

Table Tennis England Selection Policy

England DiSE Programme 2020/21 Season

Version: 1.3

May 2020

1. Overview

This selection policy relates to the Table Tennis England Diploma in Sporting Excellence (DiSE) Programme for 2020-2021. DiSE, is a training and education programme that forms part of the England Performance Pathway (EPP).

2. Programme Pathway Philosophy, Purpose & Status

Our performance philosophy is to help players find out what they are capable of by putting in place a series of training squads and programmes designed to challenge players at every stage. This philosophy is underpinned by three key areas outlined in our PAC principles.

The programme will help players better understand the commitment and demands elite international table tennis and performance sport requires by providing national, and where appropriate international training and competition opportunities alongside an educational framework.

3. Selection Panel

A selection panel will be established comprising of:

- a) Table Tennis England Technical Director
- b) Table Tennis England Programme Manager (Chair);
- c) Table Tennis England DiSE Programme Lead;

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 DiSE programme 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. Are not currently under disqualification or suspension under the rules of Table Tennis England or ITTF & ETTU;
4. Are not currently serving any sanction for an anti-doping rule violation under any relevant anti-doping rules;
5. Have provided Table Tennis England with a signed Acknowledgement (as set out at the end of the Selection Policy);

6. Are aged between 16 to 18 (or aged 19 to 24 if you have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan), when you start the programme;
7. Will be in either a state funded study programme or attending a fee-paying school under the following conditions;
 - a. State funded programme – are studying towards either an academic (eg A-level) or technical qualification (eg, NVQ, or City & Guilds);
 - b. Fee-paying school – under the following circumstances you can be considered for DiSE if:
 - i. You are / will be in receipt of a school’s means-tested bursary of at least 50% fee remission, or;
 - ii. In receipt of a talent / ability-based scholarship of at least 50%, but were this not to be the case then you would have otherwise qualified for your school’s means-tested bursary of at least 50% fee remission, or;
 - iii. At least 50% of your student fees are being paid for by the third sector organisation but were this not the case then you would have otherwise qualified for your school’s means-testing of at least 50% fee remission.
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 **30th June 2020** by completing the relevant Table Tennis England DiSE Online Application Form;
9. If selected, players will be required to sign a Team Members’ Agreement 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:
 - a. There are still spaces in the event they are seeking selection after all eligible players with a British passport have been considered;
 - b. The ETTU & ITTF have accepted that they can play under “England”;
 - c. The players have met all other eligibility criteria.

5. Squad Overview

The DiSE programme is targeted at players who are aged between 16 to 18 years old who wish to continue to pursue the performance level of our sport whilst they continue their full time, further education. Selected members of this squad need to clearly demonstrate their commitment to improve as well as showing the key traits of 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

6. Programme Structure

This is a two year programme and consists of two key areas;

- (i) **Training** – Players will be brought together for training weekends led by the DiSE Programme Lead and supported by the full time National Coaches / Assistant National Coach. The camps will include both on the table training and off the table physical conditioning. There will be approximately 4 training camps per season, and where deemed appropriate, additional training and competition opportunities in the UK or abroad.
- (ii) **Education** – Players will complete a portfolio of work which focuses on multiple elements of performance sport (for example, nutrition, goals setting, programme planning, etc), with players, to clearly demonstrate and evidence how they are applying this learning to their daily training programmes. The programme will bring in specialist tutors and experts where necessary to talk through different aspects of performance sport.

The programme works with two primary delivery sites at Grantham College and Carlton le Willows Academy in Nottingham, however we will also consider applicants based in other locations. Players who successfully complete the programme will gain the Diploma in Sporting Excellence qualification(DiSE), which has the value of 64 UCAS points*.

**Whilst the qualification has been created in conjunction with the Department for Education, not all universities recognise this qualification as part of your possible application to University. It is your responsibility to check that this qualification is recognised by any institution you may apply to where UCAS points are applicable.*

7. Assessment & Selection Process

The assessment & selection process will consist of the following:

1. Submission of completed online England DiSE Application Form;
<https://forms.gle/AWANcLYG6eAHYFte9>;
2. Applications will be reviewed, and shortlisted players invited to attend the England DiSE assessment process which will be communicated in due course;
3. Following the England DiSE assessment process, the selection panel will select and invite players to join the England DiSE programme for the 2020/21 season.

8. Timings

30 th June 2020	Application window closes
17 th July 2020	Applications shortlisted and invited for assessment
w/c 3 rd August 2020	DiSE Assessment*
14 th August 2020	Applicants notified of squad selections

**Due to the current situation concerning Covid-19, this assessment is likely to be an online interview with members of the selection panel. Details of the assessment format will be shared with you following the shortlisting of applications.*

9. Provisional Programme for 2020/21

3 rd & 4 th October 2020	Training Camp
9 th & 10 th January 2021	Training Camp
W/C 15 th February 2021	Training Camp (Residential)
3 & 4 th April 2021	Training Camp
15 th & 16 th May 2021	Training Camp

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.

10. 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 Programme Manager 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.

11. 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.

12. 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 does not fulfil the educational requirements of the programme;
- 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 selection processes and payment schedule detailed within this policy;
- The player does not pay all relevant fees, or any payment is returned.

13. 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.

14. Payment

The core costs of the programme are fully covered by the course. Players who successfully complete the programme will also be eligible for £250 per academic year, which can be used to support further training and competition opportunities that they wish to attend.

If a player does not successfully complete the programme, they may be liable for any outstanding costs for any activity that they have attended up to the point of withdrawal. For the avoidance of doubt, these costs will be as follows:

Training per weekend:	£100 per person
Additional training / competition opportunity provided:	£85 per day plus any associated entry fees

Table Tennis England reserves the right to offer its limited funding to players for a range of the camps and events covered by this policy at its full and sole discretion. There is no right of appeal in the event that an athlete is not offered any funding support for various events.

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 DiSE 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. Please return your application **no later than 30th June 2020.**

Policy:

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Acknowledged by:

Name _____ Signed _____ Date _____ (Athlete)

Name _____ Signed _____ Date _____
(Parent/Guardian)