

March 15-16, 2024 Neuchâtel, Switzerland

# FIRST INFORMATION



## 1. Welcome to Neuchâtel and Switzerland

Madame, Monsieur, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships 2024 in Neuchâtel.

Located in the North-West of Switzerland, the region of Neuchâtel is one of the six French-speaking cantons of the country. It is characterized by varied landscapes: the massive mountains of the Jura on its North board and the large Lake of Neuchâtel on its South. The bottom of the canton is represented by the city of Neuchâtel, which is also its capital city. On the other hand, the higher part is represented by the city of La Chaux-de-Fonds, located in the mountains.

The city of Neuchâtel lies at an elevation of 479 meters above sea level and its surface is 803 km<sup>2</sup>. The city counts a population of 44,416 inhabitants.

This canton attracts visitors also for its historical and architectural heritage. In fact, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when the reformer Calvin banned on the wearing of jewellers in Geneva, he gave birth to one of the most prestigious industries in the world. In order not to disappear, jewellers turned to the creation of watches and clocks. The activity quickly spread in the whole of the Jura range. It was perfectly adapted to the material conditions of the region. It is also fully compatible with the decentralization (isolated houses) and the seasonal variations of the rural community's occupations. In their farm, craftsmen of the region developed an unequalled competence of watchmaking. First a craft, watchmaking then became an industry and today, the Pays de Neuchâtel can pride itself on having the most prestigious watch brands in the world.



## 2. Arena

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The ice-skating complex of the city of Neuchâtel, called "Patinoires du Littoral", is located along the seaside of Lake Neuchâtel, in the eastern part of the city. It consists in two ice surfaces of  $30 \times 60$  meters. These structures were used for the first time in 1986. Its address is:

Patinoires du Littoral Quai Robert-Comtesse 4 2000 Neuchâtel Switzerland

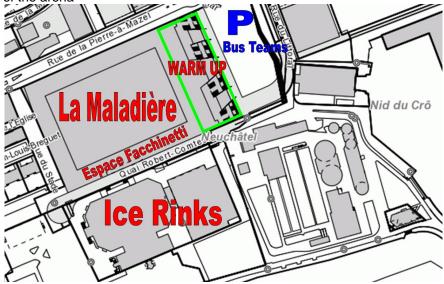
The main venue rink can host up to 6,500 people, however the seating capacity is 3,200 places. There are ten changing rooms available to the athletes, a conference room, and several refreshment rooms.



On the other hand, the secondary arena disposes of 1,000 standing places, five changing rooms and one refreshment room.



General view of the arena



# 3. Hotels

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## 3.1 General information

Due to the small size of the city of Neuchâtel, no hotel is large enough to host the whole Skating Family. The teams will thus be housed in various hotels. Hotel capacities can only be booked via the Organizing Committee. Teams are requested to submit their **Accommodation Neuchâtel Form** to the Organizing Committee by **October 1, 2023**. Please define which category of hotel you would like to order on the accommodation request. The Organizing Committee will assign the hotel to the Teams in accordance with their accommodation request upon receipt. Hotels will be assigned on the first come – first serve basis.

As for the payment conditions, the Organizing Committee requests that, for all Team Members whose accommodation expenses are not covered by the Organizing Committee as outlined above, a prepayment (advanced deposit), to guarantee the availability of required rooms, be made. Members should use the ISU Online Registration System (ORS) for their preliminary hotel bookings on which the OC will base the invoice for the pre-payment. The advanced deposit of 50% of the total amount must be made by **December 1, 2023**. The remaining 50% are to be paid latest upon arrival although advance payments to the OC are welcome.

