



**VOLLEYBALL
ENGLAND**



H A N D B O O K

TALENT **PATHWAY**

25-26 edition



ENGLAND TALENT PATHWAY HANDBOOK

Welcome to the England Talent Pathway. Whether you've been selected for the U18, U20, or U22 squads in beach or indoor volleyball, this handbook will guide you through what it means to be part of the national pathway and help you make the most of the opportunities ahead. It outlines the key information, expectations, and opportunities that come with representing England.

As a member of the Talent Pathway, you are part of a development programme that nurtures potential and prepares athletes for high-level performance. Many players who have come through this system have gone on to represent England at senior level, play professionally, or combine volleyball with academic studies at university in England or abroad.

Being part of the England Talent Pathway is an honour and a stepping stone. We're excited to see how you grow, compete, and contribute to the future of volleyball in England.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN ENGLAND ATHLETE... "ALL IN – ALL US"

Since 1955, generations have pulled on the England jersey, chasing dreams, weathering setbacks, and building something bigger than themselves. The path here has been tough, paved with highs and lows, hard-fought points and unshakable pride.

THE ENGLAND TEAM STANDARDS – P.R.O.U.D.

Wearing the England jersey is a privilege, one earned, never given. These standards are the baseline for how we train, compete, and carry ourselves. They reflect who we are, what we stand for, and what it means to represent England.

1. **P – Proudly Represent**

Wear the badge with integrity—in your kit, your conduct, and your choices.

2. **R – Respect All, Always**

Inclusion is our baseline. Everyone gets dignity — teammates, opponents, officials, all.

3. **O – Own Your Actions**

Be accountable. Follow the rules. Know the standard. Be the standard.

4. **U – Uphold the Values**

Live honesty, discipline, and teamwork—on court, off court, online.

5. **D – Drive Excellence, Stay Clean**

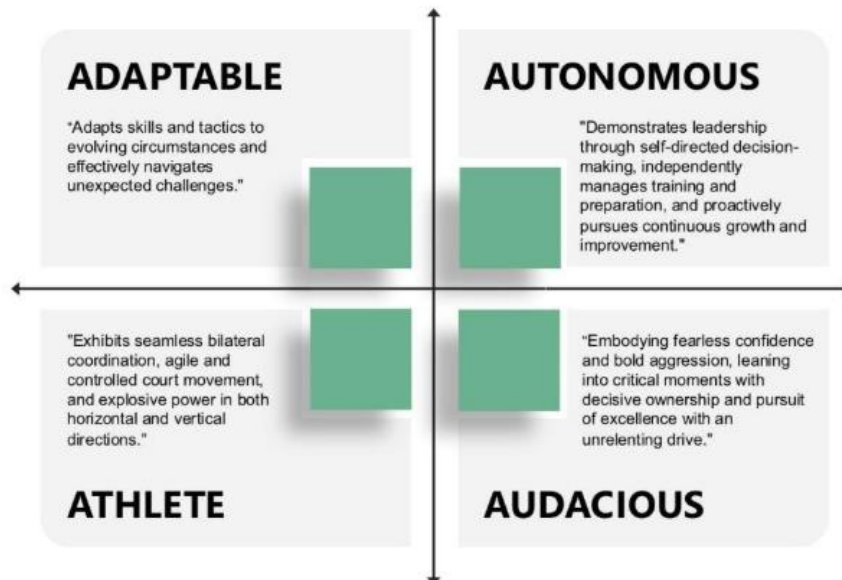
Compete hard. Compete clean. Back the Pathway. Back the mission.

THE 4 As

As an England athlete, you're expected to embody the **4 As** – our core performance attributes.



Athlete Development Framework



Adaptable: *Be ready for anything.* Adjust your skills, tactics, and mindset when situations change - whether that's a new position, a tough opponent, or an unexpected setback. Adaptable athletes stay calm, look for solutions, and treat challenges as chances to grow.

Autonomous: *Own your journey.* Prepare, practise, and reflect without waiting to be told. Autonomous athletes set personal goals, ask questions, and make smart choices on and off the court. Lead yourself first, so you can lead others when it counts.

Audacious: *Play bold.* Step into big moments with fearless confidence - serving at 24-24, swinging for a tough line, or taking initiative when the match is tight. Audacious athletes embrace risk, learn from mistakes, and chase excellence.

Athlete: *Move like a pro.* Look after your body and master efficient, powerful movement - jumping, landing, sprinting, and changing direction with control. Focus on sleep, nutrition, speed, power, and recovery so your technical skills can shine when it matters.

These values apply not just to volleyball, but to life. They're the foundation of your growth as a player and as a person.

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM ENGLAND ATHLETES

Attendance and availability

You are expected to attend all England camps you are invited to. These camps are essential for team preparation, individual development, and selection processes. If selected for international competition, you must also be available for the associated preparation camps and matches. Sometimes, only athletes chosen for a specific event will be invited to its prep camp—this is part of the performance pathway.

Communication and organisation

Timely and professional communication is key. You must respond promptly to messages from coaches, team managers and Volleyball England, and keep your Perfbook and VolleyZone records up to date. This includes confirming attendance, updating contact details, and submitting required forms or information before deadlines. We expect you be competent using Perfbook. Your Perfbook account will be set up when you join the Pathway.

