

Table Tennis England Selection Policy

England Aspire & Hopes Squads 2019/20 Season

Version: 1.1

30 May 2019

1. Overview

This selection policy relates to the England Aspire Squad (Aspire - formally the England 9-13 Squad) & England Hopes Squad (Hopes) for 2019-2020. The Aspire & Hopes squads are training squads that form part of the England Junior Pathway.

2. Purpose & Status

The purpose of these squads and programme is to help in the development of young players in order for them to find out what they are capable of, and to prepare them for the next phase of their development journey.

3. Selection Panel

A selection panel will be established comprising three voting members including Chair:

- Table Tennis England Director of Sport (Chair)
- Table Tennis England Technical Director
- Table Tennis England Programme Manager

Additional experts may be asked to provide advice or information to the selection panel at the request of the Chair.

In the event of any conflict of interest for any member, the Table Tennis England conflict of interest policy should be adhered to. Any member with a conflict of interest shall not be entitled to vote on that issue.

4. Eligibility

Table Tennis England will only select athletes for the EJP who:

1. Are affiliated to Table Tennis England, holding a valid Table Tennis England Player Licence and in good standing;
2. Are eligible to represent England in ITTF and ETTU approved competitions and have a valid British Passport;
3. Are not currently under disqualification or suspension under the rules of Table Tennis England or ITTF & ETTU;
4. Are not currently serving any sanction for an anti-doping rule violation under any relevant anti-doping rules;
5. Have provided Table Tennis England with a signed Acknowledgement (as set out at the end of the Selection Policy);
6. Have notified Table Tennis England that they wish to be considered for these squad and programmes by the deadline published below. Players are required to notify the performance

team that they wish to be considered for selection **no later than 30th June 2019**, by completing the relevant Table Tennis England Hopes & Aspire Online Application Form;

7. If selected, players will be required to sign a Team Members' Agreement to accept their place. The Agreement will include a code of conduct and a commitment to adhere to observe Table Tennis England sponsorship guidelines and to wear, if required, appropriate apparel;
8. Players who meet eligibility clause 1 and all of clause 2 above except they do not yet have a valid British passport can be considered eligible provided:
 - There are still spaces in the event they are seeking selection after all eligible players with a British passport have been considered;
 - The ETTU & ITTF have accepted that they can play under "England";
 - The players have met all other eligibility criteria.

5. Squad Overviews

- **Aspire** – Aimed at players aged 14 and under who can demonstrate a more stable technical ability (England Skills Awards Bronze Level or above), physicality (such as speed, endurance, core stability, strength) and other key performance attributes (such as concentration, attitude, determination, etc) from which to build further.

The programme will consist of a core camp programme made of residential training weekends, with additional training options being provided at points throughout the season.

- **Hopes** - Aimed at players aged 12 and under who can demonstrate some of the fundamental technical, physical and mental skills for the sport as set out in the England Hopes Entry Level sheet. As well as developing more the of fundamental elements, it will also work on learning how to train effectively for the sport.

The programme will consist 2 groups, with each group having a core camp programme made of training days and some residential training weekends.

(For all additional training opportunities, these will be offered to players who have clearly demonstrated to the satisfaction of the performance team that they are committed to improving as much as possible and finding out what they are capable of).

6. Selection Process

The selection process will consist of 3 stages:

1. Submission of completed of Online England Hopes & Aspire Application Form; https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSen0-ZYzb8kZLGcKVyOCxagWDlcoJ_ntv4E9JG2DoKtaLRVMw/viewform?usp=sf_link
2. Application reviewed with shortlisted players invited to attend the Hopes & Aspire Introduction & Assessment Day *(please note – you will only be required to attend one of the 2 days, which will be stipulated within your invitation);*
3. Following the Hopes & Aspire Introduction & Assessment Day, the Selection Panel will select and invite players to join either the England Hopes or England Aspire Squad for 2019/20.

