



**England National Performance
Pathway Selection Policy
(Rhythmic)
2020 onwards**

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This policy will apply to the Programme for 2020 and thereafter until this policy is replaced or updated.

Programme Terms & Conditions

Section 1: Eligibility for Selection

Any athlete wishing to be considered for selection must be eligible as outlined below and submit the appropriate selection event entry / expression of interest declaration by the relevant deadline, as may be applicable each year. In addition, upon selection they must sign a copy of the current version of the English Gymnastics Athlete Agreement and abide by the rules and regulations applicable.

Nationality

Athletes are required to fulfil the below requirements, in order to be deemed eligible to represent England:

- You are a British Citizen, holding a British Passport (or can demonstrate that you are in the process of obtaining British Citizenship and/or Passport) and have lived in England for a period exceeding 48 months during Your life;
- for the relevant disciplines, You must be eligible according to the Commonwealth Games of England Criteria;
- You are not a member of a Gymnastics Squad of any other country or territory, including but not limited to any other Home Nation;
- You have not previously represented any other country or territory, including but not limited to any other home nation, unless, in respect of another Commonwealth country, the approvals required by Byelaw 17(3) [Constitutional Documents of the Commonwealth Games Federation](#) (CGF) have been obtained;
- Your mother, father or at least one grandparent were born in England (please identify the person and your relationship in the application)
- If You do not meet any of the above Criteria, but wish to be considered for selection, You may petition to the English Gymnastics Approval Panel in writing via the [EGA Admin Manager](#). The Approval Panel's decision in this regard shall be final.
- The Approval Panel shall consist of the EGA Chairman and EGA Vice Chairman, together with the individual England Technical Committee Chairperson and England National Coach, of the specific gymnastics discipline within which You are seeking to compete.

Programme Selection

The Programme consists of two sections – the Performance Programme and the Potential Programme. The Performance Programme is for gymnasts who will be of senior age at the next Commonwealth Games. The Potential Programme is for gymnasts who will be of senior

age at the Commonwealth Games after the next Games. Athletes are required to fulfil the below requirements, in order to be deemed eligible to be part of the Programme:

- Are a current member of British Gymnastics
- Pass the most recent British Qualification Testing (BQT)
- Gymnasts must be eligible to apply for an FIG licence should they be required for competition

NB. If a gymnast does not fully meet any of the above Programme Selection criteria but wishes to attend a Selection Event or submit an expression of interest declaration, the coach of the gymnast may present a petition to the RG Technical Committee Chair and England Performance Pathway Manager **in writing at least six weeks before** the Selection Event / deadline for submissions of expression of interest declarations (as applicable each year) requesting permission to attend the selection event / submit an expression of interest declaration. The petition must explain why the coach believes that the gymnast is of the relevant standard to be considered for selection and how they qualify as English and this must be supported by evidence of the gymnast's situation. The RG Technical Committee Chair and England Performance Pathway Manager's decision as to whether to accept a petition shall be final. Decisions on these matters are not open to appeal.

Section 2. Selection Panels

The selection panels may vary depending on which squad is being considered. However as standard practice to ensure an EGA overview and consistency, the England National Coaches, the RG Technical Committee Chair and the Performance Pathway Manager will be present at all selection meetings. The key responsibilities of these Panels are:

- a) Proposing and Agreeing the selection policy for all ENG squads and competitions.
- b) Holding selection meetings in accordance with the selection process.
- c) Communication and feedback to the selected individuals.

Section 3. Overview of Selection Process

The following process will be followed for each of the Performance and Potential sections of the Programme:

- **Selection**

In around November each year, the Selection Panel will select the Athletes, who in the expert opinion of the Selection Panel have the best capability of contributing to British Gymnastics long-term vision of World & Olympic success aligned to the 'What It Takes to Win' framework.

Nominated Programme athletes must agree an Individual Athlete Plan (targets, development & competition routines and competition calendar/events) with the England National Coaches.

Nominated Programme athletes will be required to undertake all RG programme activities (camps, additional training at LNSC and/or HPC and competitions) laid out by the England National Coaches.

Nominated athletes must also agree to observe all obligations outlined within the English Gymnastics' Performance Athlete Agreement 2017 – 21 and any subsequent Codes of Behaviour adopted by English Gymnastics.

- **Induction & Confirmation**

This is a dedicated period of time (typically 3 months) that allows an athlete and England Coaching Team to assess a variety of skills, knowledge and attributes aligned to what English Gymnastics feels it takes to progress through the England Pathway to the GBR programmes, to ensure membership of the programme for the remainder of the year.

- **Full Programme Member**

If after the induction and confirmation phase, the England Coaching Team are happy with the progress being made by an athlete, they will officially remain on the programme for the remainder of the year. Those that have not made the standard will be informed accordingly. Considerations / Athlete assessments and feedback will be made on an ongoing basis as part of an athlete's membership to the programme regarding whether an athlete moves up or down the pathway (including between Performance and Potential sections of the Programme) or are removed from the Programme altogether.