Lifestyle and preparation

Your lifestyle choices directly impact your performance. We expect you to take care of your physical and mental wellbeing—prioritising sleep, nutrition, recovery, and time management. You should read the athlete information pack for each event thoroughly and arrive prepared, knowing what's expected and what you need to bring.

Growth mindset

We're looking for athletes who are committed to improving. That means taking feedback onboard, applying it in training and competition, and reflecting on your progress. Growth happens when you're open to learning, willing to adapt, and focused on becoming the best version of yourself. During the time you are on the Talent Pathway, we will be looking for you to improve and develop both on court and off court, in training and in competition.

Programme Compliance (for example, TASS, DiSE, Backing the Best)

If you are part of an England nominated programme such as TASS, DiSE, or Backing the Best, you are expected to remain fully compliant with the requirements of the programme. This includes meeting all deadlines, attending scheduled sessions, and submitting reports or updates on time. These programmes are designed to support your development, and your commitment to them reflects your professionalism and readiness to represent England. Staying organised and proactive in your communication with programme leads is essential.

WHAT WE PROVIDE

As an athlete on the England Talent Pathway, you gain access to a wide range of benefits designed to support your development both on and off the court.

Welfare and safeguarding

All coaches involved in the programme hold an enhanced DBS check with barred list clearance and maintain up-to-date safeguarding certification.

Team Managers receive additional training through the Time to Listen course, equipping them to act as designated welfare officers during camps and competitions. All staff also complete Anti-Doping education to ensure they uphold clean sport values and can support athletes in doing the same.

We also endeavour to have a trained medic present at camps to support athlete health, safety and wellbeing.

Educational resources, webinars and expert advice

- Strength and conditioning
Structured programmes to improve athletic performance, movement efficiency, and injury prevention.
- Nutrition and recovery
Guidance on fuelling your body, optimising recovery, and maintaining energy levels across training and competition.
- Sport psychology
Mental skills training to build resilience, confidence, and focus under pressure.
- Performance analysis
Video and data-based feedback to support tactical understanding and technical improvement.
- Education and lifestyle guidance
Support in managing your time, balancing sport with studies, and making informed lifestyle choices.
- Social media guidance
Advice on responsible use, personal branding, and protecting your online presence as a national athlete.
- Anti-doping education
Information and updates to ensure compliance with UKAD regulations and clean sport principles.
- Medical screening and support
Access to medical professionals for routine screening, injury monitoring, and health advice. Volleyball England will coordinate cardiac screening at least every other year, depending on the relevant age category.

Competition and Camp Administration

The England Talent Pathway provides comprehensive administrative support for both domestic and overseas training camps and competitions. Our goal is to ensure athletes and staff can focus on performance, while we manage the logistics and compliance behind the scenes.

- International player registration (VIS)
Management of athlete registration with the Volleyball Information System (VIS) for FIVB and CEV events.
- Team entries
Submission and coordination of official team entries for international tournaments.
- Coach and athlete accreditation
Handling of accreditation processes to ensure access to venues, training areas, and competition zones.
- Mandatory documentation
Completion and submission of required FIVB/CEV forms, including the Volleyball England stamp and authorised signature.
- Travel and logistics coordination
Support with travel planning, including flights, transfers, accommodation, and itineraries for athletes and staff.
- Visa and passport guidance
Assistance with visa applications, passport checks, GHIC and travel documentation where required.
- Competition briefings
Pre-event information packs covering schedules, expectations, kit requirements, and athlete conduct.
- On-site support
Staff presence at international events to assist with logistics, athlete welfare, and coordination with organisers.
- Kit and apparel distribution
England off-court and competition uniforms are available for athletes, along with guidance on uniform regulations set by CEV and FIVB. Please note that some items may need to be purchased by the athlete.
- Court hire and equipment
Access to high-quality training venues and all necessary volleyball equipment.
- Meals and accommodation
Meals and suitable overnight accommodation arranged for multi-day camps and competitions.
- Transfers and logistics
Transport coordination between venues, accommodation, and arrival/departure points.

- Access to Volleyball England - nominated programmes

Access to funding and educational programmes are available through specific criteria, where athletes must be nominated by Volleyball England. Examples include initiatives such as TASS, DiSE, and Backing the Best.

- **Diploma in Sporting Excellence ([click here](#) for more information)**

This is a dual-career qualification designed for eligible athletes aged 16–18, combining academic study with elite sport development. Open recruitment takes place annually in October for the following academic year. Volleyball England has 40 DiSE places.

- **TASS ([click here](#) for more information)**

TASS (Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme) is a Sport England funded partnership between talented athletes, delivery sites and national governing bodies of sport. TASS helps athletes – aged 16-plus – to balance sport within the rest of their lives, be they in education, training or another form of personal development. Volleyball England has 12 domestic TASS places, with additional places for those abroad (e.g. at university outside the UK). TASS places are reviewed each summer, with decisions on who remains on the programme – and who is to be added if space is available – made before 1st September. Note: at this time only Beach athletes are eligible for TASS.

