

TRIAL FAQs

1. What are you looking for in a player?

We understand that trialling can be a nerve-racking experience and for some people this can impact on how they play. As such, we are not looking for the perfect performance or the most 'polished' players. We are looking for potential. We understand that making mistakes is a natural part of playing netball. More important to us is seeing how well a player responds to a setback and how quickly they can bounce back. Some of the physical, technical and tactical aspects of what we look for are listed here:

Core things selectors watch immediately

- **Fitness and work rate** — Not just speed but repeat effort. Do you keep offering, keep defending, keep moving even when tired.
- **Clean basic skills** — Strong passing variety, safe hands, quick footwork, and minimal unforced errors. They'd rather see simple done well than flashy done inconsistently.
- **Decision-making** — When to pass, when to reset, when to drive, when to hold. Smart choices stand out more than spectacular ones.

Game intelligence (this is a big separator)

- **Understanding of space** — Are you creating it, using it, or clogging it.
- **Reading the play early** — Anticipation in defence, early leads in attack.
- **Adaptability** — If something isn't working, do you change your approach or keep repeating the same option.

Team behaviours that selectors love

- **Communication** — Clear, purposeful, and positive. Not shouting for the sake of it.
- **Connection with unfamiliar teammates** — Trials often mix players. Selectors notice who builds quick combinations.
- **Coachability** — If someone gives you feedback, do you apply it straight away.

2. Who are the selectors and how has this been decided?

At HNC, we aim to use a mixture of existing coaching staff, alongside guest selectors/scouts to provide an independent view. We try wherever possible to ensure that all selectors have completed the England Netball Talent ID course. Current age group/team coaches will be involved in the process as we acknowledge a trial provides only a snapshot of a player.

3. How will the trial process work?

We use a Trials Application called “NetballTrials.com” – when you first register for a trial, the link will take you to this site and allow you to select your two positions that you want to trial.

Once everyone has registered on the day, the trials app will then create rounds of match play, selecting players at random to their chosen positions, trying to ensure that all players are given equal opportunity to play, particularly in their first-choice position.

Please note, depending on the make up of the trials group, it may be that some players receive slightly more court time – e.g. If there is a shortage of GK for example, any player with GK as a selected position, may be asked to play in more rounds. With this in mind, it is NOT possible to guarantee equal game time to all trialists but we will endeavour to see every player play multiple times in their first choice position.

While on court, selectors will monitor players and allocate a score for that round (typically between 1 and 4) based on performance against the criteria used for selection (as indicated above) – these scores are entered via mobile phones/tablets/laptops so don't be surprised to see selectors on their phones!

These scores are sent directly to the app where they are collated and then downloaded to a master spreadsheet which gives the Selection team an overview of average scores across the trial and by position. The scores are averaged out across the whole trial – one slightly indifferent round does not mean you have ruined any chance of selection.

Scores from the trials app are just one part of the selection process. When making selection decisions, the team will also consider past performance at the club alongside potential availability for training/matches. They will also need to balance a squad across all positions.

4. Do I need to trial in more than one position?

The trials app will ask you to select two positions, and you should then get an opportunity to play in both positions (with a focus on your first choice). Let one of the selectors know if after 2 or 3 rounds you still haven't played in your first-choice position.

5. Will we do any netball skills at the trials, or is it all just match play?

Typically, a coach/selector will take the group through a warm-up before breaking into several rounds of match play of around 7-8 minutes each (depending on the size

of the group). There will be occasions where you are not playing – please bring a drink so that you can cool down and feel free to watch the play.

6. What happens if I can only make 1 trial date or can't make both dates?

Ideally, we'd like to see players across both trials dates (where we are holding two) but if you can't make one or both, you should still register for the trial so that we can capture your interest. There is an opportunity in the online registration process to indicate whether you can attend/tell us about any other issues e.g. injuries/niggles etc.

7. How many squads will there be in each age group?

We are currently reviewing our club structure but as it stands, we will trial for the following teams/age-groups:

- National Prem (Adult)
- 3x Adult Regional Teams
- 5x Gloucestershire Netball Adult teams
- 2x U16 Regional Teams (subject to qualification)
- 2x U16 Gloucestershire Netball Teams
- 1x U14 Regional Team (subject to qualification)
- 2x U14 Gloucestershire Netball Teams (second team may also qualify regionally)
- 3x U13 Gloucestershire Netball Teams
- 3x U12 Gloucestershire Netball Teams

8. When will I know the results?

We aim to deliver outcomes as quickly as possible after the final trial but there are a lot of things to consider. In some instances, this may be an indication of a place to a wider squad – e.g. confirmation of a place in Adult Regional Netball with a final selection to a team to follow later.

9. Is there an opportunity to receive feedback?

With so many players trialling, it is not always easy to provide individual feedback – however, you should approach your coach if you feel that you need specific feedback.

10. If I don't get selected what are my options, is there a development group for example?

For adults, we do not run a development group. With 9 teams stretching from National Prem 1 down to Glos Netball Division 3, we can usually accommodate most

players. If you do not make one of these squads, we will help you to find netball elsewhere, if that is what you choose to do.

For Juniors, we may continue to run a development group, typically for Yrs 7, 8 & 9. If running this group will train regularly with qualified HNC coaches but will not be registered to league matches. Instead, we aim to organise friendly fixtures across the season.

For Yrs 10 & 11 not selected to one of the four U16 performance squads, again we can help you find netball elsewhere.

11. What competitions are available in each age group

Adults:

- 1x National Prem team in England Netball Premier 1 League
- 3x Southwest Regional teams across the three SW Regional Leagues
- 2 teams in Gloucestershire Netball Premier Division (Lightning & Storm)
- 1 team in Gloucestershire Netball Division 1 (Thunder)
- 1 team in Gloucestershire Netball Division 2 (Typhoons)
- 1 team in Gloucestershire Netball Division 3 (Tornadoes)

Juniors:

- U16 & U14 South West Netball Regional Leagues
- U16/U14/U13/U12/U11 – Gloucestershire Netball Junior Leagues

All junior netball leagues are subject to seeding tournaments at the start of each season to determine which division of an age group the team will compete in.

For more information on these competitions, please visit the following:

- [Premier Leagues | England Netball](#)
- [Home - Netball SW](#)
- [Gloucestershire Netball - the county association for Cheltenham, Gloucester, Cirencester, Stroud and The Forest - Gloucestershire Netball](#)

12. if I'm an existing player will my existing coach be able to contribute to the selection process?

Yes – definitely. They will either be an approved selector taking part in the initial trial scoring and/or a contributor to the final selection process. Please see answer 3 above.