



Annual Report 2024



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1. Overview / President's report.

In 2024 we saw another year of growth of cricket within Switzerland. We implemented a new organisational structure following the agreement of the AGM. The full implementation took a bit of time, but in many areas, we now have operational Committees who are looking at the day to day matters of cricket within the country. This enabled us to put on a bumper year of cricket with more teams and matches than ever before, run coaching and umpiring courses and finally meet International Cricket Council (ICC) minimum requirements on women's cricket.

The Committees have enabled more people from the community to get involved in running the game than ever before too, which means more voices from the members and enables us to build a pathway for people to get involved in the administration of the game.

Growth usually brings some pains, and the organisational change has not always gone smoothly. There are still a few areas where we need more involvement. We continue to look to improve the governance while also meeting the increasingly challenging requirements coming from our stakeholders, like Swiss Olympic and the ICC.

More cricket has also led to a disappointing increase in disciplinary issues. This needs to be taken seriously at all levels of cricket in Switzerland.

CS was represented at two ICC conferences in 2024. There was a two-day Europe region conference in Athens in April, where topics such as developing Women's and Girl's cricket and Cricket for social benefit were discussed. The ICC's Annual General meeting was held in Colombo in July where many of these topics were also discussed, in addition to the opportunities from multi-sport games. With the inclusion of cricket in the Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics, we hope for other opportunities for competitive cricket.

Swiss Olympic held their SportParlament in November, where a new President was elected. We also attended several meetings and continue to build a strategy now that Cricket is a competitive sport. They also conducted an extensive "Ethics" review of Cricket Switzerland and made 22 requirements for us to implement to improve safeguarding and governance from 2024 until 2026. Following their recommendations we have also established an Athletes Commission to better represent the players.

The future will bring more work from the Board and the Committees. The growth means increasing scrutiny. Both Swiss Olympic and ICC expect us to start to introduce full or part time staff in the future to address many of these topics and start to transition from a fully volunteer organisation.

The Board and the Committees are acknowledged and thanked for their tireless efforts during 2024 and in advance for the coming year.

Michael Hall



2. Cricket Switzerland Administration

This is a summary report on the administration of Cricket Switzerland (CS) in 2024. For the purposes of this report, activities and meetings that took place in calendar year 2024 are included. Full details of all key decisions taken are to be found in the official meeting records.

CS members were kept informed on a regular basis of developments chiefly via the CS website, social media, emails and during the various meetings.

Governance

a. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The eleventh CS Annual General Meeting (AGM) since the creation of the organisation in 2014 was held at the Swiss Olympic (SO) Haus des Sports on 24th February 2024.

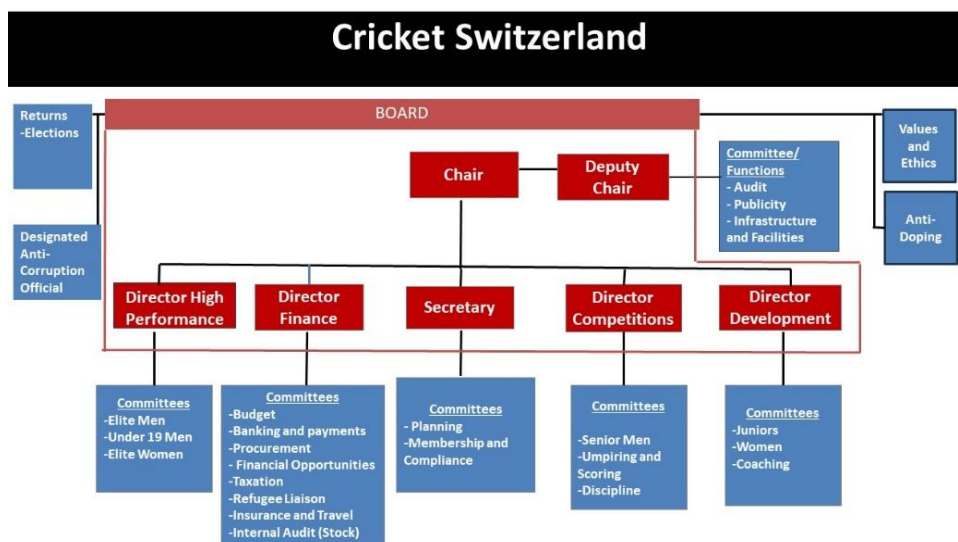
Re-organisation of Cricket Switzerland

A proposal to revise the CS organisation structure was approved. This proposal had first been raised at the October 2021 Council meeting and was the subject of extensive consultation and discussion at successive AGM's and Council meetings since then. Additionally in January 2024 an 'open' session was held to exchange views.

The essential elements of the proposal adopted were:

- CS to adopt a Board structure, with a supporting, expanded Committee sub-structure (more Committees, greater involvement of participants inside and outside the Board).
- Key Board responsibilities to be governance, strategy, planning, finance, and key stakeholder interaction.
- Board to have seven members who would be expected to be involved in all issues that come before it but also carry specific portfolio responsibilities.
- Committees would be expanded to include among others existing Committees/sub-Committees (Senior Men, Juniors, Women, Elite Men, Discipline) and other roles e.g., Financial, Audit, Governance, Publicity, Sponsorship. Elite Women and Elite Under 19 Men.
- The activities of Swiss Focus and CCAS would be retained within the Committee sub-structure but their continued existence as CS members would be withdrawn.