- **Backing the Best ([click here](#) for more information)**

This programme provides up to £5,000 per year to support eligible athletes with high-performance costs. Funding can be used for travel and accommodation at training camps and international competitions, equipment and kit, and medical expenses. Volleyball England has 10 places available. Applications open annually in October/November. Athletes must meet strict eligibility criteria.

- **The SportsAid Award** (offers financial support of up to £2,500).

Nominees must demonstrate genuine financial need and show that receiving this award would significantly impact their ability to remain on the Talent Pathway. Athletes with sufficient personal or family financial resources to support their development should not apply. Applications open annually in October/November. Athletes must meet strict eligibility criteria.

- Insurance Coverage

Athletes, coaches, and support personnel attending sanctioned events are covered under Volleyball England's insurance policy provided by Howden. The policy includes Personal Injury, Public Liability, Employers' Liability and Professional Indemnity. Personal valuables are not covered under this insurance and are brought to events at your own risk.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Pathway structure

The Pathway comprises three levels:

Seniors: Athletes in the one of the volleyball senior national team squads and named athletes in the beach volleyball programme.

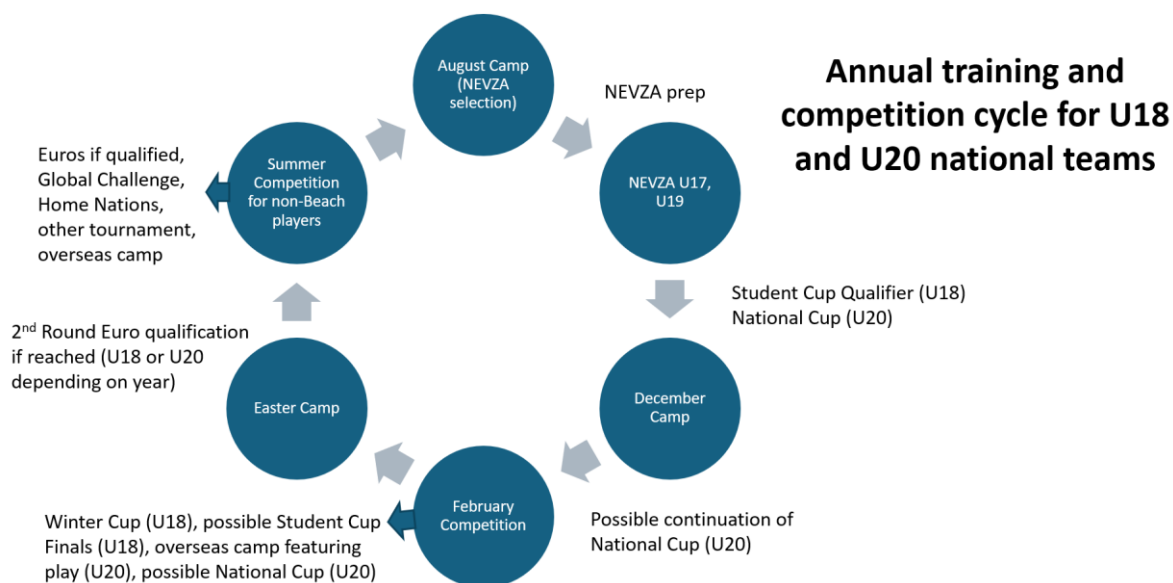
U18s / U20s / U22s: Athletes eligible at the age group level and considered potentially selectable for inclusion in a team taking part in competition as England.

Talent Zones (Indoor) / Beach Volleyball Development Centres (BVDC): These are training environments for athletes identified as having potential and who are working toward future selection for age-group national teams.

It's important to note that athlete journeys through the pathway vary. Some may enter at a later stage, while others might step away and rejoin at a different point. The pathway is designed to be flexible and responsive to individual development.

Annual cycle/calendar

Below is a representation of the Indoor U18 and U20 national team training and competition cycles.



Indoor U22s and Seniors have a different cycle where May to August is the primary competition season, with the potential for additional play in December/January. Domestically based athletes train monthly during the NVL season, using specifically provided open weekends in the NVL calendar.

Beach

For Beach athletes, below is a general representation of the annual competition calendar. The timing of events like the Euros change from year to year.



Broadly speaking, as Beach athletes progress, they are expected to have longer competitive seasons on the sand.

Competition and training dates are published in the Talent and National Teams Calendar which can be accessed [here](#).

Dual-Discipline Athletes

Generally, it is our policy to encourage younger athletes to train and play both Indoor and Beach as opportunities allow. We feel this a path towards becoming a more rounded volleyball athlete. Naturally, as an athlete gets older there comes a time when decisions must be made about priorities. We categorise each athlete in one of four ways:

- **Indoor-only:** Only interested in playing Indoor.
- **Indoor-Beach:** Wants to play both, but prioritises Indoor
- **Beach-Indoor:** Wants to play both, but prioritises Beach
- **Beach-only:** Only interested in playing Beach

Performance Directors will collaborate with dual-discipline athletes to determine their primary designation—either Beach–Indoor or Indoor–Beach—based on their development and competition focus. This designation will be reviewed annually in the Autumn. In cases where scheduling conflicts arise; the agreed designation will guide priority decisions.

