

England Korfball Performance Pathway: Development Training Squad (DTS) 2023/2024

At the start of 2024 we will be launching the next stage of the Performance Programme Pathway - The Development Training Squad. This group of selected athletes will be part of an annual training programme aimed at preparing them for elite international England squads. This part of the pathway is designed to also capture the increasing talent demonstrated by university students who are new to the sport but show significant athletic korfball potential.

Key Information:

Selection Weekend*

Date: Saturday 2nd December 2023

Location: University of East London (UEL) SportsDock

Timings: 10am-5pm

Session No. 1

Date: Saturday 17th February 2024

Location: UEA

Timings: 11am-5pm

Session No. 2

Date: Saturday 23rd March 2024

Location: UEA

Timings: 11am-5pm

Session No. 3

Date: Sunday 2nd June 2024

Location: University of East London (UEL) SportsDock

Timings: 11am-5pm

Session No. 4 & 5

Date: Saturday 7th September & Sunday 8th September 2024. ****Selection Camp**

Location: UEA

Timings: 11am-5pm

Competitions & Eligibility:

- To be an athlete in the DTS you need to be aged older than 17 Years by January 2024.
- The squad selected will be no more than 30 athletes. Selection is based across a number of metrics, observations and assessments made by coaches for elite athlete korfball potential.
- The focus of this squad is to develop elite training habits and to support our ETS Squads for international success.
- For 2024, athletes in the DTS will attend 5 single day training camps plus 1 x Selection camp.
- If you are a GB Student/University entrance athlete, then to trial for DTS Squad you need to attend Academy session 2 on **Saturday 2nd December** to be assessed for DTS selection. You should have played at least 1 years Korfball at GB student level. Please email Stephanie.Watson@englandkorfball.co.uk to register your interest.
- Any Academy athletes who wished to be assessed for DTS selection should continue in the Academy programme and will be assessed for selection through session attendance as normal. All eligible Academy athletes will automatically be considered for DTS selection.
- Any non Academy athletes and non Student athletes who also wish to join the Performance programme and trial for DTS need to register their interest for DTS by attending the Academy Session 2 on Sat 2nd December by emailing Stephanie.Watson@englandkorfball.co.uk
- The competitive offering has been evaluated to maximise opportunities for both developmental competition exposure and performance competition. As such DTS athletes are eligible for the following competitions this year:
 - **27-30th December: 2 x U19 International Challenge Tournament, Rotterdam**
 - **29-31st March: 1 x U19 IKF World Cup, Catalonia**
 - **IKF U21 World Cup (Pending EK Decision)**

As all Academy and DTS camps are in shared venues for 23/24, selection for IKF U19 can therefore be taken across all Academy/DTS sessions and taken from either pathway.

Other International Development training and matches are being considered as part of our holistic approach to provision of appropriate exposure to international competition. These may be separate or integrated within the training camps and details around this will follow.

Athletes who are older than Academy age limit (not U19 eligible) who do NOT make DTS selection should continue their training with their club and can be assessed by coaches

across the year in competition (would be expected to be playing NL or equivalent) and can re trial at annual selection camps in Sept 24.

Athletes who wish to be considered for DTS selection but are still eligible for Academy and do NOT get selected for DTS should remain in Academy programme to progress their skills for future DTS selection.

Athletes considered of selection maturation who wish to be considered for ETS programme will not be eligible for selection for competitions other than ENG Senior, Eng senior friendlies and ETS. This is to support player pathway and EK focus of widening base of eligible athletes competing across pathway.

Further Information:

- The DTS Programme will continue to deliver the following aspects of Athlete Development:
 - Use of High Performance Environments
 - Externally led Athlete Education sessions by industry professionals
 - Access to an Athlete Development Training Programme designed by our Athletic Development Lead Rob Thickpenny
 - Coaching focussed on an athlete centred approach led by a team of experienced and qualified coaches.
 - Competition opportunities (National and International) based on pillars of Development and Performance which are matched to the developmental needs of the athletes

- The cost for being part of the DTS Programme in 23/24 will be £250 which can be paid in instalments or as a one off fee. Details regarding payment will be released after the squad has been selected.

Steph Watson, Academy Lead Coach will be delivering an open access Webinar on Thursday September 14th to go through the offering for 23/24 and answer any questions coaches or parents may have. To sign up to this webinar, please register your interest here: <https://forms.gle/NqCLE7WVmUtDixZq6>