The AGM decided initially that terms of office for Directors would be two years for the first term for all Board Members and then staggered terms from the 2026 AGM onwards.



Amendments to the Constitution

In addition to the multiple amendments adopted to put into effect the new organisation, other amendments were made to numbering of articles and sub-articles, the sequencing of categories of members (Appendix A), and to correct minor errors of text and punctuation.

Membership changes

A1 Sports Club and Rorschach Cricket Club Zug were unanimously accepted as Full Members.

Basle Afghan Cricket Club, Eagles Cricket Club and Zurich Mavericks Adliswil Cricket Association were admitted unanimously as Associate Members.

National Development Plan

The National Development Plan for 2024-2026 was adopted by the AGM and subsequently approved by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

National Development Plan 2024 - 2026

The Plan was written in two parts:

- the strategic elements for 2024-2026 (Vision, Mission, Purpose, (overall) Strategic Objectives, and Strategic Focus Areas/Priorities; and
- the Operational Plan 2024 (Goals and Targets/Metrics).

As part of the 2024 Budget process conducted with the ICC, the Strategic Focus Areas/Priorities were approved by the ICC.

The major priorities for the planning period were:

1. **Growing the core** – ensure continuing thriving domestic competitions.
2. **Further enhancing women's and girls' cricket** – *increasing opportunities for and participation by female players.*
3. **Catch then young and retain them** – *inspire juniors to become better cricket players and enthusiastic fans.*
4. **High performance** – *compete and succeed at higher levels in the international arena.*

Details are to be found in the Plan document.

Outside of the ICC process, a fifth major (internal) priority was added, to incorporate the need for Infrastructure and facilities development.

Outcome

Fifty-nine targets/metrics had been set in the 2023 Operational Plan. Forty-six had been fully achieved, five had been achieved in part, three were deferred and five were not achieved.

Discussions and decisions

The minutes of the AGM contain details of the discussions and decisions.

b. Council

The Council is required to meet at least at least once each year about one month prior to the start of each season.

Main items of business

The Council met for the first time in Season 2024 on 27th January. The most important items of business were the organisation of the various CS competitions and activities.:

- Premier League
- National League
- Mr. Pickwick T20 Cup
- Cricketer Pro Cup
- T10 Tournament
- Juniors
- Women's

The Council met again (remotely) on 26th October 2024 to review the season's activities.

Discussions and decisions

The minutes of the Council meetings contain details of the discussions and decisions.

Council meeting minutes are considered and approved by the subsequent Councils.

c. Board

The Board managed the affairs of Cricket Switzerland in accordance with its Constitution and in line with the decisions and instructions of the AGM and the Council.

In 2024 the members were:

Chair	Michael Hall
Deputy Chair	Mohamed Vasim
Secretary	Kenneth McKeown
Director Finance	Clive-William Denney
Director Competitions	Asvin Lakkaraju
Director High Performance	Nasir Mahmood
Director High Performance <i>ad interim</i>	Prafull Shikare
Director Development	Nitin Pradhan

Meetings

The Board had decided, in principle, to meet at least monthly. It met on ten occasions in 2024, remotely. The former Executive Council meet on two occasions, before the AGM.

Issues that required higher consideration or decision were referred to the Council or the AGM.

Committees

As part of the re-organisation, twenty Committees/functions were established within the various portfolios.

Within the CS organisation:

Values and Ethics
Returns (nominations)
Designated Anti-Corruption Official
Anti-Doping Official

Within the Board:

Audit
National Development Plan
Membership and Compliance
Budget
Tendering

At operational level:

Publicity
Facilities and Infrastructure
Senior Men's Competitions
Umpiring and Scoring
Discipline
Juniors

Women
Coach Development
International Men
International Under 18/19 Men
International Women

In addition, multiple roles exist within the Finance portfolio, most of which are still to be filled.

Membership

The thirty-nine members of Cricket Switzerland in Season 2024 were:

Full (29)

Aargau
A1 Sports Club
Basel
Basle Dragons Juniors
Berne
CERN
Cossonay
Cricket Club Zurich
Cricket Verein Zug
Geneva

Geneva International
Geneva Region Youth
Geneva Sri Lankans
Geneva X1 Stars
La Chataigneraie School
Gingins
Nomads
Novartis
Olten
Pakhtoon Zalmi

Power Winterthur
Rorschach
St. Gallen
Swiss Afghan
Wettingen
Winterthur
Zug
Zurich Crickets
Zurich Lions

Associate (7)

Basel Afghan
Basel Supernovas
Eagles
Luzern

Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz
St. Moritz
Zurich Mavericks Adlisvil

Affiliate (3)

Aneesh Cricket Academy Gstaad Cricket Club Village Cricketers Association

3. Relations with Key Sporting Bodies

Swiss Olympic



Representatives of CS participated in all meetings and events that it was required or was beneficial to do so. With the decision that the Cricket will become an Olympic sport from 2028, cricket in Switzerland finally has been recognised as an official sport. During 2024 CS was the subject of a periodic analysis of its functioning and governance. SO issued twenty-two recommendations on how to improve the organisation, which are being implemented progressively from mid-2024 until 2026.