This new approach will be implemented in early 2026.

SELECTION, TRANSITION AND PROGRESSION

Volleyball and Beach Volleyball programmes work on a calendar-year cycle, starting from 1st January each year. Age group classifications are based on the calendar year, not the academic year.

Each **Volleyball Talent Pathway** cycle will begin following the NEVZA Championships in October. Athletes are then confirmed or invited to join the programme for a 12-month period, starting with the December camp and continuing through the following calendar year. Athletes remain part of the Pathway if they stay committed, continue to progress and remain in good standing.

Final athlete selections will be made by the coaching staff and Performance Director at the beginning of November, after which each athlete will receive a formal notification letter.

If an athlete is deselected, the coach will first speak with them to explain the reasons behind the decision, ensuring the athlete understands the rationale.

The **Beach Volleyball Talent Pathway** begins each January. Early in the year, athletes will be notified about the selection process for the upcoming season. The annual training and competition programme—outlining expectations for athletes—will be shared at that time.

Players are expected to attend all camps and competitions for their programme.

The Performance Directors outline the selection criteria for each event within Volleyball England's Annual Performance Plan(s).

The Volleyball selection policy is being revised will be published [here](#).

The Beach Volleyball selection policy can be found [here](#).

ADMINISTRATION

How to contact Volleyball England

For all enquiries related to the Talent Pathway, please always use the central email address: talent@volleyballengland.org. This ensures a record of all correspondence is maintained and your message reaches the appropriate staff member, even if individual team staff are on leave or unavailable. The Talent Team is:

- Gillian Harrison, Strategic Manager - Volleyball for Life
- Kirk Pitman, Beach Performance Director
- Luis Bello, Performance Beach Coach
- John Forman, Indoor Performance Director
- Jordan Goldsborough, Project Lead
- Oliver Shipway, Student Project Officer

Athletes must not contact team coaches or support staff via their personal contact details. All communication should go through official channels to ensure safeguarding standards are upheld and to avoid delays or missed messages.

Once it's ready, the Perfbok messaging system will take over from WhatsApp groups. It's a safer way to stay in touch and get updates during camps and competitions, helping keep everyone informed and protected.

Membership (VolleyZone)

Volleyball England membership runs annually from 1st August to 31st July. To take part in England Talent Pathway camps or competitions, athletes must hold an active membership. This is essential for accessing and paying for events through VolleyZone. Please ensure your membership is renewed and up to date before registering for any activities.

If you are not a member of a volleyball club in England because you are based overseas, you should register with Club England on VolleyZone.

If you need help registering/renewing your membership, please use the guides in the link [here](#). If you are still encountering issues please contact volleyzone@volleyballengland.org

Maintaining Up-to-Date Records

It is essential that athletes keep accurate and current information in both **VolleyZone** and **Perfbok** accounts.

Athletes under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian listed as their primary contact. On VolleyZone, this means the Public User Account must be registered to the parent or guardian, and all Primary Account information must reflect their details.

Once an athlete turns 18, they are legally considered an adult and must update their account to reflect their own personal contact information. From that point forward, all communication will be directed to the athlete themselves.

The information required includes:

Use the checklist on page 22 to confirm what information need to be kept up to date.

How to Pay

Event payments are usually made through VolleyZone. The invitation or selection email will include a direct link to the payment page. In some cases, we also use GoCardless as an additional payment method to make the process as simple and secure as possible.

Payment Deadlines

We need your support in meeting registration and payment deadlines for events. Final athlete numbers must be confirmed with accommodation and meal providers at least 14 working days before the camp begins, and we make these bookings immediately after the closing date. Unfortunately, this means we're unable to make changes or add services beyond that point.

If you encounter any difficulties making payments by the stated deadlines, please let us know as early as possible—we're here to help and will do our best to support you. To make things more manageable, we offer an instalment payment option, however the final instalment should be paid before the start of the event.

Payment Terms including instalments

Failure to make payments on time may result in the following actions by Volleyball England:

- Suspension or termination of participation in present ongoing / future events.
- Withholding of any benefits or access provided by Volleyball England.
- Initiation of legal or collection procedures to recover any unpaid amounts, including reasonable legal or administrative costs.

If a payment remains outstanding for more than two months after an event, the Talent Team will refer the matter to our Finance Department as a bad debt, and it will be followed up accordingly.

Refunds

Refunds cannot be issued if Volleyball England has already paid for a service. Requests will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Personal Circumstances

If you are unable to attend the camp or competition last minute due to personal circumstances (such as injury or family circumstances) please let the Talent Team know as soon as possible. We are keen to know why so we can help support. Each case will be considered individually.

TRAINING CAMP AND COMPETITION INFORMATION

England teams enter a range of competitions, which vary from friendlies to European Championships.

Travel

Athletes are responsible for arranging their own travel to and from domestic camps and competition. Where possible, Volleyball England will assist in connecting athletes travelling from the same area to encourage car-sharing and reduce costs.

Athletes under 18 years of age should not travel in another athlete's vehicle without prior parental and staff approval.

