



2025

Annual REPORT



NETBAL NEDERLAND

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BOARD UPDATE

A TRANSFORMATIVE YEAR FOR NETBAL NEDERLAND



The 2025 calendar year served as a pivotal chapter in the evolution of Netbal Nederland. As we continue our strategic journey toward formal professionalization, our core objective remains the establishment of a robust national governing body capable of sustaining the long-term growth of the sport. In line with this objective to integrate more deeply into the Dutch sporting landscape, 2025 marked our formal transition to the name 'Netbal Nederland'. We are also pleased to report that our community has expanded to over 200 members across 7 clubs, providing a solid foundation for the ambitious goals set for 2026—most notably, our pursuit of official recognition by NOC*NSF.

To support this organizational maturation, we have prioritized the implementation of structural integrity. A primary milestone this year was the introduction of a new contribution scheme in late 2024, designed to create a sustainable financial future. Complementing this, the Board has formalised several foundational governance instruments, including a comprehensive volunteer policy, a board self-evaluation process, a formal whistleblowing policy, and updated operational protocols. These measures ensure that we operate with the transparency and accountability required of a national sports authority.



Member Feedback: “We Heard You”

As part of our commitment to inclusive governance, we conducted a member survey to ensure the Bond’s strategic trajectory remains aligned with the needs of our clubs. We were encouraged by the strong sense of community and the positive reception toward our league management. Members have expressed appreciation for our umpire development initiatives and our accessible online workshops, which continue to raise the standard of play across the country. Additionally, the adoption of an inclusive financial model has been recognized as a successful mechanism for fostering equity, ensuring that smaller clubs receive the support necessary to thrive.

The feedback also provided a clear mandate for the Board to evolve into a more strategic entity. Members have requested greater clarity regarding the Bond’s governance structure and a more centralized, "single source of truth" for administrative and financial communications. It is clear that there is a strong desire for the Bond to provide broader strategic leadership – specifically in areas of organizational visibility, long-term financial planning, and robust governance support for local clubs.

Leadership & Governance

To bolster our internal capacity, the Board of Netbal Nederland was pleased to welcome Stephanie Craig as a Director this year. She will be contributing to efforts to optimize our internal operations and enhance our community-building initiatives, ensuring that the Bond remains responsive to the needs of its members.

Looking Ahead: The 2026 Strategic Roadmap

As we move into 2026, the leadership team has finalized a strategic roadmap focused on operational excellence and proactive communication. Our agenda is anchored by two primary pillars:

1. *NOC*NSF Accreditation*: We are initiating the formal registration process with NOC*NSF. Securing this recognition is a critical milestone that will validate our position within the Dutch sporting landscape and provide the legitimacy necessary to advocate for the sport at a national level.
2. *Competitive Expansion*: We are committed to broadening the scope of netball in the Netherlands. Plans are underway to launch a national team program and to introduce an expanded league format, providing our members with increased opportunities for high-level competition and individual development.

By bridging the gap between operational stability and strategic ambition, the Board is confident that 2026 will be the year Netbal Nederland solidifies its place as a cornerstone of the Dutch sports community.





ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

VISION

Our vision is for Netball to be a thriving sport for all players in The Netherlands. We are building an inclusive, nationally recognised netball structure that welcomes:

- Women, men, and players of any gender
- Dutch and international players
- Beginners to elite athletes

MISSION

Our mission is to empower our players, clubs, and all officeholders who participate in the Netherlands and facilitate safe play. We will do this by:

- Promoting the sport
- Facilitating a national league
- Coordinating access to skills development for umpires, coaches and officiates
- Developing international ties to enable higher level and all-level Netball competition



CODE GOED SPORTBESTUUR

CODE OF GOOD SPORTING GOVERNANCE

TOWARDS A SAFE, FAIR, AND VITAL SPORTS ENVIRONMENT THROUGH STRONG AND CONSCIOUS SPORTS GOVERNANCE

To ensure the highest standards of integrity and legitimacy, Netbal Nederland operates in full accordance with the revised Code Goed Sportbestuur (Code for Good Sport Governance). As the national netball sports federation (sportbond) in the Netherlands, we recognize this code as the fundamental framework for our governance and internal supervision. Our policy is built upon the Code's four essential principles:

- **Responsibility:** Ensuring a clear strategic vision, strict regulatory compliance, and ethical decision-making.
- **Democracy:** Facilitating inclusive, supported decision-making through active engagement with our members and stakeholders.
- **Society:** Actively fulfilling our social role and strengthening public trust through transparent accountability.
- **Transparency:** Promoting organizational openness and clear communication to drive performance and integrity.

