

Swim England Talent  
Pavilion 3  
Sport Park  
Loughborough University  
LE11 3QF

## **County Development Programme Leads and Head Coaches**

Dear County Leads and Coaches,

I hope you are all well and I send you my best wishes ahead of Christmas. On behalf of the England Talent Team I would like to thank you for your continued support over the last few years in helping develop our athletes and coaches, in particular during a very challenging eighteen months. Your investment does make a huge difference and is greatly appreciated by all members of the England Talent Team.

I am contacting you in relation to the 2022 County Development Programme and to inform you of our talent development plans nationally from September 2022. The suggested plans for the remainder of this swimming season until August 2022, and for the long term from September 2022, have been discussed and agreed following the feedback from a number of County Programme Leads via email and the responses to the survey monkey link sent in October and December 2021.

### **County Development Programme January 2022 – August 2022**

We are aware that there have been many challenges for clubs, counties and regional committees to navigate as the swimming community continues to emerge from the national restrictions, enforced nationally by the government to combat covid-19. Due to this we applaud and support any development activities each County is able to deliver in 2022 to its respective members.

We encourage the blended approach to provide education to a wider cohort of young athletes and where possible deliver a face to face development camp to selected athletes. Below is a breakdown of suggested delivery;

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Delivered Period</b>	<b>Audience</b>
Online Education	3 hours	January 2022 – April 2022	11 years by 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2022 mass engagement and large cohort
Face to Face Camp	1 day	May 2022 – August 2022	11 years by 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2022 Selected athletes

Online Education allows an increase in the numbers and engagement with a wider audience of 11yr old athletes in your county, whilst also being inclusive of para-swimmers. We believe engaging with a larger number of swimmers at this age will be more beneficial to the athlete's development and support future success within the county.

As stated in previous correspondence we advise having the 2020/2021 coaching team kept in place for the sake of ease, consistency of delivery and to provide those coaches with face to face delivery experience.

Resources for online and face to face delivery will be shared with each county programme lead and head coach via BOX.



Our selection guidance is that you would have a separate policy for both online education and face to face camp. The online education would be inclusive of any Cat 2 swimmers 11 years of age by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December and be inclusive of para-swimmers. Swimmers selected would understand their selection is solely for the online education. A smaller cohort would be selected for the face to face camp.

For more information, please see 'County Development Programme Selection Policies & Guidelines 2022.'

### **County Development Programme (September 2022 – August 2023)**

We have reviewed all talent programme activities and put in place a national delivery plan which is inclusive of able bodied swimmers and para-swimmers, creating an integrated pathway which has bespoke activities for several sub-groups of athletes. Some examples of these activities will support swimmers development in open water, para-swimming, freestyle distance swimming and where required gender specific support.

From September 2022 all national activities will be delivered throughout the swimming season. A cohort of athletes will be selected in August 2022 following the national swimming championships and the athlete and their home coach will be supported by a series of activities such as online education, online home coach, athlete and parent drop ins, face to face camps, face to face physical screenings, competition experience and exposure, and home programme visits. The rationale for this ongoing seasonal support is to increase our connectivity to the athlete and their home coach, to provide increased ongoing support to develop their daily training environment.

Due to the changes outlined above we would like all county and regional talent programmes to follow the same seasonal format of delivery as all national talent programmes. This is to set the foundations and deliver key messages to which, the national talent programmes aim to build upon to support the athletes and their home coach to progress along the talent pathway and support their swimming journey.

Suggested county programme delivery model;

Activity	Duration	Delivered Period	Audience
Selection	n/a	August 2022	11 years by 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2022 Selected athletes
Face to Face Camp	1 day	September 2022 – December 2022	Selected 11 years athletes
Online Education	3 hours	January 2023 – April 2023	Selected 11 years athletes
Face to Face Camp	1 day	May 2023 – August 2023	Selected 11 years athletes

We have requested the above delivery model to be implemented by all regional talent programmes and will also be the model of delivery for the first step of the national talent programme from September 2022, re-branded as the National Age Group Development Programme.

We would like athlete selections to be made in August 2022 to promote end of season targets and a peak performance for young swimmers and their home coaches. Athletes should be developed season by season following Athlete Development Support Pathway (ADSP)



guidelines, with the intention of having a season best or peak performance in the summer, either at a club open meet, national summer championships or an international event such as the Olympics/Paralympics or Commonwealth Games.

For more information, please see *County Foundation Programme Selection Policies & Guidelines 2022-2023*.

I will host a County online drop in **10<sup>th</sup> January 10.00-11.00** to answer any questions, offer support and discuss any elements of the programme for January – August 2022 and the future plans from September 2022. This session will be recorded and shared for those who can't attend. Zoom link to be sent in due course.

Yours sincerely

Tom McManus  
National Talent Officer – Pool Technical Lead  
Swim England