



## FIRST INFORMATION CHALLENGE CUP THE HAGUE, 23-26 February 2017

### INFORMATION about the Country, the City and the Venue

#### The Netherlands

The Netherlands is a small country in the western part of Europe. On about 42.000 sq km there is a population of almost 17 million people. The Netherlands has been a kingdom since 1815 and is reigned by King Willem Alexander. The King and the Government do not reside in the Capital City of Amsterdam but in resp. Wassenaar (near The Hague) and The Hague.



Almost 26% of the country lies well below sea level. The dunes along the sea-side and the dikes along the rivers protect the Dutchmen against the water. There has been a long tradition of constructing dikes and building windmills to keep the area dry. After a big inundation in the fifties many constructions have been made in the south western part of the country. These 'Delta Werken' are famous and attract many visitors each year.

The language in the Netherlands is Dutch. Ever since the Middle Ages the Dutch have traveled and traded around the world and as a result many of them speak other languages, especially English.

As the western part of the Netherlands borders on the North Sea side, there is a lot of transportation to other countries especially to Germany. The main port Rotterdam has a central position in these activities.

Main activities in The Netherlands are agriculture and industry. Fruits and vegetables are important export products. Industrial activities on agro products, metal and engineering products, electric machinery and equipment, chemicals and oil products also have the aim of exportation.

The Netherlands has had a long tradition of universities. The University of Leiden is the oldest university in the country (founded in 1575). Delft Technical University is well known over the world for Civil Engineering, Chemical and Physical Engineering.

Although The Netherlands is a small country, a well-organized public transport both inside and outside the cities is available. Furthermore, a bike is an often used vehicle. Almost every Dutchman has one, so there are millions of bikes in the Netherlands.

Skating is a very popular activity in The Netherlands. Almost every big city has an ice rink. If the temperature drops below zero during the winter there is ice on lakes and canals. When this is strong enough, millions of people are going out for skating. In the northern part of The Netherlands sometimes a one day competition is organized for speed skaters over 200 km along 11 cities (De Elfstedentocht).

### **The City of The Hague**

The development of the city of The Hague from a small village to a town with about 300.000 people started around the year 1250. With the construction of a house for Count Floris V it became an important place for many people. Later on many rich people built their houses in the City and the surroundings of The Hague. Take a walk in the center of the City and you will find many of these buildings still present today. Most of these buildings are used now as an embassy or an office.

One of the houses in the surrounding of The Hague is Huis ten Bosch. Former Queen Beatrix has selected this as her palace. The house of Count Floris V is nowadays a part of the Parliament House (Het Binnenhof).

International organizations have had their place in The Hague since many years. A well known example is the Peace Palace. The International Court of Justice is nowadays often mentioned in the press due to the activities on former Yugoslavia.

Visitors of The Hague can enjoy a full range of entertainment at the town's theatres, the latest movies at cinema's. To get an impression of important buildings and construction in the Netherlands a visit to the miniature city of Madurodam is strongly recommended.

If the weather is good the sea-side of the city is a nice place for a walk. Here you can find a pier and the famous Kurhaus. Here the ISU was founded in 1892. In 2004 the ISU had its annual congress in the Kurhaus.

### **The Venue**

The Ice Rink De Uithof was founded over 30 years ago. After a major enlargement some years ago it is a Sport Center now for skating, skiing, climbing and carting. A health club is also available. Just after the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2004 a major fire destroyed the Main Rink, which was rebuilt like it is now.

Since its foundation De Uithof has staged many international competitions. Among them are important European and World Championships on Long Track and Short Track. In 1999 and 2001 De Uithof hosted Junior Grand Prix Competitions, in 2002 the Junior Grand Prix Final and in 2004 the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2004. After the Junior Grand Prix Competition in 2006 the competitions for the Challenge Cup were organized in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. In 2010 the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2010 was organized in De Uithof again.

The Challenge Cup attracted many top level skaters.

In the Seventies and Eighties De Uithof hosted The Ennia Challenge Cup for many years.

## The Climate

For skating two facilities are available: - A 30 x 60 m main ice rink and a 30 x 60 practice ice rink, used for figure skating, short track and ice hockey. These rinks are also used for skating education for the youngest ones.

- A 400 m track for long track skaters. The Region Zuid-Holland rents certain periods for training and skating education. About 2000 people are in this program. The track is also used for public skating. Many thousands use the track for their activity on ice.

The outside temperature in March in The Netherlands is very likely to be cold with rain. There is also a possibility of freezing temperatures but in general temperature is above zero degrees. The period of January and February is the best one for natural ice.