By upholding the Code Goed Sportbestuur, we strengthen our governance structure and demonstrate our ongoing dedication to fostering a safe, fair, and professional sports environment for all our members and the wider Dutch sporting community."

Responsibility	Democracy	Society	Transparency
Netbal Nederland has demonstrated a commitment to long-term sustainability by formalizing its governance structure to support the launch of its first national team program in 2026. By implementing a phased pilot approach focused on "learning, refining, and gaining experience," the board has shown clear responsibility for the professionalization of the sport's infrastructure.	We prioritize inclusive decision-making through our Bond Council (<i>Bondsraad</i>). Comprising representatives from every netball club and key working group, this body holds the board accountable and exercises critical voting rights on major strategic and organizational decisions.	We are actively dedicated to making netball more attractive and accessible to local Dutch communities. By focusing on youth engagement, we are working to keep young women active in sport, providing them with a safe, inclusive, and vital environment that strengthens their connection to the wider Dutch sporting community.	We have streamlined our communication channels between clubs and the <i>bond</i> to ensure timely and effective information flow. By maintaining a dedicated portal for key documents on our website and keeping our social media channels updated, we ensure our members have easy access to the latest information and organizational developments. Furthermore, the directors conduct annual self-evaluations, the outcomes of which are published on our website for member review.



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Netball Netherlands is fully committed to the principles of diversity and inclusion.

Diversity and inclusion means that anyone should be encouraged and able to participate without prejudice and in a welcoming and inclusive environment. As a feminist organization we celebrate and encourage diversity.

Netball Netherlands affirms anyone has the right to participate in netball. It is our aim and responsibility to make netball accessible to every office holder, volunteer, player or participant who wish to participate in any aspect of netball activities and that these participants are treated fairly, equally and with respect. This is why our vision is for netball in the Netherlands to be a thriving sport played and enjoyed by all.

In line with our dedication to an inclusive sports environment, 2025 saw Netbal Nederland take deliberate steps to embed diversity into our growth strategy. First, we rebranded to our Dutch identity; this shift is a foundational step in making the sport feel more accessible and welcoming to local Dutch communities, which is vital for the long-term sustainability of the sport in the Netherlands.

Furthermore, we are currently investigating pathways to introduce netball into the Dutch school curriculum. As a predominantly female sport, we believe this is a crucial opportunity to provide young girls with a sustainable, accessible, and engaging way to remain active and mobile through our network of local netball clubs.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Financial Performance & Sustainability

Financially, 2025 has been a year of significant progress and stabilization for Netbal Nederland. The 2024–2025 fiscal year (September 2024 – August 2025) marked our first full cycle under a new invoicing structure which successfully established a reliable stream of club-generated revenue, encompassing membership, player registration, and league team entry fees. By design, this inclusive financial model supports our smaller member clubs, ensuring that the sport remains both accessible and affordable for all participants across the Netherlands.

The development and implementation of this contribution scheme were rooted in collaboration. Working hand-in-hand with the Bond Council and a dedicated working group (comprised of representatives from every netball club in the country) we ensured the model met the collective needs of our community. Following its official implementation in the summer of 2024, the scheme underwent a comprehensive re-evaluation and optimization process throughout the summer of 2025, ensuring its continued effectiveness and equity for the upcoming financial year.

Operational Efficiency & Future Outlook

Our fiscal approach remains rooted in discipline and strategic foresight. Operational expenditures have been strictly controlled and directed primarily toward essential digital infrastructure and core development initiatives. A notable investment in our officiating pathway saw us host the Umpire C Course, which provided 20 dedicated participants with the resources to begin their formal qualification journey.

While our league operations are structured to remain cost-neutral, we recognize that a precise financial assessment requires analysis across a full competitive season. To ensure long-term stability, any surplus funds generated during this period are being strictly reserved for foundational requirements, including the formal registration of the Bond with the notary and the Kamer van Koophandel (KvK).

Looking ahead to the next period, we are committed to enhancing the value we provide to our members. We are actively exploring collective sponsorship opportunities and centralized insurance options, aiming to leverage the scale of the Bond to reduce individual operational costs for our member clubs. By prioritizing financial prudence and collective efficiency, we are building a sustainable platform to fuel the long-term growth of netball in the Netherlands.





NATIONAL PERFORMANCE PATHWAY

The most significant development for the future of Dutch Netball is the official launch of the National Team Programme. This initiative represents "The Next Big Step" in the Bond's mission to unite the country's top talent and showcase our regional growth on the international stage.

The Vision

Following two successful years of the National Netball League, the Bond is ready to move beyond local competition. The goal is to establish an open national squad that will elevate the standard of play across all clubs, attract elite coaching, and inspire the next generation of Dutch netballers. This program is a vital strategic pillar for our NOC*NSF registration, providing the visibility needed to expand the sport's foundation throughout the Netherlands.

