

TASS 2021/2022

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

This document outlines the selection policy for TASS effective from the academic year 2021-22. The purpose of this document is to describe the selection criteria and process used to decide nominations of badminton players to TASS. The education criteria below are based upon the guidelines set out by Sport England and TASS. **Please note, players in receipt of a TASS Award will not then be eligible to be nominated to SportsAid later in the same year.**

Nominations for TASS places will be decided by a Selection Panel in accordance with the below Selection Criteria and the number of places awarded to Badminton England by TASS. For 2021-22, Badminton England have been awarded 10 TASS places. Please follow this link to find out more about TASS <https://www.tass.gov.uk/about/>

FOCUS OF NOMINATIONS: TASS will primarily aim to support those players transitioning from Junior Pathway to Seniors whilst remaining within education.

As such Badminton England will firstly prioritise nominations to those on Excel who are non-centralised (applicable from 2022), and then consider those that have recently transitioned off the Junior Pathway and are not currently supported on the EPP, those on the fringes of Perform (EPP) and identified as a Support Player at the 2021 Senior Review and those England Junior Pathway Progress players.

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

General TASS Requirements:

Players should:

1. Be aged 16 or over by 1st September 2021
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 and require a minimum commitment (min. 300 hours learning during the year)

Sports Specific Requirements:

Players who have met the following will be considered for a TASS nomination (please note that meeting any of the below criteria does not guarantee a nomination to TASS);

The Panel will consider the following players for a TASS Award:

- Excel (non-centralised) player - will be prioritised for nomination as per Pathway Criteria (N.B Applicable for 2022 nominations onwards)
- Progress players (must be 16 or over as of 1st September 2021 to be considered as per above TASS specific requirements)
- Players recently transitioning off the England Junior Pathway in 2021
- Players identified as Support Players at 2021 Senior Review

The Panel will then consider the following in their deliberations in prioritising nominations:

- Results and performances in 2021/physical benchmarking (where available)
- For those players on TASS during 2020-21, the level of engagement and commitment to the TASS Award will be considered i.e., lack of commitment/engagement without just reason
- Players with potential to be selected to represent Team England Seniors in future Championships
- Those players located near to a TASS Delivery Site and so will be able to access the TASS core services i.e., delivery of S&C sessions on-site which forms the main body of the Award
- Those players that the Panel believe can fully commit to and benefit/make effective use of TASS services i.e., those at or near to a TASS delivery site and/or do not have access to these services elsewhere
- Those players no longer eligible for a SportsAid nomination in 2021 i.e., over 18
- Those with opportunity of access to Sport Scholarships
- The level of funding support currently being received
- Those players currently accessing a high-quality training and sparring environment on a regular basis which the Panel believe would be complimented by a TASS Award nomination

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 Programme Manager and a minimum of two Pathway/National Coaches.

The selection meeting will take place on Thursday 12th August 2021.

Selected players will then be informed directly via email by Friday 27th August of their nomination by the Governing Body. Players selected for an Award will then be required to confirm that they are eligible to be nominated (i.e. that they meet the TASS eligibility criteria noted above). TASS will then follow up with the player to confirm the Award.

N.B If any of the selected players 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. Players should they become ineligible whilst on TASS i.e. no longer in education, should advise the Performance Team as soon as possible.

There is no appeal process for TASS nominations.

Nominations for TASS will be announced on the BE website by the beginning of September 2021 following confirmation from TASS of awarded players whose award will start on 1 September 2021.