International Cricket Council (ICC)



International Cricket Council

Cricket Switzerland is required to meet the ICC Associate membership eligibility requirements each year to retain its membership.

ICC Membership brought both opportunities and several obligations. We are competing at the international senior men level and in the coming years it will be possible for under-19 men and women to compete. Funding is provided through a Scorecard Grant (which has thirteen elements of cricket activities) and a Competition Grant (international level).

Obligations and challenges include changes to previous working methods, responding to new accountabilities (planning, budgeting, reporting) managing a considerably increased workload, and increased scrutiny).

4. Finances

a. Budget outcomes 2024

With a record-breaking season behind us, thankfully the volume of CS finances stabilised somewhat after the record number of transactions of the previous season. In terms of value CHF253'550 & CHF259'547 (cash book basis), meaning a comparatively small reduction in reserve capital from to CHF6'689.

Over the years it has become increasingly obvious that although the Balance Sheet is a precise record of CS' income & expenditure it is essentially provides little clarity, if any on the treatment of finance over the year neither in terms of source, adjustment against budget, nor of application. For season 2024 three additional representations were produced, namely:

1. **'Actual vs Budget'**: in this representation it immediately becomes clear that whilst half of the cost lines are within an acceptable tolerance of budgeted numbers, perhaps four cost lines need some clarification on variance:

CRICKET SWITZERLAND ACTUAL VS BUDGET					YEAR	2024
G/L CODE	ACCOUNT TITLE	ACTUAL	BUDGET	REMAINING CHF	REMAINING %	
2200	Administration	CHF 19,291.00	CHF 32,280.00	CHF 12,989.00	40.24%	
2400	Promotion & Marketing	CHF 27,043.00	CHF 21,293.00	-CHF 5,750.00	-27.00%	
3110	CSPL 40 Over Competition	CHF 8,677.00	CHF 10,384.00	CHF 1,707.00	16.44%	
3120	CSNL & CSRL 40 Over Competition	CHF 13,930.00	CHF 16,120.00	CHF 2,190.00	13.59%	
3130	T20 Pickwick & Cricketer Pro 20 Over Competition	CHF 13,669.00	CHF 19,800.00	CHF 6,131.00	30.96%	
3140	T10 Competition	CHF 9,486.00	CHF 28,523.00	CHF 19,037.00	66.74%	
3200	CSWL & CSWL Women & Girls Competitions	CHF 6,954.00	CHF 8,230.00	CHF 1,276.00	15.50%	
3300	CSJPL & Zuoz Junior Male Competition	CHF 10,260.00	CHF 10,025.00	-CHF 235.00	-2.34%	
4940	Refugee Support	CHF 13,593.00	CHF 21,000.00	CHF 7,407.00	35.27%	
4100	Men - High Performance	CHF 31,397.00	CHF 36,900.00	CHF 5,503.00	14.91%	
4200	Women & Girls - High Performance	CHF 4,705.00	CHF 7,715.00	CHF 3,010.00	39.01%	
4500	Junior Males - High Performance	CHF 102,549.00	CHF 135,169.00	CHF 32,620.00	24.13%	
5100	Entry Level & Other Education Programmes	CHF 4,309.00	CHF 14,180.00	CHF 9,871.00	69.61%	
5400	Umpire & Coach Programmes	CHF 17,806.00	CHF 12,000.00	-CHF 5,806.00	-48.38%	
TOTAL		CHF 243,669.00	CHF 373,619.00	CHF 89,950.00	24.04%	

➤ **Umpire & Coach Programmes:** running additional courses for both umpires and {unbudgeted} for coaches; deemed acceptable overrun reflecting CS' determination to improve standards.

➤ **Promotion & Marketing:** with a CHF5'750 overspend attributable solely to excess expenditure on kit, two things are highlighted.

