

National Council Question for the Performance Department

Question;

What is the grand total of all payments made to TTE by under 18s for membership of the various squads? If TTE ended these payments what increase in the affiliation fee would be required to recoup the shortfall?

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Thank you for your questions regarding funding of the England youth programmes. The current situation with Covid-19 means that the performance programmes have not been able to operate as normal, and as such the contribution being made by players' currently reflects this. For the purposes of the question, the following information is based on a full season of activity based upon the programmes that were originally intended for 2020/21.

In principle, the performance team agree that national training and international competitions should be something that is fully funded by the NGB. However, the talent investment from Sport England is not sufficient enough to be able to deliver a full programme of training and competition needed at key stages of a players' development. Therefore a contribution from players is necessary. It is also worth noting that players have been contributing to their attendance at national training for many years, and in fact predate the recent England Youth or latterly the England Junior Squads. In those times, players paid per camp, with the 2014 change to make it an annual fee and requirement to commit to the whole year.

The following information has been split into two sections:

1. Costs based on current programmes;
2. Projected costs based on an ideal training and competition programme.

Costs based on current programmes

Based on what was originally set out to be delivered, the costs of these programmes are as follows:

	Core Training programme	Optional Additional Training (1)	Optional Competition (2)	Total Individual Cost	Total number of players	Total Cost
Junior Training Group	£699.00	£2,800.00	£2,400.00	£5,899.00	13	£76,687.00
Aspire Group	£1,399.00	£700.00	£700.00	£2,799.00	18	£50,382.00
Hopes Group	£875.00	£0.00	£0.00	£875.00	18	£15,750.00
TOTAL						£142,819.00

**excludes accommodation, food and travel costs*

1 Junior Training Group players on average attended four number of additional international training camps which they pay for, these costs depend greatly on the location and type of camp but for these purposes have been assumed to be a 6 day camp in Europe at £700 per camp. Aspire currently attend one additional training camp per year.

2. Junior Training Group players on average attend four international competitions which they pay for, these costs depend greatly on the location and type of competition but for these purposes have been assumed to be an ITTF event in Europe at an average cost of £700 per competition. Aspire squad players are averaging one competition per year currently.

Core costs for running national training camps are covered through the investment we receive for Talent through Sport England. These costs include:

- Venue hire;
- Core national coaching staff and associated cost, eg, accommodation, travel, etc;
- Equipment, eg, balls, physical training equipment, etc;
- Additional specialists as required, eg S&C personnel or nutritionists.

In addition, Table Tennis England pay the costs of attending major championships and certain other high profile events. Table Tennis England send staff to support and observe players at international events that they chose to attend.

The subsidised costs made by each player covers the additional resource needed to be able to operate. These costs include:

- Additional Coaching staff, training partners and associated costs, eg, accommodation, travel, etc;
- Players accommodation, food and travel during camp.

For the Junior Training Group, accommodation has not been included in the overall cost as it was preferred by players' parents to have the option to make their own accommodation arrangements in order to reduce the overall programme amount. Whilst this has been adopted, it does reduce the training, learning and team building opportunity for the squad.

Based on delivering the core programmes with additional training opportunities and competitions, the additional funding needed would be £142,819. Based on an overall membership total of 25000 members, this would equate to an additional £5.71 per member, per annum.

Player Funding

As you may be aware, a number of the youth squad players' are in receipt of funding assistance which the performance department have secured. The following awards have been sourced through SportsAid:

- **Backing the Best Award** – a £5000 award for talented athletes on a performance pathway that due to financial restrictions are unable to access the resource they need. Household income needs to be £55,000 or lower in order for a player to be eligible (in some instances, other factors are able to be taken into account);
- **SportsAid Award** – Awards are made directly to the athlete and vary from between £100 to £1000 (depending upon the funding SportsAid have been able to source from the athlete's local area)

The following table gives an overview of the funding that has been received for the current financial year:

SQUAD	BACKING THE BEST AWARDS NOMINATED	SPORTSAID AWARDS NOMINATED	TOTAL BACKING THE BEST AMOUNT RECEIVED TO DATE	TOTAL SPORTSAID AMOUNT RECEIVED TO DATE	TOTAL ADDITIONAL SUPPORT RECEIVED
Junior Training Group	6	3	£30,000.00	£2,000.00	£32,000.00
Aspire	3	7	£15,000.00	£1,000.00	£16,000.00
Hopes	0	0	£-	£-	£-
				TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED	£ 48,000.00

Projected costs for the ideal training and competition programme

Another perspective to this question would be to review what the cost would look like if a more comprehensive training and competition programme was in place. This would involve a greater amount of contact time in terms of training on national camps and include a more significant competition programme at every level.

Currently, players average four international events per year, however projected changes to the ITTF ranking system will mean a players' best results in their last eight events are used to formulate their ranking. This means that in order to give English players' the best opportunity to gain a strong ranking on the World stage, they will be required to compete much more regularly. Other European players are competing more regularly and form a much younger age than English players currently do, therefore exposing our younger players to the right level of international competition from an earlier age as part of their development.

	Core Training programme	Additional Training (1)	Competition (2)	Total Individual Cost	Total number of players	Total Cost
Junior Training Group	£1,100.00	£4,320.00	£6,400.00	£11,820.00	13	£153,660.00
Aspire Group	£990.00	£3,160.00	£3,200.00	£7,350.00	18	£132,300.00
Hopes Group	£880.00	£2,180.00	£1,600.00	£4,660.00	18	£83,880.00
TOTAL						£369,840.00

The figures in the previous table give an approximate forecast on what the various elements of the programmes would cost. Overall, this programme would cost in the region of £370,000 per annum. Usxing the current funding received to subsidies the ideal programme cost, the additional amount of funding would be in the region of £300,000 per annum. Based on an overall membership total of 25000 members, this would equate to an additional £12.00 per member, per annum.

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