day

Organizing Committee

The organizing committee handles the practical side of the event and ensures it runs smoothly. Their responsibilities include:

- Renting and preparing the fields.
- Managing the open signup through the online form.
- Creating the schedule for drills, matches, and breaks.
- Arranging finances: all players contribute a minimal contribution to the field rental and potentially some snacks.
- Communicating all necessary information to the players before and during the event.

Selection Committee

The selection committee focuses on evaluation and content. Their responsibilities include:

- Designing a (detailed) plan for the day, including drills, match formats, and different team combinations.
- Observing all activities and rating each player according to the established selection criteria.
- Using Selection Day evaluations as part of the broader assessment, alongside rankings, tournament results, and season-long development.



evaluation and development

Form of evaluation after selection procedure, and assembly of crew to adapt this document for next year. Feedback will be collected after the selection is formed.

