

# Table Tennis England Selection Policy

## England Hopes & Aspire Squads 2020/21 Season

Version: 1.2

13<sup>th</sup> February 2020

### 1. Overview

This selection policy relates to the England Hopes (Hopes) & England Aspire Squad (Aspire) for 2020-2021. The Hopes & Aspire squads are training squads that form part of the England Performance Pathway (EPP).

### 2. Performance Pathway Philosophy, Purpose & Status

Our performance philosophy is to help players find out what they are capable of by putting in place a series of training squads and programmes designed to challenge players at every stage. This philosophy is underpinned by three key areas outlined in our PAC principles.

The training squads provide an opportunity for players, coaches and parents to understand the commitment and demands elite international table tennis requires. The programmes will work with people who want to share our philosophy and who are willing to commit fully to the programme we direct both on camp and in the players' daily training environment.

### 3. Selection Panel

A selection panel will be established comprising of:

- a) Table Tennis England Technical Director (Chair);
- b) Table Tennis England Programme Manager;
- c) 3 x Table Tennis England National / Assistant National Coaches.

In the event of a split-decision, the Chair will have the casting vote. Additional experts may be asked to provide evidence and/or advice 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 EPP 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 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020**, 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 Overview

The England Hopes & England Aspire are predominately aimed at players aged 14 and under\*. Player need to clearly demonstrate key traits in their character which are vital for performance. These include:

- Commitment;
- Resilience – need to have a “never say die” attitude;
- Problem solver – players who continually search to find a way in any situation;
- Ability to concentrate and focus in demanding and challenging situations;
- Positive attitude and determination to be better;
- Willingness and openness to learning;
- Strong work ethic – willing to push their capabilities and work in the “Ugly Zone”;
- Self-reliance;
- A team player.

### England Hopes Squad

The England Hopes squad is our introductory training programme. Players need to be able to demonstrate a sound technical ability, a physical foundation on which to build, ability to train with others. The programme will focus on developing more of the fundamental technical, tactical, physical and mental skills needed for the sport through the England Skills Award framework.

Players will also learn more on how to train effectively and how to develop other key physical and mental abilities they need to apply to their regular daily training in order to progress. The programme will consist of a combination of single training days and two days residential training camps across the year. It is our intention to have two Hopes group:

Hopes (Introductory) – Introduction to the performance pathway made up of a combination of single days and two-residential residential camps.

Hopes (Advanced) – For players that have demonstrated the initial ability to cope with the demands of the programme including more two-day residential camps and some single days' training.

### England Aspire Squad

The England Aspire Squad is our next training squad within the EPP. Players will be able to demonstrate a more stable technical ability (England Skills Awards Bronze Level or above), physicality (such as speed,

endurance, core stability, all round body 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. The programme will focus on developing further the technical, tactical, physical and mental skills needed for the sport through the England Skills Award framework. In applying for the training squads you are fully committing to the programme of activity that is set out, with this being prioritised over all other competition and training.

*(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)*

*\*In certain circumstances, the selection panel may consider inclusion of players who are over 14 years old*

## 6. Assessment & Selection Process

The assessment & selection process will consist of the following:

1. Submission of completed of online England Hopes & Aspire Application Form; <https://forms.gle/ejcrGcAqGgatQj198>;
2. Applications will be reviewed, with shortlisted players invited to attend the Hopes & Aspire Introduction & Assessment Day on the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020 *(please note – you will only be required to attend one of the two days, which will be stipulated within your invitation)*;
3. Players will be taken through a series of tasks and challenges both on and off the table which will measure players' technical, tactical, mental and physical attributes and abilities;
4. Following the England Hopes & Aspire Introduction & Assessment Day, the Selection Panel will select and invite players to join either the England Hopes or England Aspire Squad for the 2020/21 season.

## 7. Timings

February 2020	Applications open
30 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Application window closes
8 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Invitations to assessment day sent to shortlisted applicants
27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> June	England Hopes & Aspire assessment days
By 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Applicants notified of squad selections

## 8. Provisional Programme for 2020/21

Hopes (Introductory)	Hopes (Advanced)	Aspire (all residential)
12th Sep 2020	26th / 27th Sep 2020*	19th / 20th Sep 2020
30th Oct 2020	31st Oct / 1st Nov 2020*	10th / 11th Oct 2020
7th / 8th Nov 2020*	14th / 15th Nov 2020*	26th / 27th Oct 2020
5th Dec 2020	6th Dec 2020	28th / 29th Nov 2020
30th Jan 2021	16th / 17th Jan 2021*	19th / 20th Dec 2020
16th Feb 2021	18th / 19th Feb 2021*	2nd / 3rd Jan 2021
27th / 28th Mar 2021	29th / 30th Mar 2021*	13th to 15th Feb 2021
10th Apr 2021	11th Apr 2021	13th / 14th Mar 2021
16th May 2021	15th May 2021	3rd to 5th Apr 2021
5th Jun 2021	3rd / 4th Jun 2021*	1st / 2nd May 2021
		29th to 31st May 2021
		19th / 20th Jun 2021

\*Residential Camp

*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.*



## 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: <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/our-sport/safeguarding/social-media-guidelines/>

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:

- England Aspire Squad = £1399.00
- England Hopes Squad (Introductory) = £499.00
- England Hopes Squad (Advanced) = £875.00



ENGLAND



Table Tennis Squad

These costs cover all training, equipment, 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. 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.

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.

## Acknowledgement

In applying for the training squads you are fully committing to the programme of activity that is set out, with this being prioritised over all other competition and training.

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.

Policy:

### Table Tennis England Selection Policy

England Hopes & Aspire Squad Programme 2020/21

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Acknowledged by:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ (Athlete)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian)