

England Talent Pathways 25/26

The following document is to provide you information about the eligibility, details and commitment of being part of the EK Talent Pathway for 25/26.

Key Information:

In addition to the open session held in Birmingham on 26th July, EK are holding a further open session for assessment into one of our EK Talent Pathways on either 6th or 13th September.

We are now at a stage where competition across, within and outside of our talent pathways is expanding, and as such the expectations on commitment to gain a place within one of the pathways is high and is a distinguishing factor for selection. All players will be expected to provide an early indication of commitment across a whole year programme and their place within a programme will be subject to this commitment. Dates for 2025/2026 can be found in the attached document [‘2026 England Performance Programme Dates’](#).

Coaching Staff

Many of our coaching staff remain the same as previous years, but we are delighted to welcome some new additions to the coaching teams and support staff. In addition to the coaching staff we are really pleased to welcome the additional support for athletes at our training camps with a Physio lead and Sports Psychology team.

Academy:

Davesh Patel, Chelsie Browne, Gary Cole

DTS:

Saskia Carr Taylor, Tom Woolmer, Andrew Bovey

ETS:

Interim Lead - Mike Hopkinson

Athlete Support Staff:

Finance Support - Kim Oakhill

Head of Athletic preparation & S&C Lead - Pete Wallett

Head of Physiotherapy: Charlotte Gallavan

Head of Sport Psychology & Support staff: Matt Wigglesworth, Dani Fort, Paige Seggery, Sophie Jones.

We are seeking two additional support roles within the Performance Programme, with adverts shortly to go out:

Welfare Support Officer and Operations Support. If you are interested or know anyone who may be interested in these roles or would like further information, please email Steph Watson for further details.

Pathway Eligibility Criteria:

Academy

- To be an athlete in the Academy you need to be aged 15 Years by 1st January 2026.
- The squad selected will be no more than 34 athletes. Selection is based across a number of metrics, observations and assessments made by coaches for elite athlete korfball potential.
- The focus of this squad is to develop core and fundamental training habits which prepare young athletes for ongoing England Pathway programmes including DTS and ETS for international success.
- Athletes within this pathway are eligible for Flanders International, International friendlies for U17, and IKF U17 World Cup

DTS:

- To be an athlete in the DTS you need to be aged 17 Years by 1st January 2026.
- The squad selected will be no more than 34 athletes. Selection is based across a number of metrics, observations and assessments made by coaches for elite athlete korfball potential.
- The focus of this squad is to develop elite training habits and to support our ETS Squads for international success. Players within this squad are deemed to be 1-4 years away from ETS standard.
- If you are a GB Student/University entrance athlete you should have played at least 1 years Korfball. Any Academy athletes who wished to be assessed for DTS selection should continue in the Academy programme and will be assessed for selection through session attendance as normal. All eligible Academy athletes will automatically be considered for DTS selection.
- Athletes within this pathway are eligible for U19, U21, International friendlies for U19/U21, Talent Challenge, Tri Nations.

ETS:

- ETS athletes need to fulfil all criteria of DTS athletes, including age. ETS athletes are considered those already achieving elite performance outcomes observed and measured across a range of outcomes.
- Therefore to be an athlete in the ETS you need to be aged 17 Years by 1st January 2026.
- The squad selected will be no more than 34 athletes. Selection is based across a number of metrics, observations and assessments made by coaches. As the pinnacle of sporting achievement and excellence, and also to develop the culture and playing synergy required at international level, this pathway demands the highest levels of commitment across a number of sessions over the year. These sessions are both planned for competition cycles (preparation sessions) and across the off-season

to allow squad players to continue to meet and develop the culture, performance and tactical skill that elite level performance demands.

Registration for athletes:

For any athlete who is either:

- new to the talent pathway programme;
- part of the ETS 2024/2025 (as you will not have previously completed a registration);
- were an athlete in Academy/DTS which left/joined during the 2024/25 season;

You will be required to register for 2025/2026.

To be eligible for the first open session in September, you must complete the following registration form and payment for the session which is £30.

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/b5bd60fa535242bfb350a4feb9f74224>

Payment can be made here:

<https://buytickets.at/englandkorfball/1803309>

Many thanks,

Stephanie Watson

England Korfball Performance Lead

stephanie.watson@englandkorfball.co.uk