



St. Lucia National Netball Association

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NETBALL in St. Lucia **(brief overview)**

Netball - a female dominated sport - has over the years contributed immeasurably to the development of St. Lucia's social capital. Excellence through Discipline" is the motto of the St. Lucia National Netball Association (SLNNA) which was established in 1953. The mission of the SLNNA is to facilitate the development of the game of netball through guidance, information sharing, training, networking and collaborating with all relevant agencies and organization".

The SLNNA is an affiliate of the Caribbean Netball Association (CNA), the Americas Federation of Netball Associations (AFNA) and the International Federation of Netball Associations (IFNA). At the national level, the SLNNA is a member of the St. Lucia Olympic Committee; although netball is not yet a recognized Olympic sport.

Netball is played at most of the primary and secondary schools, as well as the only tertiary institution - Sir Arthur Lewis Community College. Many female students engage in the sport of netball either as a social game or for inter-schools competition held under the auspices of the Ministry responsible for Youth and Sports, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

At the community/district level, the game of netball is played island wide. There are district netball groups in most of the 10 administrative districts. Although a significant number of women engage in the sport, few belong to affiliated clubs /teams. Consequently a "Grassroots Netball" programme is proposed at the approach to strengthening organizational excellence, building sustainability and enhancing the profile of netball as a leading vibrant game.

Annual domestic competitions organized by the SLNNA include the national inter-club netball championship, the commercial league and the vintage tournament for netballers 40 years and over.

The elite netballers' squads are engaged routinely in national netball training; in pursuit of selection of either the:

- 1) National Under-16 Netball team to represent St. Lucia in the annual Jean Pierre Youth [Caribbean Under-16] Netball Championship;

Or

- 2) National Under-23 Netball team for participation in the annual ECCB sponsored OECS Under-23 Netball Championships;

Or

- 3) National Senior Netball team for participation in the AFNA Championship, which is held every two (2) years, as of 2008. Previously, the Caribbean Senior Netball tournament was an annual event.