Volleyball England makes group bookings for teams travelling to overseas camps and competitions, and expects all home-based athletes to travel together. Any athlete that seeks to make independent travel arrangements will have to cover the costs of any existing group booking.

Supporters are always welcome to attend. However, Volleyball England is not able to make travel arrangements for friends and family who want to travel to support the team.

UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

Volleyball England requires all athletes to have the UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) which lets you get necessary state healthcare in the European Economic Area and some other countries, on the same basis as a resident of that country. The GHIC is free. You can apply for the GHIC [here](#).

UK passport

Athletes must hold a valid UK passport to be eligible for participation in international competitions. Passports are verified during the Preliminary Enquiry, an official event where all mandatory documentation is checked. If an athlete, coach, or support personnel fails to present a UK passport at this stage, they will not be permitted to take part in the competition.

Passports should be checked to ensure they have enough expiry time on them for travelling. Check the validity entry requirements for the country you are travelling to [HERE](#)

Accommodation

Athletes will be accommodated in designated housing for the duration of training camps. If necessary, transport will be arranged between the accommodation and training facilities. At Loughborough University the venues and accommodation are within walking distance on campus.

If athletes arrive before staff are present, please wait responsibly until they arrive.

A curfew will be in place, requiring all athletes to be in their own rooms by a specified time. This time will be communicated in the Athlete Information Pack or via email. Athletes are not permitted to enter each other's rooms for socialising. Please respect each other's privacy and use communal areas within the venues and accommodation for social interaction.

Athletes under the age of 18 are not allowed to share a room with athletes over the age of 18 unless prior permission has been granted by a parent or carer.

Meals

Meals will be provided for events lasting two days or more. If meals are not included, you will be informed in advance. It is essential that athletes with food allergies, intolerances, or specific dietary requirements notify the Talent Team by emailing: talent@volleyballengland.org.

If you require medication related to food allergies, please include this information in your medical consent form.

Should your dietary needs or medical situation change at any point, it is your responsibility to update the Talent Team immediately.

Athlete Wellbeing

We aim to have a physiotherapist or sports therapist available at all camps and competitions to support athlete wellbeing.

If you are managing a chronic or acute injury, you must notify the Talent Team by emailing: talent@volleyballengland.org

We understand that athletes may worry about being deselected or removed from the team due to injury. However, our primary responsibility is your health and wellbeing. You will be supported in your recovery and return to full fitness.

If you are feeling unwell or experiencing any symptoms of illness during a camp or competition, please inform a member of staff immediately. We are here to support you and ensure your health and wellbeing are prioritised.

Each morning of training camp – including the first day before arrival – you will receive a morning check-in questionnaire in Perfbook. You are expected to complete this during the allotted time. It is to make sure the staff is aware of any potential issues so they may act accordingly.

Attendance

Athletes are expected to attend all scheduled events listed in the calendar. If you are unable to attend, you must email an explanation to: talent@volleyballengland.org

If you anticipate being late to a camp or event, please notify your Team Manager immediately.

Safeguarding

The Team Manager is the designated Safeguarding Officer for each squad. If an athlete has a concern they should, where possible, speak with the Team Manager. If the athlete does not feel comfortable to approach the Team Manager or other member of staff these are other ways of reaching out:

- Office hours (01509 974 700) - Volleyball England Safeguarding Lead Officer
- 24 hours (0808 8005000) - NSPCC freephone helpline
- 01708 765200 - Supportline

The Volleyball England Safeguarding policies and procedures can be found [HERE](#)
Parent/Carers wishing to raise a safeguarding concern about any aspect of the programme should fill in the report a concern form [here](#).

Athlete Information Pack

Before each camp or competition, the Talent Team will send out an Athlete Information Pack via email. This will include:

- What to bring
- Timings and daily schedules
- Travel and accommodation details
- Event-specific instructions

Please read this information carefully to ensure you are fully prepared.

If you have not received the pack one week prior to the event, please contact the VE Talent team to ensure you are fully prepared.

ANTI-DOPING

England Athletes have a responsibility towards anti-doping and clean sport.

In anti-doping, athletes are responsible for their actions: including what they eat and drink. Athletes have a responsibility to make sure that anything they put in their body is free of any banned substances. This is known as the principle of 'strict liability'.

UK Anti-Doping is the National Anti-Doping Organisation responsible for protecting clean sport in the UK, governed by a worldwide agreed set of rules, protected globally by commitments from both governments and the sports movement.

These rules apply to all England athletes, coaches and support personnel. Throughout your time on the Talent Pathway, you will receive ongoing anti-doping education, which may include:

- Scheduled education sessions during camps
- One-to-one support from qualified anti-doping educators
- Mandatory compliance training for participation in CEV and FIVB competitions
- Access to online resources from FIVB and UKAD
- Opportunities to ask questions and seek guidance from our educators at any time