Section 4. General Information

In the event of injury, removal and/or the need for replacement, any eligible athlete may be called upon to join the Programme at any time.

Once Programme selections have been confirmed all selected athletes must agree not to withhold any information on training fitness, injury status or illness that could affect training or competition at any time.

An athlete may be removed from the Programme by the England Coaching Team in the event of a non-compliance in training, lack of performance progression, a breach of responsibility to the Programme or a violation of the Codes of Behaviour adopted by the Programme. Written justification for all removals must be provided by the National Coaching Team to the RG Technical Chair. Prior to removal the athlete will be presented with the opportunity to attend a removal interview with the Performance Pathway Manager, RG Technical Committee Chair (or their appointed representative) and where possible one other independent person. Decisions on these matters are not open to appeal.

At any stage following the Programme selection announcement, should there be a doubt over the ability of an athlete to train or compete to the best of his/her ability due to an injury or illness, the following procedure will be adhered to:

The athlete will be asked to undergo a medical examination to determine their fitness to participate. Initially this will be based on an assessment of whether the injury and/or illness is such that the athlete is physically unable to train or is at risk of causing medical harm to

themselves or endangering other Programme members. Any replacement(s) required will be made by Performance Pathway Manager and England National Coaches based on the needs of the Programme. Decisions on these matters are not open to appeal.

Selected Programme Members agree not to make any announcement to the media or public in any form (including on any personal media) regarding their selection until English Gymnastics have announced the Programme selection on the English Gymnastics pages via the British Gymnastics website (www.british-gymnastics.org/england/squads).

Section 5. Appeals

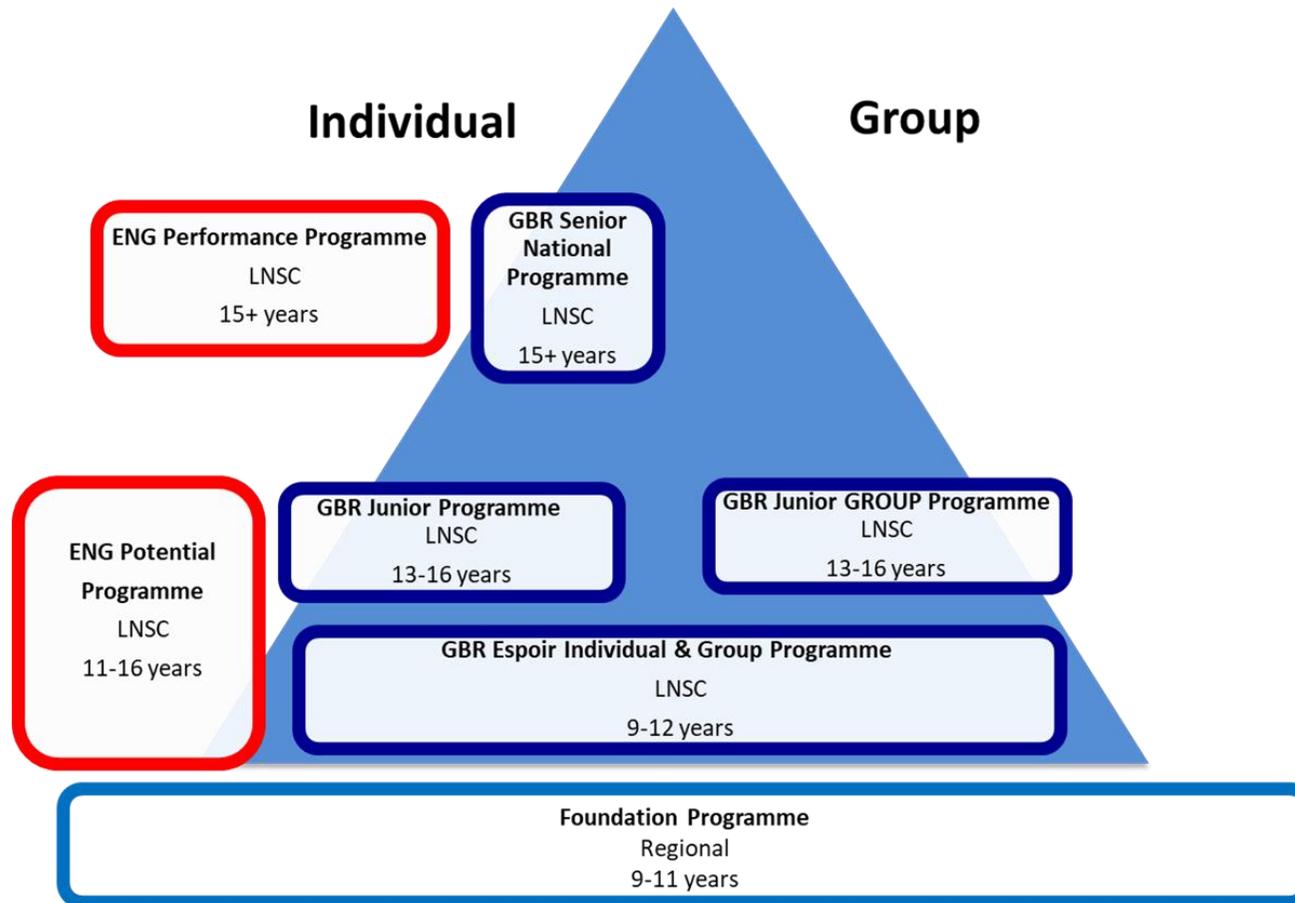
There is no appeals process for individual athletes not selected to attend the National Performance Pathway Programme. Should a gymnast feel that her de-selection / selection is unjust, her coach must formally write to the Performance Pathway Manager with details.