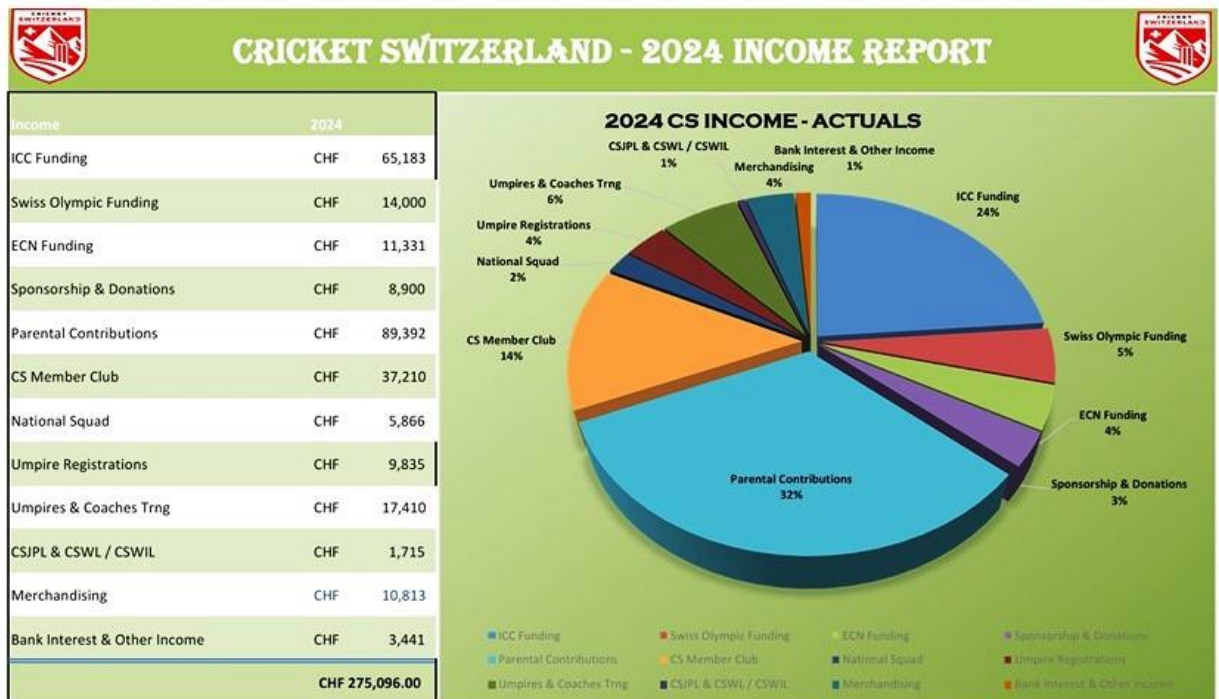
i the increased volume of kit demanded by the rotation of players through the senior men's national squad coupled with increased umpire turnover, as well as the significant volume of junior kit requirements demands significant investment.

ii given the increasing cost of maintaining CS representative teams appropriately attired, the cost of kit supply whilst adhering to SO & ICC mandates on responsible and ethical sourcing.

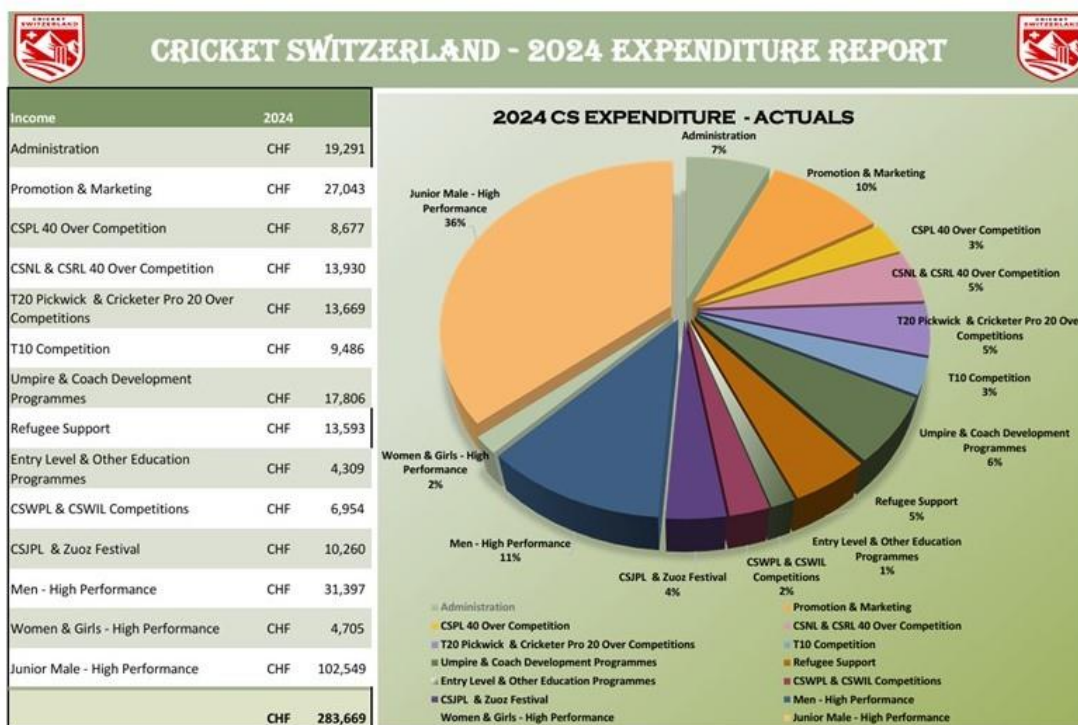
➤ **T10 Competition:** the budgeted ECN sponsored tournament did not take place reducing required expenses, but also the level of expected income –reduced by circa CHF12'000.

➤ **Administration:** savings across all areas of CS administration, most significantly in both the continued use of video calls (rather than in person meetings), and in greatly reducing the budgeted cost of flights in fulfilment of CS' ICC commitments (compliments to the CS Chair)

2. **'2024 Income Report Actuals':** This chart breaks out the various sources of CS 2024 funding. Parental contributions are by far the most. ICC sit in 2nd place, with contributions from Member Clubs 3rd.



