

SportsAid & Backing the Best Awards for 2021/22 – Team England Futures Preparation Programme for 2022

Team England Futures (TEF) Preparation Programme

During 2022, Commonwealth Games England and SportsAid are collaborating to bring an exciting opportunity to young athletes by delivering a programme linked to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, called Team England Futures (TEF).

TEF is being designed to provide a cohort of young athletes with a unique opportunity and insight into a multi-sport, major Games environment. SportsAid will lead on management and delivery of this innovative and ground-breaking education and experiential Programme. The purpose being to better prepare athletes to deliver medal winning performances as either Team England or Team GB at future Games.

The TEF Preparation Programme is therefore ***designed for athletes who are currently performing at a high level and who their NGB consider to be on a performance trajectory leading to selection for the next major multi-sport games i.e., Paris 2024 Summer Olympic/Paralympic Games and or the 2026 Commonwealth Games.***

Badminton has been provided with **2 TEF Preparation Athlete Nominations** whereby all Preparation Programme members will be expected to *‘work through a bespoke curriculum of interactive educational content, covering a range of subjects specifically designed to prepare athletes for competition in a multi-sport Games environment.’* The Programme will also *‘bring all Team members together, ahead of arrival into Birmingham during Games time for a one-day event joining CGE as part of their kitting out experience. Members will then arrive in Birmingham for a 2-night stay to include access to ticketed events, workshop sessions, tour of the athlete village and dining experience. The experience will be facilitated by mentors and experienced alumni to support engagement throughout the programme and allow members to draw on their experiences’.*

TEF will run from nomination through to February 2023, delivery being in 3 phases; Pre-Games Education, Games Time and Legacy & Reflection.

Preparation Programme – Athlete Nomination Criteria

Badminton Total Nominations: 2 (one male and one female)

TEF Eligibility Criteria for All Nominees:

- **Talent** - Be identified by their NGB as having potential to make selection for the 2026 Commonwealth Games and/or the Paris 2024 Olympic Games
- **Commitment** - Be clearly demonstrating the right attitude & talent, as identified by the NGB, to maximise the opportunity & engage with the Programme
- **Legacy** - Have a desire to share their experiences of the TEF Programme in their daily training environments, recognising as a benchmark moment in their sporting journey

- SportsAid additionally request that NGBs consider an equitable gender split and those athletes from ethnically diverse communities where possible

A nomination is only available to the following:

- Nominees must be English and have a British passport and/or be able to compete for England.
- Nominees should occupy an area of the talent Pathway that are either part of a WCP or on the cusp of selection
- Nominees must show the right aptitude and talent to maximise the learning opportunities that come with their involvement in TEF and be prepared to engage with the Programme throughout the course of the year
- Athletes that have not experienced a multi-sport Games environment before

As a guide these athletes should also meet one or more of the below in line with the TEF Eligibility Criteria:

- Have been under consideration for selection for the 2022 Commonwealth Games
- On the WCPP, England Senior Performance Pathway or Excel (or on cusp of selection)
- Have been previously selected for Team England Senior Championship Event in the last 12 months from nomination,

In meeting the above, the Panel will then consider the following within their deliberations regards to the two players to be nominated to SportsAid for the Programme (within the last 12 months from nomination date):

- Senior International results
- BWF World Ranking
- Significant performances / results at Senior International Tournaments i.e., consideration of the BWF WR / level of opposition
- Showing an upward trajectory in development
- Likelihood of being selected in the next 1-2 years for Team England Senior Championship Event

Application/Nomination Process

There is not a direct application process as athletes are nominated automatically by Badminton England based on the applicable sport criteria. See below timeline

7th February 2022 – Badminton England make their selections of two players to be nominated based upon use of the above nomination criteria

14th February – Deadline by which Badminton England must provide their nominations to SportsAid and to notify players of their nomination to SportsAid

From 15th February - SportsAid to directly contact those nominated athletes by email to request completion of an online nomination form by requested deadline (the deadline for athletes to complete this online nomination is likely to be very short due

to the timelines in place surrounding this Programme with inductions for the entire TEF cohort taking place in February 2022)

FURTHER TIMELINES FOR THE PREPARATION PROGRAMME FOLLOWING CONFIRMATION ONTO TEF PREPARATION PROGRAMME

The TEF Programme will run from the point of nomination to SportsAid, until the end of the February 2023. SportsAid will deliver the programme in three phases as per below:

- **Phase 1** – Pre-Games Education (nomination – July 2022)
- **Phase 2** – Games Time Experience (29th July – 6th August 2022)
- **Phase 3** – Legacy & Reflection (August 2022 – February 2023)