Section 6. Anti-Doping

Athletes must be compliant with the British Gymnastics anti-doping policy at all times. The National Coaching Team reserve the right not to nominate, select and /or deselect any athlete from the National Performance Pathway Programme and/or any competitions, on the basis of failure to comply with the [British Gymnastics anti-doping policy](#).

Section 7. Performance Pathway Programme

GBR and England Performance Pathway Rhythmic Gymnastics



Performance Pathway Programme – Selection Processes

Selection processes for ENG Performance and Potential Sections of the Programme

Gymnasts will be selected for each year of the Programme in around November in the previous year.

Gymnasts selected for the Programme will be expected to undertake all Programme activities (camps and competitions) laid out by the England Coaching Team. It is expected that 5 camps of 3 days each will be held each year. All gymnasts who are selected must attend the whole of each camp.

A coach from each club which has a gymnast selected for the Programme must attend at least 1 full camp (including 2 overnight stays and pastoral care duties). This will be a funded place for the coach. A spreadsheet will be sent out to all coaches of selected gymnasts with the camps for the year, and the pastoral care duties will for each camp will be allocated to the coaches on a first come first served basis. A coach from each club must also attend at least 1 full day of each camp to further develop with their gymnast; this is a non-funded place for the coach. Failure by a coach to adhere to this requirement may result in the relevant gymnast being de-selected or suspended from participation in the Programme.

Up to 15 gymnasts will be selected across the two sections of the Programme.

PERFORMANCE SECTION OF THE PROGRAMME

Performance Targets

1. To win medal(s) at the next Commonwealth Games
2. To show steady improvement in both difficulty and execution scores to achieve the above.
3. More specific targets to be set by the England Coaching Team throughout the period of the Programme.

The Selection Panel will take into consideration performances at the following events when selecting athletes for the Performance section of the Programme;

1. British Championships (in the year prior to the year for which the athlete is being considered for the Programme)
2. English Championships (in the year prior to the year for which the athlete is being considered for the Programme)
3. Domestic competitions (including controlled/trial event results) and international competitions (being FIG international competitions or those internationals where the athlete was representing ENG or GBR) which have taken place between January – October in the year prior to the year for which the athlete is being considered for the Programme.
4. Any profiling / selection event to which the Selection Panel may invite some or all athletes wishing to be considered for selection to the Programme.

POTENTIAL PROGRAMME

Performance Targets

1. To progress to the Performance Programme in the run up to the next or immediately following Commonwealth Games
2. To show continual improvement measured by individual performance at the BQT.
3. To show continual improvement measured by gradual increase in Difficulty and Execution scores
4. More specific targets to be set by the England Coaching Team throughout the period of the Programme.

The Selection Panel will take into consideration performances at the following events when selecting athletes for the Potential section of the Programme;

1. English Championships each year
2. Any profiling / selection event to which the Selection Panel may invite some or all athletes wishing to be considered for selection to the Programme

Section 3: The Programme

Should gymnasts be selected onto the programme they will be expected to self-fund their attendance for both camps and competitions.

Participation in any of the Performance Programmes is optional. Athletes may decline the invitation, however once an athlete has accepted the offer, there is an expectation that the athlete will fully commit to all the requirements of the programme including the associated policies, procedures and agreed training, competition goals within the Individual Athlete Plan (IAP).

Selection to England designated International competitions is restricted to England Programme gymnasts.

- Programme selection period (length of time an athlete can expect to be on the Programme from the point of selection)
 - January – March in the relevant year (Induction period)
 - April – December in the relevant year
- Programme athletes must agree a RG Individual Athlete Plan (targets, development & competition routines and competition calendar/events) with the England National Coaches.
- Programme athletes will be required to undertake all RG programme activities (camps, additional training at LNSC and/or HPC and competitions) laid out by England National Coaches.
- Should an athlete be invited to attend another programme in the same or different discipline this should be discussed with the appropriate National Coaches prior to attendance.
- Programme athletes will be considered for selection to ENG minor internationals in consultation between English and British Gymnastics.

Programme athletes must also agree to observe all obligations outlined within the current version of English Gymnastics' Performance Athlete Agreement and any subsequent Codes of Behaviour adopted by English Gymnastics.