3. **‘2024 Expenditure Report Actuals’:** This chart breaks out the various areas of CS 2024 expenditure. Again, parental contributions stand out, but even so do not quite cover the cost to CS of running junior cricket across both domestic and international activities (including training). Thereafter, Senior Men’s Competitions (collectively 16%), with Men’s High-Performance 3rd.



b. Review of Financial Statements

Findea AG, of Winterthur were engaged to review the financial statements (balance sheet and income statement) of CS for the year ended 31st December 2024.

The review was conducted in accordance with the “Swiss Auditing Standard 910 Engagements to Review Financial Statements”. This standard requires that the auditor perform the review to obtain moderate assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

Based on their review, nothing came to their attention that caused them to believe that the financial statements do not comply with Swiss law and the company's articles of association.

5. Competitions

a. Senior Men

The 2024 season was the busiest on record, with the Competitions Committee organising a record-breaking **312 official matches** across all formats. These matches were supported and officiated by sFOCUS match officials. The successful execution of these games was made possible by the staunch support and cooperation of the member clubs, sFOCUS, and the Competitions Committee members.

Competitions Committee: The CS Competitions Committee was involved in planning, organizing and execution of all the senior men’s competitions in 2024. The Committee

successfully ensured the conclusion of all the competitions as planned despite the major hiccup of losing CricHQ midway through the season. The committee set up an alternate solution with Cricheroes for the rest of the season.



Key Highlights by Competition

Cricket Switzerland Premier League: The competition showcased some of the best players in Switzerland, with a high standard of cricket on display. Teams worked hard and prioritized the 40-over league, resulting in a fiercely competitive tournament. As expected, the battle for the title was keenly contested, and much like last year, the competition came down to the final games to determine the winner—a positive sign for the league's continued growth.

Zurich Nomads CC emerged as the champions, closely followed by Geneva CC in second place and Cossonay in third. Both Zurich Nomads CC and Geneva CC lost only one match throughout the season, with bonus points and net run rate (NRR) serving as the tiebreakers.

New initiatives are in place for 2025 season to further elevate the quality of the competition.



Winner: Zurich Nomads CC **Runners-up:** Geneva CC

Cricket Switzerland National League: The creation of CSNL as a Division 2 competition has been well-received by all clubs. The second tier of the 40-over competition proved to be highly competitive, with many exciting matches throughout the season. The introduction of the three-tier system has ensured that games are more balanced, eliminating the one-sided encounters where one team dominates to the point of diminishing fair play and competitive nature of the game.

The title race was decided in a dramatic final game, highlighting just how keenly contested the league was. Both the winner and the runner-up will be promoted to the CSPL in 2025 season.

Winner: Swiss Afghan Cricket Club **Runner-up:** Zurich Lions CC

Relegated teams: Geneva XI Stars CC and St Gallen CC (both relegated to CSRL in 2025).

Cricket Switzerland Regional League: The third-tier 40-over competition exceeded all expectations, surprising both teams and organizers with its competitiveness. Teams performed strongly throughout, and one aspect they particularly appreciated was the opportunity to play at least eight 40-over matches, regardless of their division.

A total of 17 teams competed, divided into two groups of 9 and 8 based on geographic location. The top two teams from each group advanced to the semifinals. Special recognition goes to Luzern Cricket Club and Basel Afghan Cricket Club, both of whom reached the semifinals in their debut seasons.

The final, an all-eastern showdown, saw Nomads CC Embrach face Basel Afghan CC. Both teams earned promotion to the CSNL for the 2025 season. In a thrilling final, Nomads CC Embrach emerged as Division 3 champions.

The Competitions committee would like to extend thanks to Basel CC for hosting the finals.

Winner: Nomads CC Embrach **Runner-up:** Basel Afghan CC

Both Nomads CC Embrach and Basel Afghan CC are promoted to CSNL-2025.

Cricket Switzerland T20 competitions- Elite Division: The top 14 teams in the country competed in the Elite T20 competition, which was renamed the Pickwick Cup T20-Elite Division following assurances from Mr. Pickwick Pub that sponsorship would be reinstated. The teams were divided into two groups, with the top two from each group advancing to the semifinals. Zurich Nomads CC and Geneva CC won their semifinals and faced off in the final.



The final, held in Wettingen on 8 September, was live streamed as a trial using the CricHeroes app. Zurich Nomads CC emerged as the winners. The President of Wettingen Gemeinde was present to award the trophies and expressed his support for Wettingen as a cricket venue.

Winner: Zurich Nomads CC **Runner-Up:** Geneva CC

Relegated Teams: Pakhtoon Zalmi CC and Zurich Crickets CC

Cricketer Pro Cup: Division 2 of the T20 competition, sponsored by Cricketer Pro, saw 26 teams competing across four divisions. The winners of each division advanced to the semifinals. The final took place on 8 September in Wettingen, where new entrants Basel Afghan CC faced Geneva International CC. In a keenly contested match, Basel Afghan CC emerged as the champions.



Both teams have been promoted to the Elite Division for the 2025 season.

