

YOUTH TALENT PROGRAMME

SELECTION POLICY

SELECTION PROCESS

STAGE 1: APPLICATION

Places on the Youth Talent Programme (YTP) are limited. Therefore, all athletes/ para athletes and coaches who meet the minimum eligibility criteria and would like to be considered for selection on the YTP must complete the application process by Monday 7th September 2026 at 9am.

After this no further applications can be submitted and no late applications will be accepted.

This is an important element of the process as it enables the programme selectors to understand the athlete/coach goals for the season and where the programme can potentially add value. Each year, the athlete cohort selected is based on age groups due to the Diploma in Sporting Excellence (DISE) element of programme, so athletes with birth dates between 01/09/2009 to 31/08/2010 need only to apply.

For criteria that the selection panel will consider please see stage 2 information.

Please see below link to the application form -

[Youth Talent Programme \(2026 - 2028\) – Fill out form](#)

Youth Talent Programme (2026 -
2028)



STAGE 2: SELECTION PANEL

The selection panel will consider all applications based against criteria that recognises and rewards current performance and demonstrates potential to continue to develop and progress to the next stage of the pathway.

The panel will be made up of members of the England Athletics Talent Pathway Team.

The following information, as well as any other factors that may be deemed relevant, will be considered by the panel when assessing selection for the programme:

- ✓ Performance ranking
- ✓ Yearly progression profile and consistency in performances
- ✓ Major competition history
- ✓ Injury and training history
- ✓ Lifestyle and training environment
- ✓ Maturation (in primary or potential future events)

This information will be assessed by:-

- Application form and information provided by the athlete/ para athlete and coach. It is imperative that the application form is filled in with as much detail as possible to allow selections to be made with as much background information as possible.
- Power of 10 rankings
- Expert knowledge via the England Athletics Talent Pathway Team

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the programme, athletes/ para athletes will need to meet the minimum criteria:

- Are eligible to compete for England at the Commonwealth Games
- Be a British Passport holder eligible to compete for Great Britain and NI at international championships such as the Olympic or Paralympic Games
- Birth dates between 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2010
- Be on the 1st year of a 2 year educational programme in September 2025.
 - (i.e. A levels or BTEC)
- Must not be studying on an elite sports based apprenticeship (eg: L3 Sporting Excellence Professional) between September 2026 and July 2028.
- **While all athletes/ para athletes are eligible for the YTP only those in full time state education or those in independent education with a scholarship or bursary at 50% or more are eligible for the DISE qualification.**
 - *Those who are not eligible for the DISE qualification will receive the same experience but achieve an England Athletics Talent Pathway Certificate.*

STAGE 3: INDUCTION

Following athlete/ para athlete, coach and parent/guardian notification of selection for the programme, there will be an online introduction session followed by Camp 1 to complete the induction process.

Following the online induction session the first camp will be a two-day induction camp at the relevant Talent Hub delivery site. The aim of the camp will be to outline the journey ahead and the programme expectations as well as meeting your YTP support team and wider athlete groups on programme.

PATHWAY OPPORTUNITIES

Athletes/ para athletes who are not successful through the initial selection process will be able to attend the England Athletics event activity while there are multiple pathway entry points for athletes to join programmes at a later date. There will be a list of reserves for the YTP who may be offered places after the first round of selections.