Check list

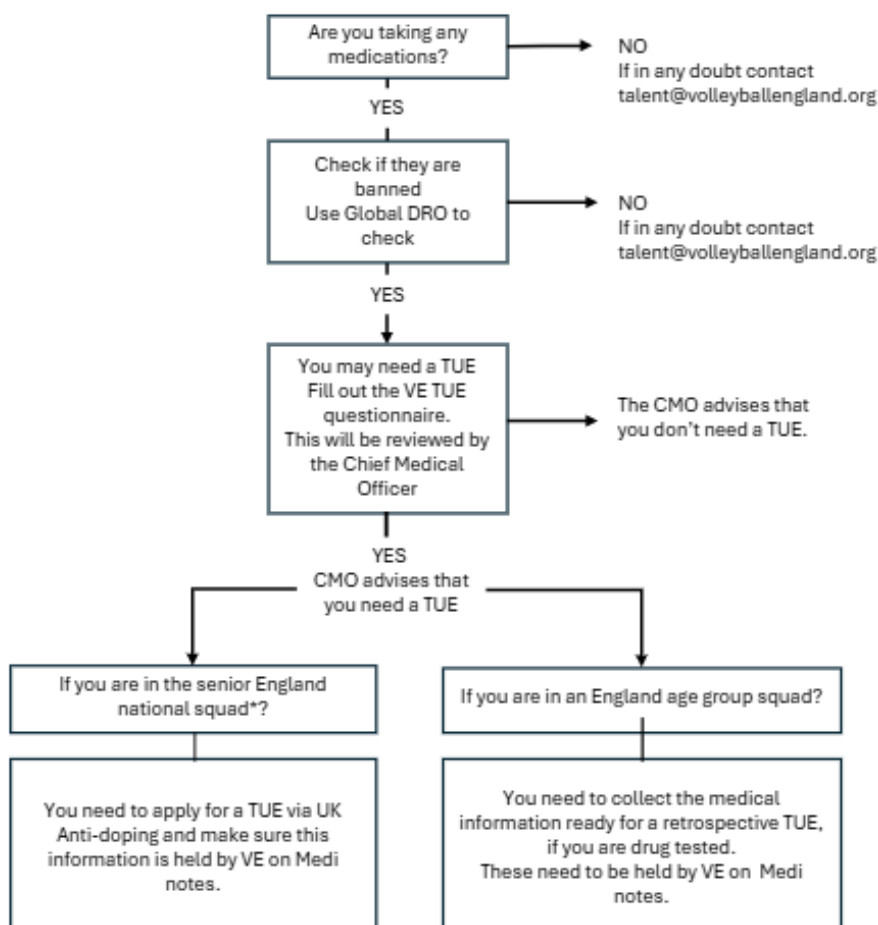
To check that you are compliant with the Anti-doping rules, please follow these steps:

1. Ensure you are not taking any prohibited items/substances - The Prohibited List is managed and coordinated by WADA, found on the WADA website [here](#).
2. Check Medication - Before taking any medication (whether from a doctor or purchased over the counter), athletes must check to make sure it doesn't contain any prohibited substances. Medications (ingredients or brand name) can be checked online at [Global DRO](#). It is important to note that medications bought in one country may contain different ingredients to the same branded medication in another country. For more information on checking medications, visit UKAD's website [here](#).
3. Check any nutritional supplements you are using - Athletes should assess the need, the risks and the consequences before deciding to take a supplement, and if they need to use one, visit the [Informed Sport website](#) to check whether supplements have been batch-tested.
4. Applying for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (USE) - If an athlete with a legitimate medical condition needs to use a prohibited substance or method, they will need to apply for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE). Athletes can find out more information about the TUE process on the [UKAD Website](#) and use the TUE Flow Chart to find out whether they need to apply for a TUE and who to submit their application to.

Unless playing in senior beach or indoor team, age group athletes can apply for a TUE retrospectively, but should be prepared with the correct paperwork and evidence.

THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTIONS (TUE) FLOW CHART

Version Oct 2025



**This includes any age group players included in the senior squad.*

If in any doubt, please contact talent@volleyballengland.org

FUNDING

Many athletes depend on the family, carers and guardians to fund their progression through their sport, but there is a limit to how far even their biggest supporter's budget can stretch and could result in facing a tough decision on whether to continue training and competing. Sports equipment and clothing, training fees, training camps, competition and a healthy diet represent considerable expenses each month for many athletes and their families. We recognise that this can be a considerable expense, and we are committed to supporting athletes in raising the necessary funds.

Volleyball England has included a list of personal fundraising strategies to help you explore direct ways to raise money yourself.

Understand Your Costs

Athletes and families should plan in advance. To avoid unexpected financial pressure, it's important to create a budget early in the season. Start by reviewing the calendar of camps and competitions, estimating costs for each, and identifying any funding support you may be eligible for. This proactive approach will help you understand your total financial commitment and allow you to plan accordingly. To get the full picture don't forget to include club, regional as well as England expenses.

Typical expenses include:

- Travel: to training, camps and competitions
- Accommodation: camp costs
- Kit and equipment: Personal equipment (shoes, knee pads, etc.) and England kit
- Coaching and support staff: Strength & conditioning sessions, Physiotherapy or Gym memberships
- Competition Costs: Entry fees (UKBT)
- Other Expenses: Membership renewal (Volleyball England, club), passport fees, medical certificates

Indicative Costs based on 2025

U18/U20 NEVZA Beach Volleyball Championships	£500
U18/U20 Beach Volleyball European Championships	£1000
U22 Beach Volleyball European Championships	£1100
NEVZA Indoor Volleyball Championships	£1000
U18/U20 European Volleyball Championships	£1000
Cornacchia Winter Cup	£1000
Loughborough Training Camp	£400

Crowdfunding

Set up a personal fundraising campaign via GoFundMe, supported by the Volleyball England Foundation.