Winner: Basel Afghan CC **Runner-Up:** Geneva International CC

Cricket Switzerland T10 competition: The CS-T10 Championship was one of the most closely followed tournaments this year, with 24 teams participating, divided into five groups. The group winners advanced to the finals week, held from 27-29 September at Embrach. The finals week featured some of the most thrilling and keenly contested games of the season. Over three days, 14 matches were played in a round-robin format, culminating in the finals.

In the championship final, Zurich Nomads CC faced Nomads CC Embrach, with Zurich Nomads CC emerging as the 2025 champions. All matches were live streamed on CricHeroes and the CS Twitch Channel.

Winner: Zurich Nomads CC **Runner-up:** Nomads CC Embrach
Zurich Nomads CC will represent Switzerland at the European Cricket League in 2025.

Disciplinary Issues:

Several disciplinary issues have been reported from various matches this season. The Disciplinary Committee has adopted a zero-tolerance policy toward misconduct and dissent, resulting in penalties for multiple players under the CS existing Code of Conduct.

A detailed table of the penalties imposed is available on the website:

<https://cricketswitzerland.ch/senior-cricket/code-of-behaviour/> It is particularly concerning that more than half of the penalised players are under the age of 18. There is a need for greater emphasis on players and coaches' education regarding sportsmanship and conduct.

b. Umpiring

The Swiss Federation of Cricket Umpires and Scorers (sFOCUS) restructured following the 2024 AGM, which was implemented in April 2024, setting clear goals for the season.



Training New Umpires: Three introductory courses were conducted in the eastern part of the country to ensure all new clubs had sufficient umpires for the 2024 season. A fourth sFOCUS introduction course was organised in Geneva to cater to the umpiring needs of the clubs in Western Division. A total of 54 new umpires were added to the panel in 2024.

Assessments: With an increase in the number of qualified umpires, steps were taken to improve the quality of umpiring. Weekly umpire assessments were carried out, and those who passed are being considered for the Elite Umpiring Panel, provided they meet other necessary criteria.

Elite Panel: Work on establishing an Elite Panel of umpires was commenced. Only those who have officiated at least 300 overs during the season and passed the assessments will be eligible for the panel.

ICC Level 1 Courses: As part of umpire pathway development, we are working toward having ICC-recognized umpires in Switzerland. We now have three qualified tutors who can deliver the ICC Level 1 Umpiring Course, the only country in mainland Europe to do so. The first course was held in Basel in late September, with 21 participants. Of these, 12 participants successfully completed the course, becoming Switzerland's first ICC Level 1 umpires. A second was held on the first weekend of December and a further 12 participants successfully completed the course and were accredited with ICC Level 1 certification. 3 further participants from the first course who narrowly missed on competition, the course in first attempt successfully completed the course. Currently we have a pool of 30 ICC Level 1 Umpires (including the three ICC Level 1 tutors).

Umpiring in Domestic Tournaments: A most successful year eventuated in terms of umpiring allocations, with valuable cooperation and support from the clubs. Out of the 312 games played this season, only 7 games did not have a neutral match official. In these cases, senior umpires from the respective clubs (qualified umpires) took over smoothly-----

6. Development

a. Juniors

As part of CS reorganization, the Youth subcommittee transitioned into the Juniors Committee. A Chair was appointed, along with Committee members to drive focused execution on various priorities. An exciting year transpired, with rapid progress on various strategic priorities as defined in previous years. The chart below summarises the progress.

Key Strategic Priorities, Progress and Outcomes



Performance Pathways: Qualified Coaches, Talent Management, Integration with Senior Squad

Focused on raising the coaching skills for our national age groups/squads, continued collaboration with external coaches, formalise performance pathway framework with Swiss Olympic, integration with Senior Men's setup.

Stronger Base/Foundation: Girl's Cricket, U7-U9s, U19s, Support for Refugee players

Dedicated focus on driving the growth of girls' cricket across age groups, developing U19 domestic cricket (with integration of refugee players) building catchment in younger age groups especially U7-U9 groups, increasing participation in Junior CSPL across age groups.

Competitive Playing Conditions: International Tours and Junior CSPL

Focused on providing more competitive playing opportunities to all players within Switzerland, complemented by a higher number of international tours for more juniors cricketers (and not only the select few national squad players).

Infrastructure and Facilities

Proactive planning of grounds for Junior Leagues and national trainings and the need to resolve challenges in 2025.

The Junior Committee does a centralized planning of grounds / facilities for managing Junior CSPL supported by various Junior clubs. It has largely met the requirements with some challenges considering the increased volume of cricket across all age groups. To resolve the challenges - Junior clubs and committees need support from senior clubs to share the grounds and provide equitable access.

Stronger Financial and Volunteer Support

Driven primarily by parental contributions with a relatively higher support from ICC funding. Considerable progress was made in integrating Junior activities with CS central finances.

Enabling Organisation

A scalable organisation model and coaching capabilities to drive a higher level of cricketing activities and performance. The progress on all the above priorities and the multifold increase in the level of cricketing activities in Junior Cricket was possible only with a comprehensive organisation and time commitment and contributions from parents volunteering to the Committee and the Coaching / Management duties for the age groups.