## Enjoying your stay in The Hague

In the information above about the City of The Hague is indicated that there are a lot of theatres, museum, galleries, etc.. It is impossible to mention all the programs. At arrival in the hotel this information is available at the room or the Front Office of the Hotel.

## Official Hotel

Hotel NH Atlantic

Deltaplein 200

2554 EJ Den Haag

Phone: +34 91 398 46 61

[www.nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-atlantic-den-haag](http://www.nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-atlantic-den-haag)

Rates for single room € 99,-, including breakfast, internet.

Rates for double room € 109,- including breakfast, internet.

Hotel reservations must be booked by yourself directly with the hotel by submitting the needed information through the given link, latest by **January 22, 2017**.

<http://www.nh-hotels.com/event/knsb-participants>

When you get an error message, please click on the button 'annuleren' (=cancel) and try again. The hotel cannot guarantee the availability of rooms, for bookings which are submitted after January 22. All hotel payments are made personally upon arrival at the hotel. Only from this hotel there is a shuttle bus from and to the ice rink. You can book also other hotels but these will not be served by the shuttle bus.

## Ice Rink

Competition and Practice Events will be held at:

In- and Outdoor Sport Centre De Uithof

Jaap Edenweg 10, 2544 NL Den Haag

Phone +31 70 32 99 991

## Organizing Committee

President	Dirk Wijma
Secretary	Sandra Verbeek
Finance	Harm Jan Visser
Logistic/Technical matters	Wim Kraayenzank
Transport	Jacob Noordhoek
Volunteers/Security/ Boarding	Kobie Achterberg
Contact:	<a href="mailto:challengecup@knsb.nl">challengecup@knsb.nl</a>

## OC – Office/Help Desk

The OC – Office/Help Desk will be at the Ice Rink

Operating hours:

08.30 – 12.30 hrs

13.30 – 17.00 hrs

19.00 – 20.00 hrs

## Entries

As specified in the Announcement, we have a maximum number of entries which we have to observe strictly. Therefore we will let you know immediately after the closing date of Entries by name, which entries are directly accepted, and which are put on a reserve list. We will communicate this on our website [www.schaatsen.nl/kalender/2017/2/challenge-cup](http://www.schaatsen.nl/kalender/2017/2/challenge-cup) which shall be updated on a daily basis. We will also send to you by separate e-mail a notification if a status of your entry has been changed.

## Entree Fee

An entry fee of € 80,- per single skater (Adv.Novice/Junior/Senior), € 55,- per Basic Novice skater and € 135 per pair will be asked and has to be paid with the official entry by name.

**Invoices will be send to the federations in advance.**

The entry fee will not be refunded in case of withdrawals for any reason.

Entry fee must be paid latest by **January 20th, 2017**. After this date the entry fee will be increased to

€ 90,- per single skater (Adv.Novice/Junior/Senior), € 65,- per Basic Novice skater and € 145 per pair.

## Accreditation

ID cards will be given to all officially entered Members of the skating family. Please wear these ID-cards visible at all time in the Hotel and the Skating complex. Accreditations are coded with specific symbols. Access to various locations will be controlled.

**The Accreditation Desk for Official, TV and Media, Teams, including coaches** will be at the Ice Rink. There will be accreditation upon arrival.

## Music

All music (CD) must be submitted at the accreditation. If music information is not completed or has not been provided, accreditation will not be given.

All music must show the competition event, competitors name and country and the exact running time of the music (not skating time).

The music can be collected through the Team Leaders on the day after each final event.

## Livestream

During the competition there will be a live stream: [www.showyourskill.online/livestream.html](http://www.showyourskill.online/livestream.html)

## Transportation package

We have arranged a transportation package deal for you, for which we have to ask you € 70,- per person, payable together with the entry fee.

All team members, except invited officials have to pay this transportation fee.

Included in the fee is:

- transfer from and to Schiphol airport (€ 35,-)

- shuttle service from Thursday February 23 till Sunday February 26 between the official hotel and the ice rink (€ 35,-).

The shuttle will run at 1 hour intervals and the transfer will take about 15 minutes or a little less.

Taxis in Holland are very expensive, a single fare between hotel and icerink will cost at least € 30.

## Arrival

All invited officials, Judges, Competitors, Team Leaders, Team Officials and Coaches taking part in the competition are requested to announce to the Organizing Committee as soon as possible but no later than **January 20, 2017**, the name of the airlines, flight numbers, dates and times of arrival at **Schiphol International Airport (AMS)** - [www.schiphol.nl](http://www.schiphol.nl) - or any other information concerning transportation and arrivals. The official "travel form" should be used.

