

PLAYER PATHWAY PROGRAMME

FAQ

2023 - 24

What is the England Netball Player Pathway?

The England Netball Player Pathway is a comprehensive and inclusive countrywide network of accessible pathway programs that are aligned to Roses (the senior national netball team of England) future success. They provide high quality experiences, training and support that will enable all athletes to achieve their potential.

The pathway aims to create an environment that fosters optimal coaching and competition experiences for players with the highest potential to learn, develop and progress into senior domestic and international netball or a future in netball. It recognizes that a supportive and nurturing environment is crucial for athletes to **Learn** the game, **Love** the journey and **Win** deep - <https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/the-roses-development-framework/learn-love-win>.

The success of our Player Pathway relies on the expertise and dedication of our coaching, leadership, and support staff. These individuals work collaboratively towards a shared vision of identifying and confirming the right athletes for the pathway. Additionally, they provide the necessary guidance and support to help these athletes develop within a training and competitive environment designed for their age and stage encouraging their retention in sport.

Which programmes are endorsed by England Netball as a Player Pathway Programme?

- The NSL Teams' Under-21 Academy – 20 athletes.
- The NSL Teams' Under-19 Academy – 20 athletes
- *The NSL Teams' Player Development Programme – Under 17-19 - 20 athletes - minimum 1 (up to 3 depending on territory/population)
- The NSL Teams' Under-17 Academy – 20 athletes.
- The NSL Teams' Under-15 Academy – 20 athletes.
- *County Under-15 Player Development Programme – 20 athletes - minimum 1 (up to 2 depending on territory/population)
- *County Under-13 Player Development Programme – 20 athletes - minimum 1 (up to 3 depending on territory/population)

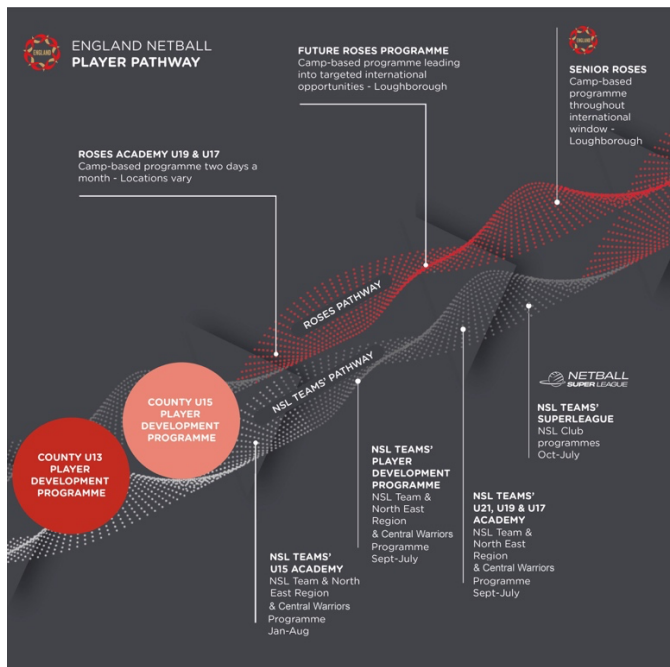
*Number of established Player Development Programmes will be approved by England Netball and will depend on the territory size and population

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England Netball Player Pathway



What are the protected names for England Netball Player Pathway Programmes?

Pathway programme endorsed/accredited by England Netball are **name protected**:

- Player Pathway
- Academy
- Player Development Programme

Why is important to distinguish the England Netball Player Pathway Programmes from other programs, such as NSL Team's HUBs, and recognize their respective roles?

Ensuring consistency and streamlining the delivery of the Player Pathway in netball is essential for facilitating the progression of athletes who demonstrate potential.

The Player Pathway programmes, including the Academy and Player Development Programme, are name protected to differentiate them from other programmes which do not directly form part of a progressive route to Roses Academy selection (e.g NSL Team's HUB programme). This helps to maintain clarity and ensure that athletes, parents, coaches, and clubs understand the specific purpose and structure of the Player Pathway.

The England Netball Player Pathway Programmes have a specific focus on identifying and nurturing athletes with the highest potential for future success in netball. They are designed to provide a structured and progressive development pathway for talented athletes, with the ultimate aim of representing the national team or pursuing a future in netball at a high level.

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By maintaining a clear distinction between the Player Pathway programmes and other programmes and initiatives delivered by our NSL Teams and Counties, we can effectively meet the goals of both pathways and provide appropriate opportunities for athletes at different levels of development.

What is the purpose of programmes which are not England Netball endorsed Player Pathway Programmes?

Programmes outside of the England Netball Player Pathway, can play an important role in creating inclusive and accessible environments that allow athletes to develop their skills, build confidence, and experience the joy of playing netball.

They often serve as entry points for young players to enhance their skills and potentially progress further in their netball journey. They contribute to the overall netball community and provide a pathway for athletes who may not be on the England Netball Player Pathway but still want to develop their skills and compete at their respective levels.

Both types of programs have their own significance and serve different purposes within the netball community. While the England Netball Player Pathway Programmes target elite-level development, other programs play a crucial role in promoting grassroots participation, nurturing talent at various levels, and fostering a love for the sport among a wider range of participants.

