

TASS 2018/2019

The Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme, or TASS as it is better known, is a Government funded programme that represents a unique partnership between talented young athletes, National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB's) and the Higher (University) and Further (college/school) Education sector. TASS aims to help its athletes to balance academic life with training and competition as a performance athlete.

This document outlines the selection policy for TASS effective from the academic year 2018-19. The purpose of this policy is to describe the selection criteria and process used to decide nominations of badminton athletes for TASS. The policy is based on the guidelines set out by Sport England and TASS. **Please note, athletes that receive TASS will not be eligible to receive a SportsAid Award in the same year.**

Nominations for TASS places will be decided by a Panel in accordance with the Selection Criteria and the number of places awarded to Badminton England by TASS. For 2018-19, Badminton England have been awarded 10 TASS places.

The policy will be amended from time to time, subject to changes in TASS requirements as well as the structure of Badminton England and England Performance Pathway.

Please follow this link to find out more about TASS <https://www.tass.gov.uk/about/>

FOCUS OF NOMINATIONS: TASS will primarily look to support England Junior Pathway athletes who are progressing towards selection for the England Performance Programme in the future and those on the fringes of the England Senior Programme who are in contention for future selection for England Senior Championship events.

Below are the requirements the Panel will consider when considering nominations of athletes for TASS;

General TASS Requirements:

Athletes should:

1. Be aged 16 or over by 1st September 2018
2. Be able to represent England in their chosen sport
3. Be a UK passport holder
4. Be undertaking a Recognised Education Programme registered at an institution in England and part of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) or Qualifications & Credits Framework (QCF). The programme must evidence the following in order for TASS to consider as eligible; be progressive, relevant, provide employability, commitment (min. 300 hours learning during the year).

Sports Specific Requirements:

Athletes who have met the following will be considered for a TASS nomination;

- Excel Pathway athletes
- 2017 European Junior Championship or 2018 6 Nations medallist
- Badminton Europe Junior International Series win in the last 12 months
- Senior Representation at Team/Individual Championship Events last 12 months i.e. European Men's and Women's Team Championships, European Individual Championships, World Championships
- Junior representation at 2017 World Junior Championships or 2018 European Junior Championships

During the nomination process, Badminton England will consider the following;

- Those athletes with potential to be selected to represent England (seniors) in the next 2-3 years
- Those athletes committed to integrating into training at the NBC environment as and when requested by the National Coaches
- Those athletes that Badminton England believe can fully commit to and benefit from TASS services i.e. those at or near to a TASS delivery site
- Those athletes who are no longer eligible for SportsAid nomination (over the age of 18)

N.B Athletes will only be selected if they are currently accessing high-quality training and sparring environment on a regular basis. This would then be complimented by the TASS Award where the player would be expected to be able to access Sports Science Sports Medicine support, including regular weekly Strength and Conditioning sessions along with Nutrition/PL workshops and screening and physio as required, provided through the TASS network.

Please note that the Selection Panel may decide, at its own discretion, not to utilise the full allocation of places for TASS.

Selection Process

The Selection Panel will consist of the Director of Performance & Coaching (or nominated deputy), National Pathway Coach (or nominated deputy), Assistant Pathway Coach, and a representative from the Performance Board.

Athletes to be considered for selection will be emailed prior to the Selection Meeting for confirmation that they are eligible for a TASS Award.

The selection meeting will take place on 13 August 2018.

Selected athletes will then be informed directly via email by 22 August of their nomination by the Governing Body, with TASS then following up with the athlete to confirm the Award.

N.B If any of the selected athletes are unable to fulfil the requirements of TASS, the Panel will then invite a player from the reserve list compiled (in order of priority) at the selection meeting.

Nominations for TASS will be announced on the BE website following confirmation from TASS of Awarded athletes beginning of September 2018).