Age Group: Season Review

U7-U9 Age Group Cricket: Actively focused on developing Junior cricketers from younger age groups. With this objective in mind, the Juniors Committee and Clubs are actively coaching and promoting the cricket at the U7-U9 level and providing them with a good platform to practice and play their cricket in supportive tournament structures.

U11 Squad. The U11 team had outstanding performance over the 2024 season. This team has once again solidified its reputation as one of the best in the history of Switzerland U11 teams, demonstrating exceptional talent, teamwork, and resilience on the field.

U13 Squad. The U13 team performed well over the 2024 season. This age group starts marking the progress towards the initial stages of competitive Junior cricket - hence the season was managed as a good mix of development and competitive tours with some standout performances as well as good learning opportunities.

U15 Squad. The U15 age group marks the transition into the competitive Junior cricket and is the first stepping stone towards the performance pathways. It is critical to ensure that many playing opportunities are provided to the players, while increasing the competitive intensity of the games to ensure that we can benchmark ourselves against our peers and the teams who are ahead in their development journey.

Swiss U17 National team Training sessions: Several training sessions were conducted starting in early December 2023. The aim of these training sessions was multiple: improve the skills of individual players; improve team cohesion; and test different team configurations.

Refugee Players. The U17 team management attempted to have refugee players participate in international tours. It has proven a challenge in multiple respects. Notwithstanding the challenges, the attitude of the refugee players, during the tours, was exemplary. It was a joy to see how much they appreciated the opportunity given to them to travel abroad and represent Switzerland.

b. Women's Cricket

The CS Women's Committee (CSWC).

The Women's Committee was established in July 2024. The CSWC focused on increasing female participation, by increasing the number of players in the current clubs and forming new teams with other CS members.

Infrastructure Development

The CSWC partnered with clubs and local municipalities in the Basel area to enhance cricket infrastructure, which will benefit women players and teams.

Tournaments

a. La Manga Tournament In April 2024, Switzerland's women's cricket team made its debut at the T20 tournament in La Manga, Spain, featuring dynamic players from various clubs. This event marked a significant milestone for women's cricket in Switzerland.

b. CS Women's Pre-Season Indoors League (Apr 2024). The CS Women's Pre-Season Indoors League featured four teams: A1 Sports Club, Basel Supernovas, Cricket Verein Zug, and Cricket Switzerland Girls. A1 Sports Club was crowned the winner, with Basel Supernovas as the runner-up on the tournament's final day.

c. DCB Frauen Bundesliga 2024. A1 Sports Club formed a women's team with support from Basel Supernovas, Swiss Girls, and Cricket Verein Zug to compete in the Deutscher Cricket Bund Frauen-Bundesliga, competing with 3 other German women's clubs in a T-20 format.

d. CS Women's League (Outdoors) Season 2 of the Cricket Switzerland Women's League concluded at the Chopfli sports facility in Hofstetten-Fkih, featuring five teams: A1 Sports

Club, Basel Supernovas, Cossonay Cricket Club, Cricket Verein Zug, and the Swiss Girls. The Swiss Girls finished undefeated, securing first place, followed by Cossonay Cricket Club in second and Basel Supernovas in third.



c. Coach Development

Key Priorities, Progress and Outcomes

CS has a good base of qualified Level 1 and Level 2 coaches in Switzerland. Along with this, to enable future development - we also have the capability to conduct ICC Level L courses with our master Tutor. For future development, CS is reliant on ICC to conduct the Level 2 and Level 3 coaching certifications and this year no courses were announced and nothing planned by ICC for 2025 yet. Hence, in due discussions with the ICC - we are partnering with Private organisations who can help us in progressing further on our coach development program using private diploma courses as well as workshops on high performance coaching.

Additionally, our Level 2 coaches can also attain a Level 3 certification through the ICC Cricket Academy in Dubai. While we will support the application of our coaches seeking to go down this path, funding will be the sole responsibility of the individual coaches.

ICC Level I Coaching workshop conducted in Geneva in November 2024

Twelve new coaches were certified as Level 1 Coaches in 2024 at the ICC Level 1 Coach Training Workshop held in Geneva on November 9th and 10th, 2024. This premier event attracted cricket enthusiasts and aspiring coaches from diverse backgrounds, including two inspiring women participants, making it a truly inclusive and empowering experience for all.



A Dynamic and Engaging Coaching Experience The two-day workshop, hosted at Salle Omnisports Lancy in Petit-Lancy, offered participants an engaging mix of theoretical knowledge and hands-on practical sessions. The participants were immersed in a rich learning environment that provided them with the skills and techniques necessary to excel as cricket coaches.

7. High Performance

a. Senior Men

Senior Men's National Team

Switzerland retained its ICC ranking of 49 from 2023.

Matches and tournaments held during 2024.

- **DBMT vs Nomads in Embrach, April**
 - Selection from national squad
 - The national side won 2-0.
- **Luxembourg Hosted in Basel**
 - First international team hosting in Switzerland
 - Two days of cricket, featuring live streaming
 - Switzerland won 2-1.
- **WC Qualifiers Preparatory Tour to Italy**
 - Friendly tour to assist in preparation for the ICC sub-regional World Cup tournament.
 - Switzerland lost 1-2.
- **ICC sub-regional Qualifying tournament World Cup (Germany)**

Result: Switzerland won two matches and lost two matches, which was insufficient to qualify for the next round.

