

England Performance Potential Identification Policy

Cadet & Junior Age Groups
September 2026 – August 2027

Introduction

England Judo's commitment to fostering excellence begins at the earliest stages, nurturing young fighters as they progress from their club to representing their home nation. 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 as a layer of support for clubs and club coaches.

The England Talent Programme has been established to advance British Judo's Olympic and Paralympic goals. The England Performance Potential Squad (EPP) represents a progression from the England Development Squad (EDS) for Cadet and Junior athletes. Selected athletes receive enhanced opportunities for performance-focused training, increased access to international competitions, and strengthened engagement with the British Judo World Class Performance Programme, specifically the Olympic Performance Potential (OPP) training group.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the EPP, athletes 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 the 2026/2027 England Programme Fighter Agreement, see Appendix 1 of the EDS/EPP Information Booklet;
- Have been identified for the EDS in 2026/2027; and
- Meet the appropriate grade / age criteria for each squad as per the table below:

Squad	Minimum Grade	Year of birth
Cadet	10 th Mon/3 rd Kyu (green belt)	2010 to 2012
Junior	2 nd Kyu (blue belt)	2007 to 2012

Selection

EPP athletes will be selected after the EDS induction training days on 26-27 September 2026. For information about the identification process, refer to the EDS Identification Policy.

Selection to the EPP will be based on the following factors - athletes must have:

1. Competed at the English Closed Championships 2026 (or have an approved reason for non-attendance that been agreed by the Head Coach PRIOR to the championships); and
2. Achieved one of the competition performances for their age group outlined below.

EPP Competition Performances

Age in 2026/2027	Performance requirement
First year Cadet (YOB 2012)	• Win 2026 English Closed Championships; or • Finalist at 2026 British Championships; or • Medal at Harnes International.
Second/third year Cadets (YOB 2011, 2010)	• Medalled in 2 or more B level tournaments between Sept 2025-August 2026.; or • Top 7 placing in an A level tournament between Sept 2025-August 2026.
First year Junior (YOB 2009)	• Top 7 placing in an A level tournament between Sept 2025-August 2026.
Second/third year Juniors (YOB 2008, 2007)	• Medalled in 2 or more B level tournaments between Sept 2025-August 2026; or • Top 7 placing in an A level tournament between Sept 2025-August 2026.

Minimum Expectations

Athletes on the EPP will be continually assessed throughout the year to ensure the programme remains appropriate for their individual development. Coaches will assess athletes through squad training, competition performances, and communication between England Talent Programme activities.

Athletes on the EPP are expected to:

1. Attend squad training for EDS and EPP as detailed in the Programme Booklet;
2. Communicate any non-attendance and gain authorisation not to attend EDS/EPP squad training (maximum of three absences per year – unless a

- long-term injury applies);
3. Attend all domestic and international training camps with the effort, discipline, and engagement expected of an elite athlete, demonstrating a consistent commitment to training at the required intensity;
 4. Enter and compete in the following:
 - a. 2026 British Championships.
 - b. Home Nation Opens – compete in at least 3 (Welsh, Scottish, English & Northern Irish Opens).
 - c. Domestic events – be competing regularly throughout the year;
 5. Fully engage with the England Talent Programme throughout the year, including responding to calling notices, accepting competition invitations, and communicating with England Talent Programme coaches as required;
 6. Accept and process constructive feedback during camps (be coachable); and
 7. Demonstrate the physical and mental capacity required to complete the necessary training volume at both domestic and international camps.

International Camp and Competition Opportunities

An important part of the England Talent Programme is the opportunity to compete internationally as part of the England team. England Judo will provide self-funded international competition opportunities to all athletes.

To maximise the support provided to all athletes and to ensure that athletes are entered into the right competitions to enhance their development, the England Talent Programme has grouped the competition opportunities into A level and B level tournaments. Further information on camps and competitions can be found in the EDS & EPP Programme Booklet.

EPP Squad Fees

£150 per year

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

Correct as of 12 August 2026.