

England Athletics Talent Development Programme 2026 to 2027

The England Athletics Talent Development Programme aims to support the England Athletics philosophy of talent development by supporting athletes through consistent support in high quality training and support environments known as the England Athletics Talent hubs. This programme offers a Talent hub-based support programme across the programme year.

Athletes must be able to demonstrate how they will use and access the talent hub network within their programme application to be selected for this programme. Please see selection process notes below.

The talent hubs will aim to increase the number of talented athletes/para-athletes who have the skills, competencies, knowledge and resilience to progress to UKA World Class programmes and succeed at senior championships while gaining positive life experiences from the journey.

The Programme aims to:

- Increase the number of athletes/para-athletes achieving consideration standards for selection for GB and NI teams at the relevant age group championships.
- Increase the number of athletes/para-athletes meeting the performance and behaviour standards required to progress to the UKA Futures programme or UKA World Class Programmes on the Olympic or Paralympic pathway.
- Retain more athletes/para-athletes within the talent pathway and sport.

The programme runs from 1st October 2026 until 30th September 2027.

Programme Name	Age Group	Year of Birth	Programme Size	Programme Duration	Delivery Model
Talent Development Programme	U20 or U23 athlete at the time of selection *	2003 – 2008 *	Maximum 80 athletes Maximum of 3 athletes per event per gender	1 year until re selection Athletes can be retained if they meet all selection criteria including year of birth	Talent Hub Environment or TASS Delivery site

Overview of Programme Benefits

Athletes selected onto the programme will receive the following benefits:-

- Support in the nominated Talent Hub where the following services may be offered upon the completion of an IAP and all relevant paperwork.
 - o Athlete- coach point of contact to offer support throughout the year
 - o Coaching and support (in our core Talent hub sites)
 - Individual athlete planning (IAP) with personal coach and athlete throughout the year. (x3)
 - Regular communication with Point of Contact (POC).
 - o Medical Insurance via the TASS medical scheme
 - o Physiotherapy and/or Soft Tissue therapy
 - o Strength and Conditioning Support
 - o Performance Psychology
 - o Performance Nutrition
 - o Performance Lifestyle
 - o Athlete education sessions including annual UK Anti-Doping sessions
 - o Access to EA coach development sessions and coach support from athlete-coach point of contact

Non-UK based athletes that meet all criteria may be offered an England Athletics point of contact for support as appropriate. Those based outside of the UK and are selected to the programme will be required to provide their IAP with their point of contact complete additional service requirements by the end of March 2027.

England Athletics may be able to offer :-

- Facility Access
- Physiotherapy/ Soft Tissue therapy
- Strength and Conditioning support
- Performance services such as Nutrition, Psychology and Lifestyle.
 - These services will only be available at the England Athletics Talent Hubs.

Talent hub sites where athletes can access the above support are

- EA Talent hubs:-
 - Leeds Beckett University
 - Loughborough University
 - St Marys University
 - University of Birmingham
- Additional TASS delivery sites are available at the below locations and will offer performance support services as appropriate but without on-site points of contact or coaching support:-
 - Exeter university
 - Manchester Metropolitan University
 - Northumbria University
 - University of East London

Eligibility

To be considered for the England Talent Development Programme, an athlete/para-athlete must fulfil the following eligibility criteria:

- a) Be eligible to compete for England in the Commonwealth Games.
 - b) A British Passport holder.
 - c) Para athletes must hold a current national or international para-athletics classification in a Paralympic Event.
 - d) Not currently serving a period of eligibility because of a transfer of allegiance.
 - e) Not currently serving a provisional or permanent suspension for a doping violation.
 - f) Has not, whether by an act or omission, brought England Athletics or UK Athletics into disrepute.
 - g) Not serving a period of ineligibility from the sport as determined by England Athletics or UK Athletics. For example, due to misconduct and/or disciplinary reasons.
 - h) Not be supported on the UK Athletics World Class Programme or UKA Futures Programme or Para Programmes
 - i) Signs and adheres to the England Athletics Athlete Agreement and completes all TASS paperwork by the set deadline
- * There is no age restriction for para athletes on the Talent Development Programme in recognition of the varying developmental pathway for para athletics. Para athletes must still meet all other eligibility criteria, align to the philosophy of the programme by demonstrating future potential to progress to the UK Athletics Paralympic world class programme and/or gain selection for a Great Britain & NI senior international championship team. Para Athletes must be selected on the most age appropriate programme. I.e. if eligible for the YTP they should be selected onto this programme.