A significant milestone in our international development efforts was reached on June 28–29, when the Amsterdam Netball Club hosted a weekend of competitive play featuring Netball France. This event included matches between the Amsterdam Netball Club, the Netball France Open and U21 teams, and the Netherlands U23 national team. As a pioneering trial for hosting international fixtures within the Netherlands, this event served as a foundational experience for our national pathways and provided the framework for the official National Team Programme launching in 2026. This celebration of European netball underscored our commitment to growing the sport and provided our athletes with invaluable high-level competitive exposure.





The 2026 Roadmap

We are launching the program with a pilot phase focused on refining our approach. Key milestones for the coming year include:

- Training Camps: Monthly sessions held across multiple cities from May to August 2026.
- Elite Development: A focus on advanced strategy, tactical training, and high-intensity match play.
- International Experience: Gaining exposure through elite competition against other European national teams.

Building the Foundation

Selection for the women's squad adheres to World Netball eligibility rules regarding citizenship, residency, or heritage. For the mixed team, players must have been residents of the Netherlands for at least one year prior to the trial date.

This effort is led by Dominique Gunnink and Delle Benton from ANC. To ensure nationwide representation, a panel including three club representatives—Gary (UNC), Neville (RNC), and Carli (MNC)—assisted in the selection of the performance team. We are proud to have finalized the selection of our first National Team in April 2026.





2024/25 NATIONAL LEAGUE UPDATE

The 2024–2025 Netbal Nederland League (NNL) season represented a landmark achievement for our organization, marking our inaugural year as a fully formalized competitive league. Following a successful pilot program in the previous period, this transition was a strategic necessity, designed to foster consistent, high-quality competition and cultivate a thriving, sustainable netball community across the nation.

This season saw a significant expansion in both scope and engagement, featuring eight teams representing seven distinct clubs. This growth underscores the increasing geographic footprint of the sport within the Netherlands and our ability to draw diverse talent into a unified competitive framework.

Beyond the core competitive experience, the league functioned as a vital hub for professional development. We successfully integrated an officiating pathway directly into our match-day operations, utilizing the league environment as a practical training ground. By embedding assessment opportunities directly into the competitive schedule, we have taken a major step toward elevating the standard of officiating nationwide and ensuring that the quality of our matches reflects the ambition of our athletes.

2024/25 NATIONAL LEAGUE IN NUMBERS

8
TEAMS

72
PLAYERS

35
MATCHES

Competitive Review

The inaugural season of the NNL proved to be a highly competitive campaign that showcased the depth of talent within our clubs and the rapid tactical development of our teams. The season's intensity was defined by a consistently high standard of play, culminating in a podium finish for three of the league's founding clubs:

- Gold Medal: Amsterdam Netball Club (ANC 1)
- Silver Medal: Den Haag Netball Club
- Bronze Medal: Utrecht Netball Club (UNC)

Amsterdam 1 distinguished themselves as the league's pacesetters, completing an undefeated campaign with a perfect 5–0 record and an impressive goal difference of +108. The competition for the remaining podium spots was equally fierce; while Maastricht led the league in total goals scored (265), the defensive consistency and overall performance of Den Haag and Utrecht ultimately secured their place on the podium. Beyond the top three, the competitive balance across the league remained remarkably robust. The efforts of Brussels, Amsterdam 2, and Amersfoort underscored the widening geographic footprint of the sport, while our MVP and Fairplay recognition programs highlighted athletes who embodied the spirit of sportsmanship central to our community.

The success of this inaugural season has already paved the way for the 2025/26 season, which has expanded to include semi-finals and grand finals after the regular seven-round roster to heighten the competitive stakes. We look forward to building upon this momentum as we continue to elevate the profile of netball in the Netherlands.





UMPIRING & COACHING UPDATE

Umpiring Excellence

The 2024–2025 season saw major advancements in officiating, with Umpiring Lead Ashlee Caldwell driving technical standards through nine "Rule of the Week" features and four well-attended workshops. A key achievement was the launch of our inaugural C-level course; it attracted 21 participants and saw Grace and Johan earn their C-level qualifications. To further professionalize our framework, Ashlee implemented several strategic initiatives:

- *Centralized Resources:* introduced a "single source of truth" via a new Umpire Development Spreadsheet on Google Drive, consolidating all training opportunities, courses, and mentoring sessions.
- *On-Court Mentoring:* expanded our practical support by providing mentoring at major club tournaments, including sessions in Amersfoort (8 umpires), Den Haag (10 umpires), and Amsterdam (3 umpires).
- *Squad Expansion:* the League Umpiring squad was strengthened with the addition of five new members for the 2024–2026 seasons.
- *Operational Sustainability:* We launched a dedicated line of umpiring uniforms and merchandise. This initiative saw 24 items distributed, generating €150 in revenue to directly fund future development programs.

