

# England Development Squad Identification Policy

**Pre Cadet, Cadet, Junior  
September 2025 – August 2026**

## Introduction

England Judo's commitment to fostering excellence begins at the earliest stages, nurturing young fighters as they progress through each level of the sport. The journey for aspiring judoka starts with the Pre Cadet, Cadet, and Junior categories, providing a structured and supportive environment for skill development and growth.

The England Talent Programme is designed to support British Judo's Olympic and Paralympic objectives. The England Development Squad (EDS) serves as the main approach for identifying athletes within the pathway. Its aims include:

- Identifying potential athletes for future British Judo Olympic and Paralympic teams;
- Supporting athletes to perform at the Junior World and Junior European Championships;
- Assisting athletes in their preparation and transition to the World Class Performance Programme; and
- Developing an inclusive talent programme to include fighters from diverse backgrounds within the England judo community.

The EDS offers a programme of continuous personal development which includes technical, tactical, physical, psychological and lifestyle support. This is delivered through training camps, based at the British Judo Olympic & Paralympic National Training Centre, and opportunities for international competition.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for the EDS, fighters must meet the following criteria:

- Hold a current BJA licence or affiliate membership;
- Hold a valid British passport or meet the IJF/EJU policy requirements regarding refugees. See the IJF rules here: [IJF Rules](#);
- Signed 2025/2026 England Programme Fighter Agreement, see Appendix 1 of the EDS Information Booklet: and

- Meet the appropriate grade / age criteria for each squad as per the table below:

Squad	Minimum Grade	Year of birth
<b>Pre-Cadet</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> Mon (orange belt)	2012 to 2013
<b>Cadet</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> Mon/3 <sup>rd</sup> Kyu (green belt)	2009 to 2011
<b>Junior</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Kyu (blue belt)	2006 to 2011

## Identification

The criteria for invitation onto the EDS programme is based around participation and commitment to the sport of judo along with specific performance measures at cadet and junior level.

There are two main identification routes:

1. Primary - Invites will be offered in September following the English Closed Championships.
2. Secondary – Invites may be offered in December following the British Championships.

The England Talent Programme reserves the right to offer places based on criteria including, but not limited, to:

- Achievement of the Performance Identification Criteria.
- Attendance at the English Closed Championships – or approved reason for not being in attendance.
- Previous performances of the fighter.
- Age and stage of development of fighter in their age group.
- Performance level of the relevant weight category and age group.
- Competitiveness of the relevant weight category and age group.

Performance Identification Criteria:

Squad	Performance requirements at the English Closed and British Championships	Previous EDS Fighters
<b>Pre-Cadet</b>	All entrants will receive an invitation to EDS training group 1*.	n/a
<b>Cadet</b>	Top four place with a minimum of two contest wins will be considered for EDS training group 2*.	2011 born cadets who were a pre-cadet EDS last year and adhered to the Fighter Agreement, will be

		considered for EDS training group 1*
<b>Junior</b>	Top four place with a minimum of two contest wins will be considered for EDS training group 2*.	2008 born juniors who were a cadet EDS last year and adhered to the Fighter Agreement will be considered for EDS training group 2*

*\*Visit the EDS Information Booklet for details on EDS training groups*

Additional invites - Further invites may be offered in February considering performances after the conclusion of the English and Scottish Opens.

### Co-Option Application

Fighters not directly identified by the England Talent Programme, who want to be considered for the EDS, may submit a Co-Option Application. Fighters will be required to include details on their performances over the previous 12 months.

Application form located here: [Co-Option Application Form](#)

Co-option applications will be considered up until April 2026.

### International Camp and Competition Opportunities

An important part of the EDS programme is the opportunity to compete internationally as part of the England team. England Judo aims to provide self-funded international competition opportunities to as many fighters as possible. England Judo, as a minimum, will offer 2 competition opportunities to EDS training group 1 fighters and 3 competition opportunities to EDS training group 2 fighters.

### EDS Squad Fees

£150 per year

Additional information regarding camps, competitions, and squad fees is available in the EDS & EPP Information Booklet.