Selection Criteria Matrix

Consideration Standard	Achieved the consideration Standard between 1 st September 2025 to 14 th September 2026 (indoor or outdoor performances will be considered). See specific standards for para-athletes broken down by classification and paralympic event.
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Performance Consistency	Performance consistency will be assessed through reviewing their average performance of their top 4 outdoor performances within the 2026 season. Note: Excluding Combined Events and endurance events of 5000m and above.
Performance Potential and progression	Evidence that it is realistic for the athlete/para-athlete to continue a developing performance profile in line with the aims of the programme. This will include but not exclusively review the following: a. Performance in other relevant events b. Rates of progress in performance and critical determinants of performance c. Injury and training history d. Lifestyle and training environment e. Previous engagement in England Athletics Programmes

Consideration Standards

Please see the England Athletics website for selection standards. Para standards are broken down by classification and Paralympic event.

[Talented Athlete and Coach Pathway - England Athletics](#)

Consideration standards are an entry point for application to the programme. The panel would expect to see athletes to progress beyond the consideration standard and demonstrate progression for each year they progress into the programme age range.

England Athletics Talent and Performance Programme Consideration Standards 2026				
Men		Events	Women	
TDP	PP		PP	TDP
10.66	10.20	100m	11.24	11.82
21.52	20.55	200m	22.96	24.16
47.71	45.48	400m	51.46	54.81
		100H	12.94	13.70
13.94	13.53	110H		
52.32	49.25	400H	55.58	61.20
01:50.70	01:45.40	800m	02:00.40	02:05.90
03:47.40	03:34.60	1500m	04:04.80	04:23.90
08:17.40		3000m		09:33.50
14:33.00	13:12.00	5000m	15:10.00	17:00.00
	28:00.00	10000m / 10k	32:10.00	
09:13.20	08:28.50	3000mSC	09:37.70	10:39.50
44:40.00	42:13.00	10k/20k Walk	48:04.00	49:45.00
	1:02.00	Half Marathon	1:11.30	
	2:11.30	Marathon	2:31.00	
17.71	20.38	SP	17.84	14.21
53.76	64.19	DT	59.78	47.52
67.20	75.46	HT	70.07	57.12
66.24	81.34	JT	59.58	48.00

2.09	2.22	HJ	1.90	1.79
5.00	5.60	PV	4.45	4.00
7.40	7.95	LJ	6.60	6.15
15.00	16.60	TJ	13.90	12.80
7000	8000	Combined Events	6100	5200

The consideration standards are an entry point for application to the programme only.

The selection panel will evaluate athlete progression and are looking for year on year performance improvement/development. (This is primarily applicable for the Talent Development Programme). The panel reserves the right to select athletes based on exceptional circumstances that maybe included (but is not limited to) injury, ill health, pregnancy, potential for future progression, for example, in events that has evidence of late development.

Programme Selection Process

The selection process is split across four stages:

Stage 1 –Athletes who have met the consideration standard can apply to be considered for the England Athletics Talent programme. The deadline will be September 14th at 9.00am

Stage 2 – The selection panel will consider all the information, and a selection decision will be made;

Stage 3 – Athlete accepts selection and signs pathway agreement by deadline.

Stage 4 – Induction with an appointed EA talent hub or online for those within a satellite site.

Selection Panel

The Programme selection panel will have the following representatives:

England Athletics National Event Managers (Speed, Endurance On Track, Endurance Off Track, Throws, Jumps and Combined Events)

England Athletics National Para Manager

England Athletics Director of Talent and Performance (Selection Meeting Chair)

England Athletics Head of Talent Programmes

Independent Sport Observer & Note taker

Where there is conflict of interest for a panel member (i.e. coach/mentor/club relationship), the panel member will not be involved in the selection process.

Where voting takes place, the selection decision will be made on majority vote with the Talent Pathway Manager having the casting vote if required.

The Panel may reconvene, subject to the outcome of the selection decisions for the UKA WCP Programme and Para Programmes.

Programme Places and Duration

The number of places on the programme is limited and may vary from year to year.

Selection for the England Athletics Talent Development programme takes places annually and places are guaranteed for one programme year (October to September) only.

The panel may retain athletes even if they have not achieved a consideration standard in the previous season. There must be a rationale that the athlete can show progression in the upcoming calendar year, and they must still be of the appropriate year of birth outlined above. The panel may also retain athletes where the panel deem there have been exceptional circumstances.

Notes

- There is no right to an appeal for non-selection.
- To confirm their place on the programme athletes must
 - Complete all documents as requested by England Athletics by no later than October 31st 2026.
 - Attend England Athletics Induction or attend an online induction before October 31st 2026.
 - If the above conditions are not met the athlete will forfeit their place on the programme.
- Any athlete/para-athlete who has associated, or intends to associate, themselves with a coach, doctor or other medical or support person who England Athletics or UK Athletics reasonably considers it inappropriate for the athlete to associate with, shall not be eligible for selection for membership.