Coaching Revitalization

The coaching landscape has been similarly revitalized through new leadership appointments and a strategic focus on "Training the Trainers." By prioritizing this methodology, we are ensuring that the quality of instruction keeps pace with the rapid expansion of our member clubs. This year saw key leadership appointments, including Rudee Robinson in Brussels and Anna in Den Haag, both of whom are instrumental in driving our coaching standards forward.

2025 CLUB UPDATES

AMSTERDAM NETBALL CLUB



ANC continues to be a hub for both high-level competition and community growth:

- **International Hosting:** A major highlight was ANC hosting **Netball France**, which provided the platform for the first-ever international match for the **NNL U23s squad**.
- **Tournament Success:** The club enjoyed hosting another a successful tournament - the highlight of it's year and consistently the biggest tournament in continental Europe with 18 teams competing from 6 countries.
- **Innovation in Play:** ANC successfully introduced an in-club Super League competition, creating a high-energy environment for local players to sharpen their competitive edge outside of the national league structure.

AMERSFOORT DRAGONS

2025 was a landmark year for the Dragons, defined by growth and a professional new look:

- **A New Head Coach:** This year the club welcomed a new head coach who has brought an incredible level of dedication, passion, and structure. Her commitment has lifted the team's game and set a new standard for what training at Amersfoort looks like.
- **Suited Up and Shining:** After years of playing in bibs, the beginning of 2025 saw the Dragons unveil their first-ever official team kit. The launch was celebrated with a full photoshoot and Instagram teasers, marking a shift from just playing as a team to truly looking like one.
- **Tournament Resilience:** The club hosted its annual tournament in September. Despite the weather forcing the event indoors, the Dragons adapted seamlessly. The event also served as a vital development opportunity for NNL umpires to gain match experience in a supportive environment.



2025 CLUB UPDATES

DEN HAAG NETBALL CLUB

DHNC continues to go from strength to strength with a focus on skill development and infrastructure:

- **Coaching Impact:** Coach Anna has made a very positive impact, improving teamwork and individual skills. The league team specifically benefited from extra sessions, helping them bounce back from a shaky first match to show incredible form.
- **Venue Expansion:** The club now operates out of two venues. The newest venue is ideal for extra league training and matches—most notably, the club successfully lobbied to have permanent netball lines added to the floor.
- **Participation:** Membership is rising, with regular attendance of around 20 players. The club is also delighted to announce two newly qualified umpires.



MAASTRICHT NETBALL CLUB

Maastricht Netball Club (MNC) enjoyed a stellar year defined by regional competitive success and a dedication to growing the sport across borders.

- **Regional Success:** MNC was a founding member of—and the winners of—the first-ever Tri-Country Cup series, competing against southern Dutch teams and neighbors from Belgium and Germany.
- **Resilience:** The league team showed great spirit by finishing 3rd at the Amsterdam tournament, putting forth strong performances despite playing with low numbers.
- **Community Spirit:** The club has been instrumental in helping new teams in both the Netherlands and Belgium get started, while watching their own new players gain the confidence to step on court for matches.



2005 CLUB UPDATES

BRUSSELS NETBALL

Our Belgian members have seen significant expansion this year:

- **Growth & Leadership:** Membership has grown to approximately 35 active players. This growth is supported by new leadership under coach Rudee Robinson.
- **League Diversity:** In addition to participating in the Netherlands League (NNL), Brussels took part in a new local league alongside Cologne, Maastricht, and Brabant.
- **Umpiring:** Congratulations to Emma, who became the club's newest qualified C-level umpire.



ROTTERDAM NETBALL

Rotterdam Netball Club hosted a highly praised tournament, celebrated the celebration of their victory at the Amersfoort tournament and enjoyed a significant influx of new members.

- Successfully hosted an **amazing tournament** that received stellar feedback.
- Celebrated winning the **Amersfoort tournament** and welcoming many new faces throughout the season.



UTRECHT NETBALL CLUB

UNC enjoyed a brilliant year, marked by competitive success and international travel:

- **Tournament Success:** The club brought home a massive haul of medals, including one gold, five silvers, and two bronzes. They also had the pleasure of hosting Netball Nice for a weekend of cross-border play.
- **International Tours:** UNC took their talent abroad with two fantastic weekends away to play netball in Copenhagen and Brussels.
- **Internal Milestones:** Growth has been both on and off the court, with a fresh board taking the reigns, the appointment of their first dedicated coach, and the pride of seeing a UNC development umpire named NNL Umpire of the Year.





NETBAL NEDERLAND