



FIRST INFORMATION CHALLENGE CUP THE HAGUE, 8 – 11 MARCH 2012

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 16 million people. The Netherlands has been a kingdom since 1815 and has been reigned by Queen Beatrix for almost 30 years. The Queen and the Government do not reside in the Capital City of Amsterdam but in 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 construction 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 as well as inside as outside the cities is available. Next to this 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 many 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 about 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. 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 and 2009. In 2010 the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2010 was organized in De Uithof again.

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 (for Judges en invited Officials)

IBIS Den Haag City Centre

Jan Hendrikstraat 10, 2512 GL Den Haag

P: + 31 (0)70 318 43 18

F: + 31 (0)70 318 43 19

W: www.ibishotel.com

Hotel for Teams, Coaches, Team Leaders and other team members are requested to make all booking directly to the hotel before 20th January 2012. After this date the negotiated prizes are not valid anymore. In order to obtain negotiated prizes, please make use of the enclosed fax form and kindly refer to participating in the Challenge Cup when placing your booking in the following hotels:

IBIS Den Haag City Centre

Jan Hendrikstraat 10, 2512 GL Den Haag

P: + 31 (0)70 318 43 18

F: + 31 (0)70 318 43 19

W: www.ibishotel.com

Prizes for single room € 85,-, including breakfast, taxes, internet.

Prizes for double room € 95,- including breakfast, taxes, internet.

These negotiated prizes are only by booking with special fax form from 7-11 March for 4 nights and from 8-11 March for 3 nights

NOVOTEL Den Haag City Centre

Hofweg 5-7, 2511 AA Den Haag

P: +31 (0)70 364 88 46

F: +31 (0)70 356 28 89

W: www.novotel.com

Prizes for single room € 115,-, including breakfast, taxes, internet.

Prizes for double room € 129,- including breakfast, taxes, internet.

These negotiated prizes are only by booking with special fax form from 7-11 March for 4 nights and from 8-11 March for 3 nights

MERCURE Den Haag City Centre

Spui 180, 2511 BW Den Haag

P: +31 (0)70 363 67 00

F: +31 (0)70 363 93 98

W: www.mercure.com

Prizes for single room € 115,-, including breakfast, taxes, internet.

Prizes for double room € 129,- including breakfast, taxes, internet.

These negotiated prizes are only by booking with special fax form from 7-11 March for 4 nights and from 8-11 March for 3 nights

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	Pieter Kraan
Secretary/Finance	Gerda Noordhoek
Event Coordinator	Wim Kraayenzank
Officials Matters	Jeroen Prins
Catering	Gerda Noordhoek
Press Companion	Frits Suèr
Volunteers/Security/ Boarding	Kobie Achterberg
KNSB Event Support Team	Jan van der Meulen Renee Faber

Contact: challengecup2012@gmail.com

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

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 have 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.

Transportation

The Organizing Committee will provide from Wednesday March 7 up to and including Sunday March, 11 a shuttle service (**60 minute schedule**) between the Official Hotels and the Ice Rink (On Wednesday and Sunday also to The Hague Central station). Depending of traffic it takes around 30 minutes.

The busses will leave the Official Hotel and the Ice Rink on scheduled times (see the Folder Transportation at arrival). No extra busses will be used; please mind the scheduled times, especially those who have their competition. This transportation is free of charge for all accredited people.

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 **February 10th, 2012**, the name of the airlines, flight numbers, dates and times of arrival at **Schiphol International Airport (AMS)** - www.schiphol.nl - or any other information concerning transportation and arrivals. The official "travel form" should be used. From Schiphol airport, you are requested to take a direct train to Den Haag Central Station (35 minutes travel time) arranged by yourself. The OC will provide volunteers to accompany you from the arrival hall to the train station.

Alternative Airports could be:

1. **Rotterdam The Hague Airport (RTM)** - www.rotterdamthehagueairport.nl - From Rotterdam The Hague Airport you are requested to take bus/metro combination to Den Haag Central Station (1 hour travel time) arranged by yourself;
2. **Eindhoven Airport (EIN)** - www.eindhovenairport.nl - From Eindhoven Airport you are requested to take a bus/train combination to Den Haag Central Station (2 hour travel time) arranged by yourself;

The Organizing Committee provides transportation free of charge from Den Haag Central Station to the official hotels and ice rinks.

Departure

There will be transportation by bus to Centraal Station Den Haag 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.

Schedule of Meetings and Events

March 08 (THU) Arrival

07:00 Official Practice
16:00 Team Leaders Meeting
18:00 Referees and Technical Controllers Meeting
19:00 Judges Meeting
20:00 Officials Dinner

March 09 (FRI)

06.00 Official Practice
08.00 Debs Girls Short Program
Debs Boys Short Program
Advanced Novice Girls Short Program

Advanced Novice Boys Short Program
Junior Ladies Short Program
Junior Men Short Program
Junior Pairs Short Program
Senior Ladies Short Program
Senior Men Short Program

March 10 (SAT)

08.00 Official Practice
13:00 Junior Ladies Free Skating
Junior Men Free Skating
Junior Pairs Free Skating
Victory Ceremony Juniors
Senior Ladies Free Skating
Senior Men Free Skating
Victory Ceremony Seniors
Round Table Discussions Juniors, Seniors

March 11 (SUN)

08:00 Debs Girls Free Skating
Debs Boys Free Skating
Victory Ceremony Debs
Advanced Novice Girls Free Skating
Advanced Novice Boys Free Skating
Victory Ceremony Advanced Novice
Victory Ceremony Challenge Cup
Round Table Discussions Advanced Novice
Departure

Please note: This schedule is subject to change.

All Meetings will be at the Ice Rink.

Draws

All Draws will take place in the Officials room. A special Communication will be issued with the times of the Draws.

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.

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, March 8 up to Sunday, March 11 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 2010, 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.