Guidance on how to create your fundraising page is available [HERE](#) Share your story and goals; include photos and videos and regularly update supporters.

Local Sponsorship

Approach local businesses or sports-related companies for sponsorship. Prepare a short sponsorship proposal outlining your journey and what you can offer in return such as logo placement on off court kit; social media shoutouts; event appearances

The Ann Jarvis Hardship Fund

This Volleyball England and Volleyball England Foundation fund is designed to support athletes and their families who face financial hardship as a direct result of participating in the talent programmes. The fund will operate in two windows each year:

- Indoor Athletes (December): Applications will open in December, when athletes begin a new cycle and selections into the pathway are confirmed.
- Beach Athletes (April/May): Applications will open in April/May, coinciding with the start of the beach season.

Once the application process is finalised, we will send you further details.

Turn2us

A charity search engine which has a 'Grant' section where students can enter their postcode, gender and age and it filters on charities registered with them. [Click here](#) for more information.

Grants Online

The UK's most comprehensive and up to date UK grant funding information service. Updated on a daily basis, Grants Online informs you of grant funding opportunities from the UK Government Agencies, the Lottery as well as Grant Making Trusts & Foundations. [Click here](#) for more information.

Charitable Trusts and Foundations

There are a number of charities that offer support or grants for essential sports equipment. There may also be local charities that fund talented athletes in your area. For example, Sport Newcastle is a charity offering individual grants and scholarships to sportspeople living in Tyneside. You can find applicable trusts [here](#).

Local Councils

Local councils often have a 'talented athlete' scheme – sometimes this is both monetary and access to local sports centres, generally they would be looking for a nationally ranked athlete. Check your [local council website](#) or contact them directly to explore what funding may be available.

Clubs and schools

Clubs and schools play a vital role in getting people into the game, supporting and underpinning the delivery of the whole talent pathway. They support athletes by providing equipment or covering training and competition fees. Contact your club and/or school directly to explore what may be available to you.

GLL Sports Foundation

The GLL Sport Foundation aims to support talented athletes to develop sport performance and achieve sporting success. Applications are open annually from December until February and athletes' support begins in April each year.

Athletes receive:

- 1) financial support through awards ranging from £200-£1250 and/or
- 2) training membership support providing free access to sport and leisure venues currently managed by GLL and our partners
- 3) sport science support through access to physiotherapy, injury rehabilitation and other sport science programmes
- 4) And can also gain employment for GLL and access learning, qualifications and development opportunities through the GLL Sport Foundation and GLL.

To qualify for an award athletes must 1) have a direct link to where GLL operate sport and leisure venues and 2) compete within performance sport from a regional – international level. [Click here](#) for more information.

Active Partnerships

Some County Sport/Active Partnership have funds for talented athletes. Find contacts in your region [here](#). Check eligibility criteria and deadlines carefully.

Backing the Best

Volleyball England is allocated approximately 8–10 SportsAid Awards each year through this scheme. Backing The Best awards are worth up to £5,000 per year to help cover expensive costs such as travel and accommodation at training camps, and international competitions, physiotherapy, equipment and kit, strength and conditioning coaching, and medical bills. Backing the Best is prioritised for athletes who are most likely to represent England in Beach or Indoor Volleyball, as they typically face the highest performance-related costs.

SportsAid Award

Athletes must demonstrate genuine financial need and show that receiving this award would significantly impact their ability to remain on the Talent Pathway. While athletic performance is an important consideration, priority is given to those for whom the £2,500 award is essential to continuing their sporting journey.

Application Process

The application process for SportsAid and Backing the Best opens annually in October/November, with successful applicants receiving funding from 1st April of the following year, valid for one year. All athletes on the Talent Pathway will be provided with information on how to apply. There are strict eligibility criteria, and any athlete who meets these criteria is welcome to apply. Applications for this fund are accepted once per year only and cannot be considered at any other time of the year.

ENGLAND UNIFORM

Volleyball England has a kit agreement with Kukri which means we are only allowed to wear Kukri branded items.

The mandatory Kukri items for Talent Pathway athletes is two training T-Shirts, one ¼ Zip Track Top and a Rucksack. Athletes should wear unbranded black tracksuit bottoms or black leggings. The kit can be purchased through [VolleyStore](https://www.volleyballengland.com/volleystore).

We will send information about when you can buy the kit along with the access code when stock levels have been replenished.



