



# TOUCH SWITZERLAND

To all touch Switzerland players,

What an incredible year we've had all together at Touch Switzerland! Running 4 Swiss Cups and 1 Challenge Cup across Switzerland and participating at the 2022 Euros with largest Swiss squad ever of 4 competitive teams and a superb bronze medal for the Women's 27 team!

With all this still fresh in mind we are facing another year and with it, another big tournament. While we do not know yet, where and when exactly the European championships 2023 will be taking place, we would like to address you and communicate Touch Switzerland's philosophy on the elite program and selection criteria going forward.

It is crucial to us that all players who have expressed interest to play for Switzerland have the opportunity to do so. As we value a fair selection process for all we are going to implement a system of selection across all representative teams that rates players based on their basic and advanced touch skills, as well as their athletic abilities. It allows for specific personal feedback and with it, a clear path for improvement. These documents will be available on the Touch Switzerland website.

Representing Switzerland on the international touch stage is a great experience and honor, thus we expect players to not only step-up presence with-in their respective clubs, but more so to try-out and play for their regional team at the Challenge cup (dates will be announced soon). Participation and performance in the Challenge Cup will factor in the final selection process.

Next to that a thorough knowledge of (international) touch rules and regulations will improve each player's and team's overall skills and understanding of the game. Therefore, we do also expect all Swiss squad members to have or obtain their Level 1 referee badge.

We have not yet finally decided how many and which teams Touch Switzerland will enter at the next Euros, but we are fortunate to have very experienced coaches that align with the TS High performance program and will lead the national trainings and selections. The dates and locations of these trainings will be made available soon.

On top of that, we are very excited to announce the start of the "Elite Academy", led by Peri Marks, our coaching director, for players who do not make the national squads yet looking to improve their skills and touch knowledge, as steppingstone towards the national teams. More information about this exciting initiative will follow soon.

Get in touch with your club-heads, if you are keen to try-out for your regional/national team or would like to join the "elite academy".

We are very much looking forward to another fantastic year. See you all on the touch field!

On behalf of Touch Switzerland High Performance,

Thomas Blaser, TS High Performance Director

Tom Pulles, TS President