

IRF Roundnet World Championships 2024 Great Britain

Review Report January 2025



Purpose

The purpose of this review is to assess the success of the 2024 Roundnet World Championships against a number of quantitative and qualitative metrics in relation to various aspects of the event.

The report will also set out recommendations for the future hosts of the 2026 Roundnet World Championships to ensure the next iteration of the event builds upon the successes and lessons of the 2024 edition.

Context

The 2024 IRF Roundnet World Championships (title sponsored by Spikeball Inc.) was hosted by British Roundnet (the host National Governing Body) in Great Britain at Surrey Sports Park, Guildford, England.

The event took place over four days from 27th August to 1st September 2024 inclusive.

Worlds 2024 in Numbers

667 Athletes

70 Extra NGB Staff registered (Coaches, Media, Medical)

650 spectator tickets sold

3,100 Matches played

8,000 Meals served

1,500 people on site at any one point

160 pitches marked

150 Litres of Line Marking Paint

34 countries

41 volunteers

1 venue

c.£95,000 event cost (EUR113,000 / USD 121,000)

c.£618,350.90p Total Economic Impact

Player Experience and Satisfaction

A total of 222 players responded to the post event survey. This accounts for 33.28% of athletes who attended the event. This is considered a strong sample to extrapolate trends and findings from.

Players answered the post event survey as follows:

“On a scale of 1-5, How would you rate your overall enjoyment of the event?”

Average: 4.52/5

We are conscious that players enjoying the event will be tied to both their experience of the event management / organisation and more personal experiences.

Anonymised responses: What was your most favourite part of the event?

“The Community and Great Organisation”

“Atmosphere and organization at all times, very well done”

“Playing against some of the best Roundnet players in the world”

“The structure of the game play made it really enjoyable. It was clear where to be and when and helped make it work really smoothly”

“The convenience of playing, eating, and sleeping in very close proximity”

“Meeting people from around the world”

“Music & space organisation in general”

Lessons Learnt

The Lessons learnt from player experience can be found in recommendations section of this report.

Spectator Experience and Satisfaction

A total of 38 spectators responded to the post event survey. This accounts for 5.84% of spectators tickets sold. This is considered a weaker sample to extrapolate trends and findings from.

Players answered the post event survey as follows:

On a scale of 1-5, How would you rate your overall enjoyment of the event?

Average: 4.5/5

Anonymised responses - What was your most favourite part of the event?

“Talking to people from other National Governing Bodies”

“The great spirit of the crowd and teams”

“Clinic + organised pickups and watching the very last final”

“The location directly in front of the Tesco ”

“Watching the games”

Volunteer Satisfaction

Volunteers provided their feedback at de-briefing meeting two weeks after the event. Volunteers were also able to input their thoughts and feelings anonymously into a group 'whiteboard' software in response to a variety of headings. Some common responses and themes are provided below:

The Team

"I enjoyed being part of a diverse team and there was friendly and helpful leadership"

"Even when things weren't going to plan, the team had consistent communication which helped bring things back together again"

"It was a once in a lifetime experience to be a part of something so big for the sport"

"Whilst we managed, more volunteers are needed to run an event of this scale"

"The environment was fast paced and stressful (but awesome fun), sometimes the players and country staff didn't appreciate that we were just volunteers"

The Event

"The Fan Zone was well organised and managed and was a step up from any previous roundnet event i had been to in the past"

"The Food and Drinks Trucks worked really well and we built good relationships with the stall owners."

"The team were placed within dedicated roles which worked well but were spread too thin, particularly to cover matchplay during the busiest days - more volunteers needed".

More reflections on the event itself and suggestions for how it can be improved have been collated by the BR and IRF team and can be accessed on the final page.

Economic Impact

The UK Sport [eventImpact Economic Impact Calculator](#) has been used to establish the economic impact of the event. It is accepted that this calculator applies very broad categories and assumptions and a formal full economic impact assessment will be undertaken should volunteer capacity and expertise allow.

In the meantime, the calculator is considered detailed enough to provide key Economic Impact findings from the 2024 Roundnet World Championships.

Information was collected from a post event survey, completed by 220 athletes (which accounts for 31% of the athlete population) which asked questions about event spending, pre and post event travelling and other general satisfaction questions.

Anomalous information was removed from the survey results, with averages from the player base utilised to inform the statistics below.

Key statistics:

667 Athletes

650 Spectator tickets sold

1,500+ people on site per day

£96,256.32 Event Cost

spent on local traders and partners to deliver the event

£396,866.02p Direct Economic Impact

On Guildford and the Local Area

£618,350.80p Total Economic Impact

Inclusive of player and spectator pre-event trips, post event trips and other economic spending as a result of the event

Legacy

The Plan for the Legacy of the 2024 Roundnet World Championships was established well before the event took place.

The Legacy Plan, which is still on course to go ahead, involves a partnership between British Roundnet, Active Surrey (the local government sports organiser for Surrey County) and Spikeball to deliver roundnet equipment and training to ten schools across the Surrey County area.

The equipment and coaching to school Physical Education teachers will be free, paid for through funding raised from the World Championships and with donated equipment from Spikeball.

The coaching scheme will culminate in running a free schools tournament for the ten schools involved at Surrey Sports Park, the venue for the 2024 World Championships.

Key Legacy Goals:

10 Schools engaged

100 Free roundnet sets

15 Teachers trained

300 Children engaged

1 Roundnet Webinar

1 Surrey Schools Roundnet Festival

Recommendations for 2026 IRF Roundnet World Championships

Recommendations for improvements for the operation event aspect of the 2024 World Championships [can be found here](#).

Recommendations for improvements for the gameplay aspect of the 2024 World Championships [can be found here](#).

A 'Hosting Requirements checklist' for the 2026 Roundnet World Championships is being co-produced by British Roundnet and the IRF to help make clear what is required of the hosting team and venue to deliver an event of this scale. This will be made available to help inform 2026 hosting bids.

Conclusion

The 2024 Roundnet World Championships was a milestone event for the sport of roundnet. It is the largest roundnet event to have ever taken place, with the largest number of recorded countries, individual teams and spectators.

It is the first roundnet event to implement spectator ticketing and put a significant focus on spectator experience, alongside the player experience.

There are a number of lessons learnt from hosting such a large event - a number of which result from the hosting team being wholly voluntary and lacking in enough staff.

However, it can be determined that given the general player and spectator satisfaction of the event, the documented economic impact of the event and the projected legacy impact, the 2024 Roundnet World Championships was a success and sets a new standard for future major international roundnet events.