ENV0016M298 - Unisex Volleyball / Beach
Volleyball Training T-Shirt
£29.00 GBP



ENV0012M298 - Unisex Volleyball / Beach
Volleyball 1/4 Zip Track Top
£45.00 GBP



ENV0017W298 - Women's Volleyball / Beach
Volleyball Training T-Shirt
£29.00 GBP



ENV0013W298 - Women's Volleyball / Beach
Volleyball 1/4 Zip Track Top
£45.00 GBP



KK00225U002 - Team Rucksack
£30.00 GBP

CODE OF CONDUCT

I have read and understood the points below, and I agree to follow them fully:

1. I fully commit to being on the Volleyball England Pathway, taking part in both Volleyball and/or Beach Volleyball England camps and events.
2. I will promote relationships with everyone that are based on fairness, openness, honesty, trust and respect.
3. I will always demonstrate proper personal/professional behaviour.
4. I will respect others regardless of race, gender, disability, ethnicity, sexuality or religious beliefs and I will not tolerate or be involved in discrimination of any kind.
5. I will keep my mobile phone switched off during sessions unless invited to use it as part of the session.
6. I will ensure my use of social networking sites promote positive images and comments of the National Team and Volleyball England.
7. I will uphold Volleyball England's business and sponsorship relationships, avoiding conflicting deals with rival companies when associated with Volleyball England or representing England.
8. I will only wear approved VE kit when representing England, and during photoshoots.
9. I will comply with UKAD's, WADA's and FIVB's Anti-Doping policies.
10. I will not smoke or possess/consume alcohol or illegal drugs whilst at camps or competitions.
11. I will not engage in sexual activity whilst at camps or competitions.
12. I will not leave the venue or accommodation at any time during the camp or competition, unless as part of an organised activity or with permission from my squad coach or team manager.
13. I understand that a curfew will be set by the squad staff in the evening, and I will abide by that.
14. I will not enter any accommodation other than my own.
15. I understand that during national squad camps, under 18's are not permitted to be transported in other athletes' cars.
16. I agree that a full report of any misconduct be forwarded to my parents/carers if so required.
17. I agree that my personal information can be used by Volleyball England staff for the purpose of administration in line with the Volleyball England GDPR Data Protection policy and Privacy policy.
18. I permit Volleyball England and competition organisers to take photographs, videos and live stream for media purposes. Any media taken will be used suitably and with discretion.
19. I give permission for national squad staff to transport me at camps and competitions.

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS

Talent Pathway athletes must complete all the required documentation to be eligible for selection and to take part in international competitions.

Document	What you need to do
VolleyZone	Check the information is correct: • Full Name from passport (Nick name in brackets) • Date of Birth • Contact Number (parent/guardian if U18) • Contact Email (parent/guardian if U18) • Emergency Contact Details
Perfbook	Check the information is correct: • Full Name from passport (Nick name in brackets) • Date of Birth • Contact Number (parent/guardian if U18) • Contact Email (parent/guardian if U18) • Emergency Contact Details • Copy of passport uploaded • Passport details section completed
Volleyball England Parent and Athlete agreement	This can be found in the 'team files' section in Perfbook. Once completed please upload to your Perfbook profile
Volleyball England Code of Conduct	Please ensure you read the Code of Conduct carefully and follow all guidelines outlined within it.
Volleyball England Medical Consent form	To be completed as athletes join the Talent pathway. This form can be found in the 'team files' section in Perfbook. Once completed please upload to your Perfbook profile.
GHIC	You can apply for the GHIC here .
Dietary Requirements	Please make sure your dietary requirements are entered into Perfbook. You'll be reminded to review and update this information each time they attend a camp or competition.
FIVB VIS account	Volleyball England will create a player account on the FIVB VIS platform when an athlete joins the Talent Pathway. Athletes will receive an email from FIVB with their VIS number and instructions on how to activate the account.
Recent headshot	Add a picture to Perfbook and Volleyzone. Please ensure the photo is clear and easy to identify. It must be a recent headshot—no sunglasses, group photos, or action shots.
International Player Participation Agreement (FIVB competitions only)	Beach Volleyball players only. This mandatory form is required before entry into any FIVB beach volleyball competition. Download the form here .

	Send the completed form to talent@volleyballengland.org to be authorised. Then upload the authorised form to your FIVB VIS account.
CEV BV-01 Player's Commitment (CEV competitions only)	Beach Volleyball players only. This mandatory form is required before entry into any CEV beach volleyball competition. Send the completed forms to talent@volleyballengland.org to be authorised. Then upload the authorised form to your FIVB VIS account.
FIVB BVB/10 Health Certificate	Beach Volleyball players only. This mandatory form is required before entry into any CEV/FIVB beach volleyball competition. Send the completed forms, signed by a doctor to talent@volleyballengland.org. to be authorised. The upload the authorised form to your FIVB VIS account. Beach athletes will get their medical screening and BVB/10 complete at the first beach camp in 2026. If you will be taking part in senior competition before the planned screening date you will have to get your family doctor to sign the BVB/10.
FIVB Play Clean	This only needs to be completed once per Olympic cycle. If you do not have your certificate, please complete the e-learning course. The certificate is valid until 2028. This is the link FIVB E-Learning Platform You will need your FIVB number and log in details. Once complete, upload your certificate to FIVB VIS
FIVB Prevention of Manipulation	This only needs to be completed once per Olympic cycle. If you do not have your certificate, please complete the e-learning course. The certificate is valid until 2028. This is the link FIVB E-Learning Platform You will need your FIVB number and log in details. Once complete, upload your certificate to FIVB VIS