- **European Cricket Network Tour Spain October 2024**



- Result: Switzerland won one match and lost three.

Key learnings overall:

➤ **Player Skills:**

- **Batting:** Top order performed very consistently. Giving good starts in most games. good start in most games.
Middle order remains a challenge as we failed to capitalize on good starts in many games.
Weakness against pace and good pin: In the game against Belgium, when the bowlers were a bit quicker and a high-quality spinner was bowling, we got all out for very low scores.

Bowling: In the areas of bowling, we lack bowlers with higher pace as some of the higher ranked teams have. Similarly in the spin department, we lack depth in options.

Fielding: We have some fielders who are very good in the field and took exceptional catches. However, some fielders remain weak and dropped catches in key situations cost us some matches.

➤ **Player availability for practice and preparation:**

- Issues that were evident included: players prefer club games and often do not come for national practice; inadequate international fitness levels; having to take personal leave from work; availability of grounds; and disciplinary issues.

Discipline: Satisfactory. With many players new to the requirements of international cricket and especially the differences between club cricket and international cricket, it is important good leadership is shown by all the senior players.

b. Under 19 Men

The season began with a Training Day on the 11th of November 2023.

- Players were selected based on their performance over the Junior and Adult cricket seasons.
- A group of 31 > 22 players were available for the Training Day.
- No regulations were introduced around ICC requirements of nationality.
- Training was conducted by two professionals from the Loughborough University Sports Department.

Tour by Middlesex Schools, 22nd to the 26th of July 2024, Bachgraben

- variety of formats for the five days: two T20's, followed by a 50 over, then a two-day game and finally a 40 over match on the last day.
- first two T20's we managed to win with some ease.
- 50 over game, and here the experience of the touring side in the longer format was made clear. Our batting crumbled with too many loose shots and not enough good shot selection and patience.
- Two -day game which we dominated but the game ended in a draw.
- 40 Over game was lost due to posting low scoring total.

Key Learnings:

- 1) Select a squad of 15 players as opposed to having specific players coming in and out on the day. This allows the captain to develop a squad mentality and make the tour more role specific.

- 2) House all the players in the same accommodation for the week close to the venue. The trip in and out of Basel was very taxing on players, some of whom played 5 days in a row. The trip was necessary from a cost perspective, but the hope is there will be a bigger budget for the tournaments next season, and we can implement these recommendations. Middlesex Schools have expressed an interest in coming back next season.
- 3) Better to have a Manager and Coach on site for the week.

c. Women's National Team review.

Women's trials: 30 players signed up for the trials.

- series of challenges on all three disciplines, batting, bowling, and fielding, and later into some game situations.
- a core squad selected by selection committee.
- closed out the outdoor season in Basel with our first time together as a squad, with an extended training session focusing on some fitness built into fielding drills, and a longer format T20 inter-squad game.
- goal would be to set up monthly training sessions. November to April through the winter
- Highly successful participation in an event in Munich in November (six wins from six matches played).



8. Publicity

Overview: The year 2024 was successful in terms of publicity, marked by a significant increase in followers on social media and traffic to our official website. Facebook followership has grown to nearly 10,000 followers, and website traffic has surged to approximately 26,000 visits per month, representing a 63% increase from the previous year.

Website Performance: The website is ageing and requires urgent intervention to enhance performance and manage the increased traffic.

Key areas needing improvement include:

Mobile Website Performance: Enhancing the user experience on mobile devices.

Desktop Design: Updating and improving the desktop version of the website.

Multilingual Support: Translating the website into multiple languages, with immediate priority on German and French, as mandated by Swiss Olympics and ICC.

Social Media Performance: On the social media front, particularly Facebook, it was a highly active year in 2024.

Key activities included:

- Publishing details of all upcoming league matches every weekend.
- Highlighting the best performances after each match.
- Covering all the main final day events of the leagues.
- Maintaining good engagement with followers both during and after the season.

This resulted in approximately 252,000 views and around 72,000 visits to our page. These numbers reflect the high level of activity on our main page. Additionally, we have separate pages for Junior and Women's Cricket, managed by the respective Committees, which have also attracted a good audience and provided comprehensive information about Cricket Switzerland's activities.

9. Infrastructure and Facilities

Due to budget constraints for the fiscal year 2024, it was resolved to defer infrastructure investments to 2025. To this end, a comprehensive survey was initiated at the beginning of this year to assess the infrastructure requirements across Switzerland. This survey included a detailed questionnaire regarding projects executed over the past two years and those planned for the next three years by all member clubs.

The data collected has facilitated the development of an Infrastructure Funding Guideline document, which will be disseminated to all member clubs upon approval by the CS Board. This document will delineate the types of projects eligible for funding by Cricket Switzerland and the extent of such funding. Additionally, it will serve as a foundational basis for establishing a minimum budget for infrastructure development.

Securing a dedicated home ground for the Swiss National Team remains a top priority. This will enable regular training sessions for our national team and the hosting of international matches within Switzerland.