



# **Athlete Nominators Guidance**

For Teachers & Coaches nominating athletes for  
County Under-15/Under-13 Player Development Programmes 2023-24

# Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to read this document.

These guidelines provide information to assist you when making decisions for nominating athletes for County Under-15 and Under-13 Player Development Programme Screening.

Ultimately, we want the County Player Development programme's screening environment to be a positive experience for all athletes where they feel that they are able to compete favorably with other talented athletes. Those attending will always feel nervous, but we do not want them to feel out of their depth or overanxious.



England Netball Player Pathway aims to provide a nationwide network of accessible pathway programmes that are aligned to future Roses success and are able to provide high quality experiences and support that will enable all athletes to achieve their potential.

The purpose of the Player Pathway is:

To provide opportunities for players of the highest potential to learn, develop and progress into senior domestic and international netball or a future in netball

To support athletes to develop within an optimal environment for their age and stage encouraging their retention in sport



***To help us achieve this vision we are developing a high-quality scouting and selection workforce that begins at grassroots with the Athlete Nominators***

# These guidelines have been produced to assist you in your role as an Athlete Nominator:

- To understand the County Under-15 and Under-13 Player Development Programme & the NSL Team's Player Pathway Programmes
- To understand the role of the Athlete Nominator and understand the challenges you may face
- To understand the key qualities/characteristics of a talented netballer & recognize effective play and common errors
- To understand the advantages of using a game sense approach to assist in the identification of talented athletes
- To identify key contacts within your county where you can gain additional information



# The Role of an Athlete Nominator

- To identify and nominate appropriate athletes at U13 & U15 age for the County Player Development programme(s) based on the information and guidance within this document
- To keep all information regarding individual athletes confidential
- To give athletes guidance on what to expect during the screening process
- To ensure that athletes/parents/carers are fully aware of the commitment required if athletes are successful
- To support unsuccessful athletes by remaining positive & working with them to develop areas that have been identified during the screening process. (Athletes are entitled to ask for feedback)



For details of the Athlete Nominator Pathway & how you can become a Athlete Identifier please contact your County Player Development Lead

**FAMILIARITY** – An athlete that you see regularly in club/school environment – always works hard

**TALENTED** School/Club team

Look at the key criteria. Are you able to match their performance with the majority of the attributes identified?

**BEST** player in your school/club

If you nominate an athlete just for experience – will the experience be a beneficial one? Will they be able to compete favourably with the other athletes? How will they feel if they can't



**CHALLENGE**

**ENVIRONMENT** – have you only seen the athlete in match play?

**PRESSURE** from Parents/Carers/Other players

Be honest & refer them to the key criteria

Does she have a Growth Mindset? How does she respond to coaching? An **academy** athlete needs more than just talent.