7. Timings

May 2019	Applications open for England Hopes & Aspire Squads for 2019/20
30 th June 2019	Close Date for Applications

July 2019	Applications shortlisted and invitations sent
18 th & 19 th August 2019	England Hopes & Aspire Introduction & Assessment Days
By 22 nd August 2019	Players notified on selection

8. Provisional Programme for 2019/20

Hopes (Group 1)	Hopes (Group 2)	Aspire
14 th September	15 th September	7 th & 8 th September
12 th October	13 th October	5 th & 6 th October
24 th & 25 th October (Residential)	26 th & 27 th October (Residential)	19 th to 22 nd October
16 th November	17 th November	23 rd & 24 th November
14 th December	15 th November	7 th & 8 th December
11 th January	12 th January	25 th & 26 th January
21 st & 22 nd February (Residential)	23 rd February	17 th to 19 th February
7 th March	8 th March	14 th & 15 th March
6 th & 7 th April	8 th & 9 th April	11 th & 12 th April
2 nd May	3 rd May	25 th to 27 th May
29 th May	30 th to 31 st May (Residential)	20 th & 21 st June

Please note that the above is a provisional timetable and is subject to change dependant up any changes that may occur within the International and/or domestic calendars. All changes will be communicated at its earliest convenience. Dates highlighted in blue are training opportunity that may be provided in addition to the core training programme.

9. Medical

At the time of their invitation or selection, players may have their medical and/or musculoskeletal status confirmed by a nominated Table Tennis England Medical adviser.

Any player may, at any other time, be required by the programme manager to undergo fitness or medical assessments to ensure that they have maintained an adequate level of fitness to engage and perform to the best of their ability. The programme manager will specify the process by which an athlete is to confirm his or her continued health and fitness, which might include participating in certain events or undergoing fitness tests.

10. Media & Communication

All selected athletes are required to adhere to the Social Media guidance which can be found on the Table Tennis England website at the following address: <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/ETTA-Social-Media-Guidelines-2012.pdf>

All athletes, whether selected or not are required to keep the notification of their selection or non-selection confidential until such time as directed by the Table Tennis England.

11. De-Selection

Table Tennis England retains the right to deselect an athlete under any of the following circumstances:

- The player is no longer eligible for selection for this programme;
- The player does not adhere to the code of conduct or team members' agreement;
- The player in the sole opinion of the Selection Panel is no longer physically or mentally able to engage and/or perform at the level consistent with that which earned their initial selection;
- The player fails to comply with any reasonable training or competition programme set out by Table Tennis England performance staff and/or does not meet deadlines associated with specific benchmark levels;
- The player fails to comply with the entry processes and payment schedule detailed within this policy;
- The player does not pay all relevant fees or any payment is returned.

12. Notification

Eligible players will be notified in a blind carbon copy (BCC) group email to all applicants confirming who has been invited or selected. Players will no longer receive individual letters notifying them of non-selection. Instead all eligible players will receive the same email communicating the outcome of selection.

Except in exceptional circumstance ineligible players will not be notified or receive the above email.

The email will communicate the same information as the individual letters regarding the selection review process and the need for confidentiality until Table Tennis England make a team or selection announcement.

13. Payment

The cost of the programme for players who are selected and accept their place in the squad will be as follows:

- Aspire = £999.00
- Hopes = £565.00

These costs cover all equipment, training, accommodation and meals (for two/three day camps only with meals provided from the evening meal on the first day until lunch on the final day) and is non-refundable. Additional training opportunities will be costed individually and advised accordingly. As noted above, players are responsible for all their own costs associated with entering, travelling and competing in camps and events covered by this policy unless otherwise agreed in writing with Table Tennis England. If the player is under eighteen, then the parent or guardian who signed the self-funding form accepts full responsibility for this payment.

Players will not be entered for events unless all payments have been received in advance for such events and any domestic training camps.

Table Tennis England reserve the right to offer its limited funding to players for a range of the camps and events covered by this policy at its full and sole discretion. There is no right of appeal in the event that an athlete is not offered any funding support for various events.



ENGLAND



Table Tennis Squad

Acknowledgement

Each player shall acknowledge that they have read, understood and accepted these Selection Criteria and Guidelines by signing the enclosed copy and uploading this page within the England Hopes & Aspire Online Application Form. For any Under 18 athletes, a parent or guardian will also be required to sign the returned copy. Players should retain the second copy for their own records.

Eligible players who are not British passport holders accept that being entered by England may affect their future ability to represent another country and that any and all consequences are the players' responsibility.

Policy:

Table Tennis England Selection Policy

England Hopes & Aspire Squad Programme 2019/20

V 1.1

Acknowledged by:

Name _____ Signed _____ Date _____ (Athlete)

Name _____ Signed _____ Date _____
(Parent/Guardian)