

1. Introduction

1.1. Programme Policy Dates

The 2023/2024 Junior England Development Squad (EDS) will run from September 2023 to 31st August 2024. England Judo aims to develop young fighters to progress onto the British Judo World Class Performance Programme and achieve senior performances at Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games.

A critical component for the success of English Judo relies on an approach to selection that involves objective and subjective data, together with a programme of continuous personal development (technical, tactical, physical, psychological and lifestyle). The criteria for entry onto the EDS programme will require some competitive success but not in isolation.

The England Programme priority for Juniors is to prepare those fighters for the level required at senior international level. Sessions will be run nationally to bring together all fighters for the best quality training supplemental to the training done within club environments. The England Programme aims to engage as many competitive fighters as possible and deliver meaningful experiences, training and competition opportunities.

2. Eligibility

2.1. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the England Development Squad (EDS), fighters must meet the following criteria:

- Hold a current BJA or affiliate membership.
- Hold a valid British passport – or meet the new IJF/EJU policy requirements regarding Refugees and Junior and Younger Immigrants.
- Juniors to hold a minimum grade of 2nd Kyu (blue belt).
- Juniors born between 2004 and 2009.
- 2023/2024 England Programme Fighter agreement MUST be signed and adhered to.

3. Identification

There are two routes to EDS identification, Primary and Secondary.

3.1. Primary Identification

3.1.1. **NHC Open (Junior event only)** – Top four place with a minimum of two contest wins.

3.1.2. Juniors born in 2006 who were in the previous year's Cadet England Squad will be considered for a place on the Junior EDS based on fighter engagement, behaviour and attendance record.

Juniors born in 2006 who **were not** in the previous year's Cadet England squad will be required to meet the performance requirement as stated in 3.1.1.

3.1.3. Home Nation Open performances from the previous 12 months.

3.1.4. International performances from the previous 12 months.

3.2. Secondary Identification

3.2.1. **British Championships** – Top four place with a minimum of two contest wins

3.2.2. Additional EDS places may be allocated to fighters via a continuous review by England coaches following events during the 2023-2024 squad year.

England coaches have the discretion to select and/or invite fighters who fall outside these criteria when appropriate.

3.3. Injury

Whereby a fighter who has previously been a member of the England Squad has suffered a long-term injury preventing them from fulfilling the identification requirements a decision will be made based on previous performances, attendance at England Squad trainings, performance behaviours and future potential.

4. EDS Training

4.1. Calendar

- The England programme aims to increase time on task.
- The 2023/2024 annual calendar will be published by **5th August 2023**. This will be updated as necessary.
- All scheduled training days may be subject to change in the event of clashes with other events. We will provide as much notice as possible.

4.2. Attendance & Communication

- Fighters' attendance at EDS training is expected and will be continually reviewed.
- Attendance and engagement are primary factors taken into consideration when selections are made for international competitions and training camps and additional training opportunities.
- Clear communication is always required. Non-attendance, with a valid reason detailed in section 3.4 **MUST** be received via Spond within the timelines of the calling notice.
- Where calling notices are persistently not responded to, the England Programme has the right to remove Fighters from EDS at its discretion.

4.3. Training Invites & Additional Opportunities

- The England Programme reserves the right to send all invites on an individual basis (based on performance, commitment and behaviours).
 - Additional invitations to train with the EDS Squad will be issued by the England Coaching Team on an individual basis and **not by request**.
 - The England Programme may identify further training opportunities. These will be communicated in due course together with any criteria for identification.

4.4. Performance Pathway Training

- There is an expectation that EDS members will attend weekly identified ETDC training sessions/training camps where geographically possible.
- Attendance to ETDC weekly sessions is taken into consideration when selections are made for international or domestic competitions and training camps.

4.5. Accepted Absences

The following reasons will be accepted as absences and will therefore not be counted as missed sessions:

- Injury or illness
- Other circumstances which have been communicated to and approved by the England coaches in advance.

5. International Competition & Training Opportunity

EDS Juniors will be provided the opportunity to compete in the following International Competitions and Camps on a self-fund basis:

- Two International Open events per year (E.g., Danish Open, Bremen/Thuringia, Antwerp etc.)
- Consideration for selection for European Cups based on current stage of development and experience.

Priority places will be allocated to those who complete the Squad Induction Day.

6. EDS Squad Fees

6.1. Fee System

The 2023/2024 EDS fees will run from September 2022 to 31st August 2023 at a cost of £100. Fees are due by 30th September 2023 and are payable by online payment.