## Departure

Included in your transportation package is a transfer to the airport depending on flight schedules of departing persons or teams for the people leaving after completing their event.

**The Team Leaders are requested to return the Departure Sheet and deliver this in due time to the Help Desk at the Ice Rink.**

## Draws

All Draws will take place in the Officials room. The times of the draws are indicated in the Colored time schedule.

## Officials Room

The Officials Room at the Ice Rink will be opened 1 hour before the start of the competitions.

## Skate Sharpening and Boot Repair Service

A skate sharpening and boot repair service facility is available at the shop just opposite of the Ice Rink. Operation hours: Every day from 10.00 - 18.00 hours.

### **Warming-Up**

There is an off-ice warming up area as indicated in the map of the Ice Rink and signs will be present.

### **Exhibition Gala**

Competitors will be selected by the OC to participate in the exhibition gala on Sunday, February 26, 2017 at the ice rink. Please bring your Exhibition Music with you.

### **Medical Services**

The Organizing Committee will provide in Medical Services.

### **Physiotherapy**

A physiotherapy-service is available at the Ice Rink upon request. Skaters requiring treatment are asked to sign in for service 24 hours in advance. The sign in sheet is placed outside the Medical Room or can be asked at the Help Desk at the Ice Rink.

### **Anti - Doping Control**

Doping tests will be taken in accordance with ISU Regulations and Communications as indicated in the Announcement.

Skaters are urgently requested not to leave the Ice Rink before they are aware of the selected names for doping tests.

The ISU has the right to carry out doping tests without prior notice at any time at any place on eligible skaters of the ISU-Members.

### **Information at the Ice Rink**

The Organizing Committee has an Information Desk at the Ice Rink from Thursday, February 23 up to Sunday, February 26 during the hours of the training and competition.

The Office of the Organizing Committee is at the Ice Rink (follow the signs).

### **Liability**

According to the ISU Constitution and General Regulation 2012, Rule 119 the International Skating Union and the Koninklijke Nederlandsche Schaatsenrijders Bond and the Organizing Committee assume no responsibility for or liability with respect to bodily or personal injury or property loss or damage incurred in connection with this event. Each member is solely responsible for providing insurance coverage in respect there to.

### **Lost and Found**

For lost and found ask the Information Desk at the Ice Rink.

### **Recreation for Skaters**

Shops will be open from 09.00 – 18.00 hrs.

Opening hours for restaurants between 10.00 hrs. up to 22.00 hrs.

### **Video Recording Devices and Cameras**

PLEASE NOTE that no video devices of any kind (except as authorized for media use) will be permitted at the Ice Rinks. Anyone found to be operating this type of equipment will be asked to surrender the equipment and/or tape of film or to leave the premises.

Use of flash equipment with cameras is prohibited.

## Schedule of Meetings and Events

We refer to our website [www.schaatsen.nl/kalender/2017/2/challenge-cup](http://www.schaatsen.nl/kalender/2017/2/challenge-cup) for the last updated time schedule.

February 23: Thursday	06:30	Official Practice
	10:00	Teamleaders' meeting
	10:30	Referees' and Technical Panel meetings
	11:00	Initial Judges' meeting
	12:00	Officials welcome reception/lunch
	14.30	Opening Ceremony Challenge Cup
	14.40	Advanced Novice Boys Short Program
		Advanced Novice Girls Short Program
		Junior Men Short Program
February 24, Friday	07:00	Official Practice
	11:50	Junior Ladies Short Program
		Junior Pairs Short Program
		Senior Ladies Short Program
		Senior Men Short Program
February 25, Saturday	07:00	Official Practice
	09:00	Basic Novice A Boys Free Skating
		Basic Novice A Girls Free Skating
		Advanced Novice Boys Free Skating
		Advanced Novice Girls Free Skating
		Junior Ladies Free Skating
		Victory Ceremony Basic Novice A B/G,
		Adv. Novice B/G, Junior Ladies
		RTD Basic Novice A B/G, Adv. Novice B/G, JL
February 26, Sunday	07:00	Official Practice
	08:00	Junior Men Free Skating
		Junior Pairs Free Skating
		Senior Pairs Free Skating
		Senior Ladies Free Skating
		Senior Men Free Skating
		Victory Ceremony JM/JP/SP/SL/SM
		Award Challenge Cup
		Ultimate Skate Battle
		Exhibition Gala
		RTD JM/JP/SP/SL/SM
		Departure

**Please note: This schedule is subject to change.**

All Meetings will be at the Ice Rink.