Recognizing and understanding the distinctions between these programs helps ensure that athletes have access to appropriate opportunities based on their goals, abilities, and stage of development.

Why doesn't the County Programme have national championship or a Team competition over the season?

The England Netball Player Pathway programmes delivered by County Netball Associations (Player Development Programmes – PDP) do not produce squads or teams but are for individual athlete development. The emphasis of these programmes is on individual athlete development, focusing on technical, tactical, physical, and psychological skills to help athletes reach their maximum potential and progress into senior domestic and international netball or a future in netball.

Is the Player Pathway Programme enough for athlete development?

While the Player Pathway programmes are essential for athlete development, it is important to recognize that they alone cannot provide all the necessary components for complete athlete development. Athletes also need to access appropriate competition outside of the pathway, such as local league or development matches, at the appropriate times. This allows them to gain additional experience, test their skills in different contexts, and further enhance their development.

To ensure holistic development, a combination of opportunities must be provided, including school, club, and Player Pathway involvement. Each of these components plays a role in the overall

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development of athletes, contributing to their technical, tactical, physical, and psychological growth.

By combining different opportunities and experiences, athletes can benefit from a well-rounded development pathway. This approach recognizes that the player development journey is an **evolutionary process, individual specific** and **shaped by experiences** and requires a combination of structured programmes, competitive opportunities, and diverse experiences to produce well-rounded individuals both on and off the netball court.

Is exposure to competition important for athlete development?

England Netball recommends that emerging athletes on the England Netball Player Pathway have exposure to competition to aid their individual development outlined in the Roses Development Framework.

<https://www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/the-roses-development-framework/pillars-of-development/technical-excellence-2/competition-exposure-guidance-te/>

However, it is important to strike a balance between competition and skill development, especially in the early stages of athlete development. Emphasizing skill acquisition, learning, and enjoyment in a supportive and positive environment is crucial to ensuring that young athletes develop a strong foundation and a love for the sport.

Additionally, the focus on competition should not overshadow the importance of skill development, teamwork, character development, and personal growth. Player Pathway programs promote a healthy competitive mindset that values effort, improvement, and positive attitudes rather than solely focusing on winning at all costs.

Ultimately, developing competitive instincts and a will to win can be nurtured throughout an athlete's development journey, but it is important to consider the age and developmental stage of the athletes and create an environment that prioritizes skill acquisition, enjoyment, and holistic development alongside competition.

Can athletes trial at any county/NSL Team?

- While athletes are still eligible for Under-15 programmes they may trial for and attend any County Player Development Programme in any county, in order to provide choice and accessibility for parents and athletes.
- While athletes are still eligible for Under-15 programmes, an athlete's NSL Team will be determined by the territory to which their County of choice belongs.
- Beyond the point when they are no longer eligible for Under-15 programmes due to age, athletes can attend any NSL Teams' Player Pathway Programme.
- Athletes eligible by age for Under-15 programmes can be selected to NSL Teams' Under-17 Academy Programme or NSL Teams' Player Development Programme if:

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- They demonstrate performance characteristics defined by the Athlete Identifier Guidelines.
- Selection was approved by the County Player Development Lead **and** the Franchise Pathway Lead of the NSL Team to which the county is assigned.
- Athletes selected for NSL Team's Player Pathway programme will get a "Player Pathway Programme Offer" which cannot be withdrawn before:
 - Sunday 8th October 2023 at 5pm for all England Netball endorsed player pathway programmes delivered by NSL Teams, North East Region, Central Warriors or County Netball Associations.

What is a Player Pathway Programme Offer?

All NSL Teams, North East Region, Central Warriors or County Netball Association are required to send a Player Pathway Programme Offer to any athlete they wish to offer a place on the Player Pathway Programme endorsed by England Netball. This will be sent to an athlete after a trial confirming that an offer is being made and giving information on what that offer is.

Athletes who are selected must receive their Player Pathway Programme Offer within 5 working days of the event at which they were selected (Trials). Once a Player Pathway Programme Offer has been made it cannot be withdrawn.

Athletes have until the following date to accept:

- a) Sunday 8th October 2023 at 5pm for all England Netball endorsed Player Pathway Programme

If athletes are on a reserve list for one of Player Pathway Programmes this needs to be clearly stated in their Offer.

Selected athletes have to be England Netball members.

The Player Pathway Programme Offer must include:

- Exactly what Player Pathway Programme the offer is for, stating clearly whether the Offer is for a place on the England Netball Player Pathway Programme (and at what level ie. age group Academy or PDP), or whether the offer is for any other NSL team's programme (ie. HUB Programme).
- The process for accepting or declining the offer.
- Link to the Selection policy which should include information about the deselection and promotion process within Player Pathway programmes.
- If there is the possibility that the offer could be changed to a higher one (e.g reserve lists and possibility of progression) information on the process for this should be included.

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Why is there a date by which offers for a place in an England Netball Player Pathway programme can be accepted?

Athletes often wish to trial at a number of NSL teams. To allow for this, and so as not to put an athlete under any undue pressure to accept their first offer, an athlete has until Sunday 8th October 2023 at 5pm to accept whichever offer they would prefer.

Once an offer has been given by an NSL team they cannot withdraw this offer before this date.

Athletes can accept an offer before this final date if they wish, but they are not obliged to.

Athletes should only accept an offer they intend to take up.