

ENGLAND TALENT SQUAD

(including Welsh and Northern Irish athletes)
Part of the GB Climbing Pathway

Lead and Boulder Disciplines

The England Talent Squad will support athletes in developing their performance standards and styles through the key areas of technical, tactical, physical, psychological, nutrition and lifestyle, whilst maintaining GB Climbing core values of Health, Performance and Respect.

It will provide holistic talent development and competitive opportunities for junior and youth athletes to aim to transition towards future international competition and/or other pathway opportunities.

England Talent Squad

Athletes who achieve selection to the Talent (or Development) Squads for Scotland & England (including Welsh and Northern Irish athletes) will remain in their regional talent squads for localised progressive individual support and will gain additional development experiences through the England Talent Squad residential camps with the pathway coaching team.

The residential camps will focus on the development of the personal skills including technical, tactical, physical, mental, health and well-being and support athletes in understanding and bridging the gap from national to international level. The England Talent Squad will act as an introduction to a performance culture. Athletes should have already developed a high technical skill level, coupled with high physical awareness, physical literacy and be able to apply more advanced performance skills with support in all aspect of performance that they require as an individual.

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Aim of the England Talent Squad

- Athletes will learn how health and wellbeing is at the core of performance in all areas of an athlete's life.
- Athletes will develop their own Individual Athlete Development Plan (IADP) and develop skills in goal setting, planning and preparing for competitions.
- Receive residential camp support and education from specialist practitioners.
- Athletes will receive high support so they can thrive in a competition or challenging climbing experience, take the learnings from it and deliver personal best performances.
- Athletes will understand their own building blocks of what makes a successful performance for them.
- Introduce athletes to performance culture and international competition standards.

How we do it

- Provide meaningful group and individual development opportunities at residential camps for selected athletes by creating a training, development and competitive environment that is supportive, fun and holistic, with athlete health and well-being core to everything we do.
- Develop the skills, experience and attributes required for a talented athlete to progress and be ready to successfully transition into the performance and high-performance pathways.

Costs of the England Talent Squad Camps

- Squad Kit (1 x Tee Shirt and 1 x Hoodie) approx. cost of £30
- 2 UK Based Camp @ approx. £500 per camp.
- 1* Europe based training camp @ approx. £1000
- Additional cost of attending selection events as part of the selection processes, domestic competition program, and the regional squad program.

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Expectations of Athletes

As a member of the England Talent Squad athletes are expected to:

- Develop their Individual Athlete Development Plan (IADP) with Pathway coaches outlining preparation, planning and goals.
- Attend all training camps.
- Cooperate fully with others involved in the sport such as coaches, technical officials, GB Climbing staff in the best interests of the yourself and other athletes.
- Be prepared to push yourself and make mistakes, remembering that 'failure' is part of the learning process.
- Role model athlete behavior and be an example to other aspiring climbers and athletes around the world.

Expectations of Parents

Parents of a member of the England Talent Squad are expected to:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete, coach, technical official, GB Climbing staff and others involved in climbing and treat everyone equally.
- Cooperate fully with others involved in the sport such as coaches, technical officials, team managers, medics and representatives of the governing body in the best interests of the yourself and other athletes and parents.
- Consistently promote positive aspects of the sport such as fair play and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited or age-inappropriate substances.
- Assist in creating an inclusive environment in which everybody can participate and be supported.

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2023 Selection Overview

All athletes will follow the following selection process;

Stage 1;

- Nomination form sent to England Talent Manager from the Regional Pathway Coach along with a completion of an initial goal setting and 'roadmap' plan (part of IADP), by the deadline specified in the selection framework.
- Athlete is invited to attend a specified selection event

Stage 2;

The following criteria will then be considered by the selection panel in making selection decisions;

- Performance standard achieved at the specified selection event (National Trials February and/or March 2023). This standard will be aligned to standards for the relevant age and stage for the England Talent Squad.
 - Current planning is that the following selection events will take place in late February and early March (dates and venues TBC)
 - National Trials Boulder 1 – Senior, Junior and Youth A
 - National Trials Boulder 2 – Youth B
 - National Trials Lead – Senior, Junior, Youth A and Youth B
- Coach observations recorded at the Selection Event.
- Historical International 2022 IFSC competition results.
- Whether athlete is part of a UK Sport named athlete program

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2024 Selection Overview

All athletes will follow the following selection process;

Stage 1;

- Nomination form sent to England Talent Manager from Pathway Coach along with a completion of an initial goal setting and 'roadmap' plan (part of IADP), by the deadline specified in the selection framework.
- Be a member of the England Talent Squad 2023
- Achievement of a podium position at one or more of the following;
 - JBBC and/or JBLCC in 2023
 - BBC and/or BLCC in 2023
 - Nations Cup Series Round (Lead or boulder) in 2023

Stage 2;

The following criteria will then be considered by the selection panel in making selection decisions;

- Performance standard achieved at the specified selection event (TBC Autumn 2023)
- Coach observations recorded at the selection event.
- Review of competition results achieved in 2023 season (both Domestic and International)
- Whether athlete is part of a UK Sport named athlete program

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Timeframes:

The selection process and frameworks are under review, and being developed against the new 2023 pathway, therefore information given in this overview maybe subject to change as final approval is sought in November 2022.

Eligibility Criteria

The athletes eligible for selection in 2023 will be born in the following years:

2023 age category	Youth B		Youth A		Junior	
Year of birth	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Age	14	15	16	17	18	19

The athletes eligible for selection in 2024 will be born in the following years:

2024 age category	Youth B		Youth A		Junior	
Year of birth	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Age	14	15	16	17	18	19



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- Athletes must hold a UK passport.
- Athletes must be members of the BMC, due to it being the recognised GB federation by the IFSC.
- If an athlete is Scottish and a member of Mountaineering Scotland they will be given a 1-year complimentary membership with the BMC to enable them to obtain an IFSC athlete competition licence and access the GB Climbing group insurance.
- Athletes will have no outstanding arrears with GB Climbing and/or the BMC at the start of 2023.