# Athlete Nominators preparing the athlete for screening

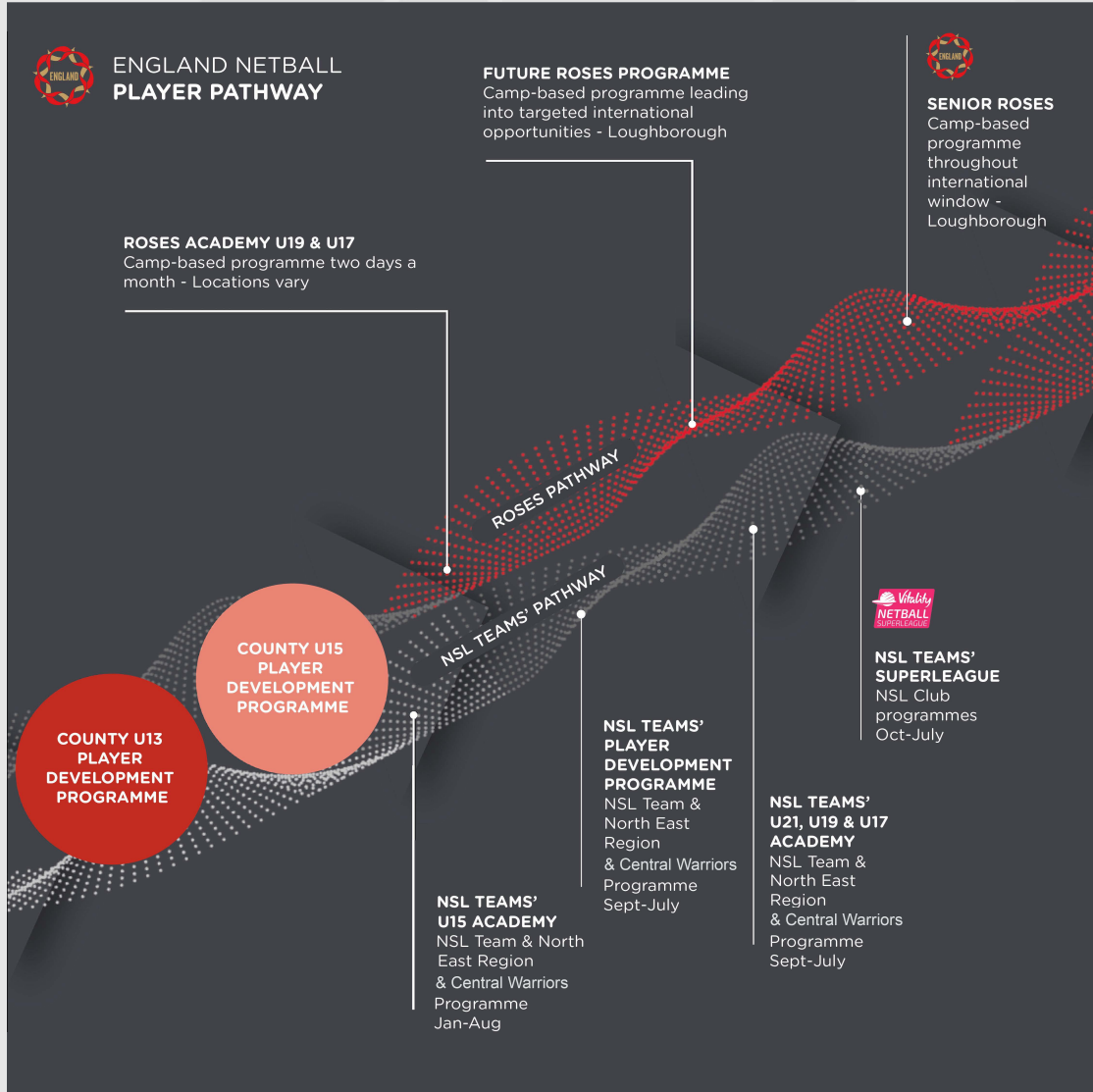
Each county will organise their screening events in line with local requirements and using the guidelines in the Selection Policy

Athletes may:

- Be given a number for identification purpose
- Take part in a warm up & cool down
- Need to provide a Size 5 netball
- Participate in Game Sense activities
- Work on a skill that is developed
- Take part in match play
- Be given a date & location for the results
- Be given information regarding requests for individual feedback



# The England Netball Player Pathway



## Player Pathway

- The England Netball Player Pathway is the England Netball process for developing athletes with the attributes to attain excellence.
- The grass roots of this pathway are the Under-13 and Under-15 County Player Development Programmes, which in turn feed into the NSL Team's Pathway and ultimately into the National Performance programme.
- YOU will usually be nominating athletes for the County Under-13 and Under-15 Player Development Programmes



# Understanding County Player Development Programmes (PDP)

## What is it that you are nominating athletes for?

### **The Purpose of U13/U15 County PDP:**

To identify, educate and develop talented athletes and support their progress to the next level of the Player Pathway

Player Development Programmes have a Player Centered approach

The emphasis is on athletes learning how to train with decision making being a pivotal element, alongside developing resilience and skills required to play netball.

**More information regarding the County Player Development Programmes can be obtained by contacting your County Player Development Lead**

### **What's involved for the players?**

#### **What are the expectations?**

Full commitment to the programme including:

- Regular attendance
- Home training – training outside player development programme sessions
- Taking responsibility for own development
- Effective time management
- Willingness to listen, learn and adapt their game
- Being a member of a netball club

# Identifying a Talented Under-13/Under-15 Athlete

*Use the information on the following 4 slides to create a profile of the athlete that you intend to nominate*

CREATE A  
PROFILE OF  
THE ATHLETE

Generic  
Skills



Game  
Sense

Growth  
Mindset

Understanding & Application  
of Positional Responsibilities

## What are we looking for?

- Generic skills
- Evidence of game sense
- An understanding and application of the positional responsibilities
- A Growth Mindset
- At Under-15 the majority of the qualities identified should be evident
- At Under-13 some of the skills may still need to be developed