For any question, please contact: <a href="mailto:accommodation@wjsysc2024.com">accommodation@wjsysc2024.com</a>

N°	Name	Category	Remarks
1	Best Western Premier ****	D	Official hotel
	Hôtel Beaulac		Distance to arena: 0,7 km
	www.beaulac.ch		200 beds
2	Hôtel des Arts ***	С	Distance to arena: 0,7 km
	www.hoteldesarts.ch		90 beds
3	Hôtel Alpes et Lac ***	С	Distance to arena: 0,75 km
	www.alpesetlac.ch		74 beds
4	Hôtel Touring au Lac ***	С	Distance to arena: 1 km
	www.touringaulac.ch		56 beds
5	City Hôtel (**)	В	Distance to arena: 0,7 km
	www.neuchatelcityhotel.com		100 beds
6	Ibis 3 Lacs Neuchâtel-Thielle **	В	Distance to arena: 8 km
	https://all.accor.com/hotel/0531/index.en.shtml		60 beds
7	Hôtel-Restaurant Le Vaisseau	В	Distance to arena: 9 km
	www.hotel-le-vaisseau.ch		20 beds
8	Hôtel du Val (**)	В	Distance to arena: 12,5 km
	www.hotelduval.ch		48 beds
9	Hôtel Port-Conty ****	D	Distance to arena: 12,5 km
	www.hotel-port-conty.ch		60 beds
10	Le Louverain	A	Guest rooms and dormitories
	www.louverain.com		Distance to arena: 17,5 km
			60 beds
11	Auberge-Restaurant de La Tène	A	Guest rooms and dormitories
	www.la-tene.ch		Distance to arenas: 8,5 km
			60 beds

## 3.2 Type of accommodations

# 3.3 Approximative prices per person

Category	Kind of int. standard	Single	2 and more
A	Dormitories	CHF 95 to 125	CHF 501)
В	2 **	CHF 125 to 145	CHF 80 to 100
С	3 ***	CHF 145 to 170	CHF 85 to 130
D	4 ****	CHF 220 to 275	CHF 100 to 165

<sup>1)</sup> Breakfasts are not always included in the price of dormitories. To be confirmed when booking.

A tourist tax (CHF 4.20/person/night) is due for people over 18 years old only (not included in the prices above) and will be invoiced in the balance of the final payment.

# 3.4 Location

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Hotels located in the city of Neuchâtel.



Hotels located in the greater area of the city of Neuchâtel.



# 3.5 Families and friends

Families and friends are requested to book their accommodation themselves through their travel agency or at the Neuchâtel Tourist Office. The address of the Neuchâtel Tourist Office is:

Tourisme neuchâtelois Hôtel des Postes 2000 Neuchâtel Switzerland Phone: +41 32 889 68 90 E-mail: <u>info@ne.ch</u> Further information on: https://www.j3l.ch/en/Z10488/neuchatel-tourism?regionFilters[]=0

The Neuchâtel Tourist Office opens on Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 12:00 and from 13:30 to 17:30, and on Saturday from 09:00 to 12:00.

## 3.6 Extra services and incidentals

All hotel extras, including services such as telephone charges, Pay TV, room service, mini bar, laundry, and dry cleaning, are to be settled directly at the hotel upon checkout. All Pay TV Channels and telephones will be blocked upon check-in and can only be activated when a personal credit card is presented at the hotel front desk. Each Member federation is responsible for incidentals and the Team Leader for each Member federation is the appointed contact person.

## 3.7 Contact person and room changes

For any problems about rooms, room changes, damages in the room, etc. the Team Managers is agreed to be the contact person. Any room change should be addressed to the Organizing Committee. No changes are allowed directly with the hotel.

## 4. Travel and Transportation

## 4.1 Visa

We recommend verifying with the Swiss Embassy or Consulate in your country whether you need a Visa. Please visit the website of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs for more information: <u>https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home.html</u>

## 4.2 ISU Office Holders, Judges and Event Officials

Geneva International Airport (GVA) is the primary gateway to Neuchâtel. There are several train departures from the Geneva International Airport train station to Neuchâtel every hour. The approximate journey time is 1 hour and 20 minutes.

On the arrival day and based on the arrival information received in a timely manner, the Organizing Committee will pick up ISU Office Holders and Guests, Judges and Event Officials at the Geneva International Airport (GVA).

