

Table Tennis England Selection Policy

England Aspire Squad 2021/22 Season

Version: 1.0

August 2021

1. Policy Purpose

This selection policy relates to the England Aspire Squad for 2021-2022 season. The England Aspire Squad is the intermediate level national training programme which is part of the Table Tennis England Performance Pathway.

2. Performance Pathway Philosophy, Purpose & Status

Our performance philosophy is to help players find out what they are capable. To achieve this, a series of training squads and programmes have been put in place to challenge players at every stage of development. This philosophy is underpinned by three key areas outlined in our PAC principles (player skill, athlete skill, competition skill).

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 share our philosophy and 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 Head of England Performance (Chair);
- b) Table Tennis England Head Coach;
- c) Table Tennis England Aspire Squad Lead Coach

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 England Aspire Squad 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. Born 2006 or later;
4. Meet one or more of the following:
 - Ranked in the top 30 players in the cadet age category on the latest Table Tennis England ranking list, or;



- Reached the knock-out stages of the 2021 Junior / Cadet National Championships;
 - Reached the quarter-final stages of the 2021 u13 National Championships;
 - Can complete the England Skills Award – Silver Level to the expected standard of the performance team;
5. Are not currently under disqualification or suspension under the rules of Table Tennis England or ITTF & ETTU;
 6. Are not currently serving any sanction for an anti-doping rule violation under any relevant anti-doping rules;
 7. Have provided Table Tennis England with a signed Acknowledgement (as set out at the end of the Selection Policy);
 8. 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 17TH SEPTEMBER 2021**, by completing the relevant Table Tennis England Aspire Online Application Form;
 9. If selected, players will be required to sign the Table Tennis England Performance Code of Conduct 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;
 10. 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:
 - o There are still spaces in the event they are seeking selection after all eligible players with a British passport have been considered;
 - o The ETTU & ITTF have accepted that they can play under “England”;
 - o The players have met all other eligibility criteria.

5. Squad Overview

Players’ 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.

The England Aspire squad is the Table Tennis England intermediate training programme. Players need to be able to demonstrate a sound technical ability, physical foundation on which to build and the 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. All players who apply and for the England Aspire Squad are agreeing to commit to the following programme:



- Attend all England Aspire Camp – this activity to be prioritised over any other training / competition activity;
- Commit to a minimum of 14 hours on-table training per week in their local club(s). This excludes competition play such as local league matches, star rated competitions;
- To nominate a primary table tennis coach who will be the single point of contact which performance and player specific information will also be shared with (please note this cannot be a parent / guardian unless the parent / guardian is the qualified and recognised coach of that player);
- To relay learning and feedback from training camp activity to the players' primary coach. Each player will have specific areas of development to focus on from each camp which the player must demonstrate improvement in the next time they attend a Aspire training camp.

The programme takes a holistic approach to the players', developing them not only technically, but also developing their ability to engage in purposeful practice which enhances the ability to learn, as well as develop other key physical and mental abilities that are needed in performance. Training will be demanding in many ways, with players challenged and operating outside their comfort zone.

This season's programme will be more extensive, with a greater number of training camps and the opportunity for players to be selected for fully funded international training and competitions at particular times in the season. Selection to these opportunities is subject to the players continually demonstrating the commitment, work rate and volume necessary in order to progress.

6. Assessment, Selection Process and Programme Structure

The assessment & selection process will consist of the following:

1. Submission of completed of online England Aspire Application Form;
<https://forms.gle/CmcaPD9USTwvyJB29>
2. Applications will be reviewed, with shortlisted players invited to attend the Aspire Introduction & Assessment and training weekend on the of 25th & 26th September 2021;
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 Aspire Assessment and Training weekend, the Selection Panel will select and invite players to join the following England Hopes Training Camp.

7. Provisional Programme for 2020/21

For all England Aspire training camps, players and parents will be required to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Dates for the 2021/22 Hopes programme are as follows:

- 25th & 26th September
- 9th & 10th October
- 20th & 21st November
- 11th & 12th December
- 22nd & 23rd January
- 26th & 27th February
- 19th & 20th March
- 23rd & 24th April
- 28th & 29th May
- 11th & 12th June

(International training and competition dates to be shared when confirmed)

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.



8. 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 Head of England Performance 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.



12. 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 2021/22 Full Cost (approx.) = £2300.00
- Table Tennis England contribution per player = £1600.00
- Total contribution to be made per player = £700.00

These costs cover all coaching, training, and equipment costs. If opportunities arise, additional training opportunities may be offered individually and with costs 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 should the financial contribution be a determining factor to a players' application. Decisions on any possible funding support are at the full and sole discretion of the Table Tennis England Performance Department. There is no right of appeal in the event that a player is not offered any funding support.



ENGLAND



Table Tennis Squad

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 Aspire Squad Programme 2021/22

v1.0

Acknowledged by:

Name _____ Signed _____ Date _____ (Athlete)

Name _____ Signed _____ Date _____
(Parent/Guardian)