Should the Officials choose to come to Switzerland through another airport like Zurich or Basel, they will have to rely on themselves to continue their journey by train to Neuchâtel.

The Organizing Committee will refund train costs related to the journey from the Swiss airport to the Neuchâtel train station to Officials upon presentation of the corresponding train tickets.

At the Neuchâtel train station, a shuttle service will pick the Officials up at no cost to bring them to the accreditation desk and to the Official Hotel – the Hôtel Beaulac.

During the event, a shuttle service will be provided to ISU Office Holders, Judges and Event Officials between the Official Hotel – the Hôtel Beaulac – and the ice rink prior to and after each event, as well as for all official practice sessions. The time schedule of the shuttle service will be posted at the reception desk of the Official Hotel, as well as at the ice rink in the judges' room and at the welcome desk.

On the departure day, a pick-up service will be organised according to the departure schedule provided in a timely manner.

## 4.3 Teams

It is the responsibility of all participating teams to organize and cover the costs of their journey to and back from Neuchâtel, which should include the transfer to and from the airport, or any transportation to Neuchâtel and back home, as well as within Neuchâtel from the hotel to the ice rink and back.

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Neuchâtel can however be easily reached by train from the Zurich (ZRH) or Basel (BSL) airports too.

As the Patinoires du Littoral are within walking distance to most of the hotels or reachable by public transportation, no shuttle service will be provided for Teams and associated delegation members during the event. All participants to the ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships 2024 will receive a "Neuchâtel Tourist Card". This is a pass which enables each visitor staying for a minimum of one night in a hotel, bed & breakfast, or holiday apartment in the canton of Neuchâtel to benefit for free from the public transport system of the Neuchâtel region (trains, funicular and busses). This card is distributed by the host on the guest's arrival. It is valid from the time of check-in until midnight on the day of departure.

Further information on:

https://www.neuchateltourisme.ch/en/transport/public-transport.10009/neuchatel-touristcard.12058.html

Regarding the public transportation system, the main bus lines connecting most hotels of the city of Neuchâtel to the ice rink are lines 101 and 121. The trip takes about 6 minutes from the city centre ("Place Pury").

Line 101 "Cormondrèche, Grand'Rue - Place Pury - Marin-Epagnier Gare" runs at least every 10 minutes.

Line 121 "Place Pury – Piscines" (with the stop "Maladière" very close to the ice rink) runs every 15 minutes.

Further information on: <u>http://www.transn.ch/</u>.

A map of the public transportation system is available on https://www.transn.ch/fileadmin/transn/pdf/Plans/S\_littoral\_vdr\_2023\_VF.pdf

Should a Team decide to rent a bus for its entire stay in Neuchâtel, the Organizing Committee will be pleased to help with the arrangements. For reservations with our official transportation partner in Neuchâtel, Voyages Jean-Louis SA, please contact Perrine at: <u>perrine.vonnez@jeanlouisvoyages.ch</u>.

Prices from our official transportation partner, Voyages Jean-Louis SA



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<u>Contact</u> Perrine Cortaillod Office +41 32 753 49 32

# ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships 2024 Prices of transport

Service	: <u>Transfer</u> from Kloten airport to Neuchâtel
Transport price	<ul> <li>Per transfer for the rental of a bus : CHF 1'000 30 to 45 seats with driver CHF 1'150 46 to 60 seats with driver CHF 1'500 80 seats with driver Tax truck, airport taxes and VAT included</li> </ul>
Service	: Transfer from Geneva or Basel airport to Neuchâtel
Transport price	<ul> <li>Per transfer for the rental of a bus : CHF 900 30 to 45 seats with driver CHF 1'075 46 to 60 seats with driver CHF 1'400 80 seats with driver Tax truck, airport taxes and VAT included</li> </ul>
Service	: <u>Transfer</u> from a hotel to Neuchâtel Rink (15 km)
Transport price	<ul> <li>Per transfer (round trip) for the rental of a bus : CHF 450 30 to 45 seats with driver</li> <li>CHF 575 46 to 60 seats with driver CHF 700 80 seats with driver Tax truck and VAT included</li> </ul>
Service	: <u>Rent</u> a bus for a day (maximum 300 km) + Fr. 1 per additional km
Transport price	<ul> <li>Package for renting a coach : Fr. 1'150 30 to 45 seats with driver</li> <li>Fr. 1'300 46 to 60 seats with driver Fr. 1'675 80 seats with driver Tax truck and VAT included</li> </ul>
Service	: Rent a bus for half day (maximum 200 km)
Transport price	<ul> <li>Package for renting a coach : Fr. 900 30 to 45 seats with driver</li> <li>Fr. 1'000 46 to 60 seats with driver</li> <li>Fr. 1'375 80 sears with driver</li> <li>Tax truck and VAT included</li> </ul>
Service	: <u>Rent</u> a minibus for a day (maximum 300 km)
Transport price	: Fr. 950 package for renting a minibus 17 seats with driver Tax truck and VAT included
Service	: <u>Rent</u> a minibus for half day (maximum 200 km)
Transport price	: Fr. 825 package for renting a minibus 17 seats with driver Tax truck and VAT included
de Ménières 28	Chemin de Ronzi 2 Route de la Pála 118 www.jeanlouis-voyages Chi-2018 Certralited Chi-1630 Bulle info@ieanthuisegueges

Route de Ménières 20 CH-1532 Fétigny +41 (0)26 660 37 87

Chemin de Ronzi 2 CH-2016 Cortaillod +41 (0)32 753 49 32 Route de la Pâla 118 CH-1630 Bulle +41 (0)26 912 05 12 www.jeanlouis-voyages.ch info@jeanlouisvoyages.ch Raison sociale : Voyages Jean-Louis SA

## 5. Registration

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The registration for all ISU Office Holders, Referees, Judges, Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Data and Video Operators, and Partner or Relative to an Official taking part in the event, for Competitors, Team Leaders, Team Officials, Team Medical Staff and Coaches, as well as for Media, TV, Volunteers and late arriving Teams and guests will take place at the Main Arena.

The opening hours of the registration desk will be the following.

- Wednesday, March 13, 2024, from 09:00 to 19:00
- Thursday, March 14, 2024, from 09:00 to 13:00

For special requests please contact the Organizing Committee.

## 6. Extra Practice Ice

Additional practice sessions will be available against payment from **Monday, March 11, 2024**, to **Wednesday, March 13, 2024**. Extra practice ice is sold in blocks of 30 minutes at CHF 120.00/block. For reservations, please submit the **Extra Practice Ice Request Form** to the Organizing Committee by **January 22, 2024**. Or contact the Organizing Committee on <u>accommodation@wjsysc2024.com</u>.

## 7. Meal Service

## 7.1 Teams

Teams, Coaches, and their entourage are encouraged to utilize the meal service negotiated by the Organizing Committee. The use of the services is upon Teams' discretion and at their own cost **(Team Meals Plan)**. Please submit the requests to the Organizing Committee by **February 22, 2024**.

Meals will be served at the Espace Facchinetti, which is located beside the Ice Rinks, and can be accessed with a two minutes' walk (see map in chapter "The Arenas").



## 7.2 ISU Office Holders, Judges and Event Officials

The ISU Office Holders, Judges and Event Officials entitled to the full board will receive meal vouchers. Breakfast is served at the Official Hotel. As for lunch and dinner (or late dinner), they will be served in selected locations according to a separate schedule for Officials which will be handed over in due time by the Organizing Committee.

A shuttle service will be provided to ISU Office Holders, Judges and Event Officials between the ice rink or the selected location and the Official Hotel.

## 8. Event tickets

For all information regarding tickets please visit our website: <u>www.wjsysc2024.com</u>. Payments will be possible with most major credit cards. Further information on: <u>finance@wjsysc2024.com</u>.

## 9. Useful Information

## 9.1 Languages

The official language of the region is French, which is one of the four Swiss national languages. In the Neuchâtel region, the majority of population is usually able to speak also English.

## 9.2 Currency

### Swiss Francs

The currency of the Swiss Confederation is the Swiss franc. The different bills are 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 1000 Swiss francs. 1, 2 and 5 are the coins and 5, 10, 20 and 50 the cents.

### **Credit Cards**

All main credit cards (like Eurocard/Master Card, Visa, etc.) are usually accepted in most shops, hotels and restaurants.

### Exchange

There is the possibility of changing money in proper exchange offices, as well as in every bank, post office and almost all train stations of the canton.

### ATM

They can be found in post offices, banks or on the street. They are easily accessible 24h/24h.

### Tipping

Although the tip is usually included in the price of every kind of service, it is customary to leave some at the restaurant.

## 9.3 Weather conditions

The average temperature during the spring is usually between 0° and 16°.

## 9.4 Time zone

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Switzerland is part of the Central European Time Zone (GMT+1). When it is 12:00 in Neuchâtel, it is 12:00 in Berlin, 11:00 in London, 06:00 in New York, and 21:00 in Sydney. It will still be winter time in Neuchâtel during the event.

## 9.5 Telephone

Country code of Switzerland: +41

## 9.6 Wi-Fi connection

Most hotels have their own Wi-Fi connection (usually free of charge), as well as many cafés, restaurants, and public places in the city centre.

## 9.7 Electricity

The voltage in Switzerland is **230 V/50 Hz**. The outlets have a hexagonal form and count three holes. They usually work without problems with the European standard outlet which have two holes. So do not forget to take your adaptor with you. Otherwise, there is the possibility to buy them in various shops.



## 9.8 Opening hours

## Banks

Monday-Wednesday, Friday: Thursday:

## Shops

Monday-Wednesday, Friday: Thursday: Saturday: Sunday: 08:30 - 12:00 / 13:45 - 17:00 08:30 - 12:00 / 13:45 - 17:30

09:00 - 19:00 09:00 - 20:00 09:00 - 18:00 closed all day, except those at the train station

## 9.9 Information points

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For any assistance, you may contact one of the information points located around the canton:

Neuchâtel	La Chaux-de-Fonds
Tourism Office	Tourism Office
Place du Port 2, 2000 Neuchâtel	Espacité 1, 2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds
+41 (0) 32 889 68 90	+41 (0) 32 889 68 95
info@ne.ch	info.cdf@ne.ch

## 9.10 Emergency Calls

Police	117
Ambulance	144
Fire	118
Swiss Rescue	1414
European Emergency number	112

## 9.11 Lost property

If you find or lose any kind of item, you can contact the following offices:

Neuchâtel	La Chaux-de-Fonds	
Service du domaine public	Sécurité publique	
Rue des Poudrières 14	Place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville 1	
Case Postale	Case postale 370	
2002 Neuchâtel	2301 La Chaux-de-Fonds	
+41 32 889 90 00	+41 32 889 00 30	

## 10. Discover the best of Neuchâtel with the Neuchâtel Tourist Card

This is a region of contrasts where you will find secular heritage side by side with contemporary architecture: the thousand-year-old city of Neuchâtel and many other towns and villages present mediaeval charm, while the architecture at La Chaux-de-Fonds, another of the principal cities of the canton, is unexpectedly avant-garde.



The Neuchâtel region is beautiful... and what's more, thanks to the Neuchâtel Tourist Card, transport and leisure activities are free of charge starting from the first overnight stay. The Neuchâtel Tourist Card is a guest card issued free of charge to all persons (adults and children) staying for at least one night in a hotel or hotel-related establishment (campsite, guest room, flat & holiday home, and shared accommodation) in the canton of Neuchâtel.



Take the opportunity to discover Neuchâtel with the little train.



The welcome desk will be of help to organise other visits.

## 11. Information

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For further information, please contact:

### ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships 2024 Organizing Committee E-mail: direction@wjsysc2024.com

Website: <u>www.wjsysc2024.com</u>