



PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

Strategy & Application Process

July 2023 | tabletennisengland.co.uk

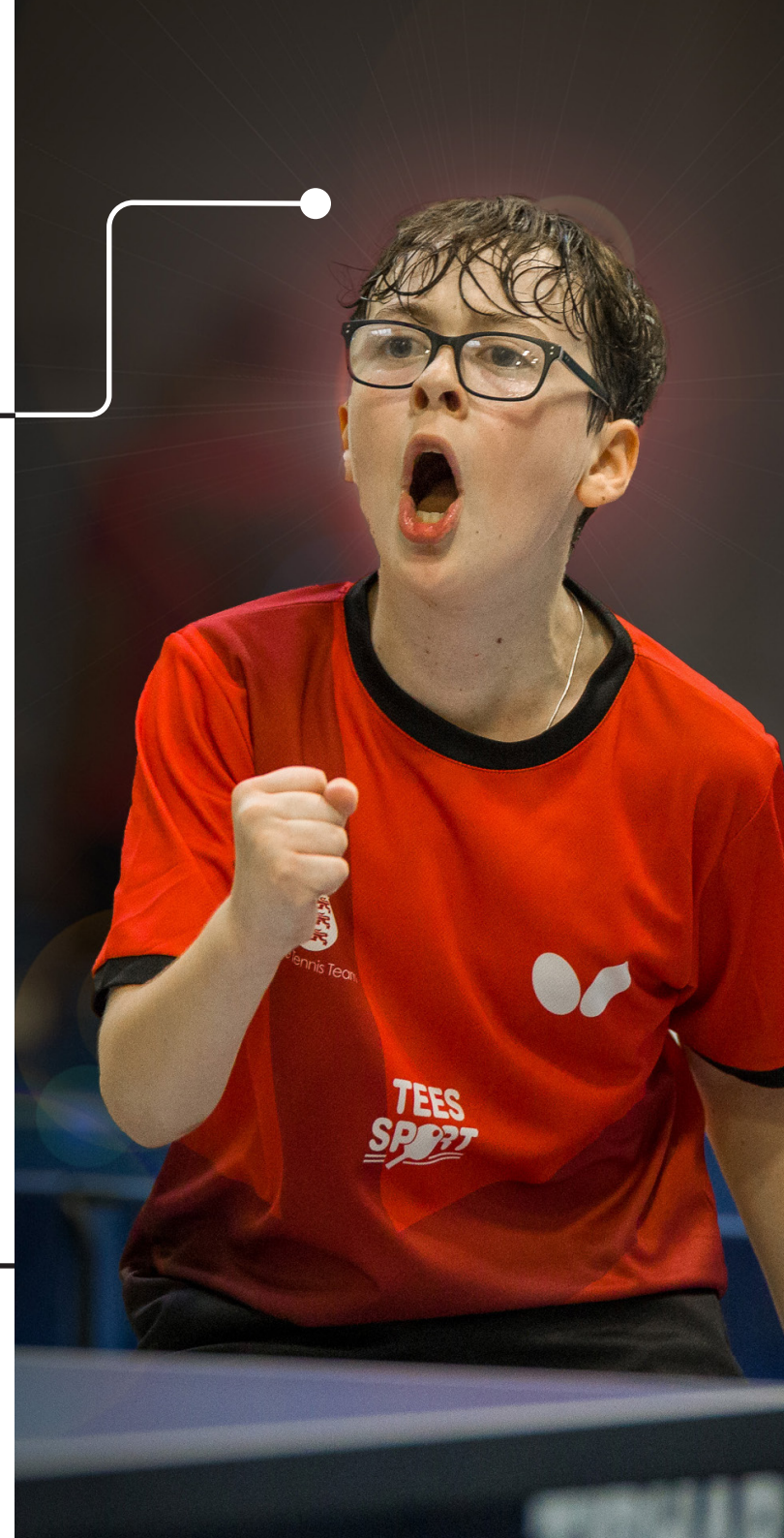


PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE NETWORK VISION

A network of high-quality development hubs united with the goal of supporting players to develop world class potential that are ready to excel into the next stage of the pathway.

● **Overarching Aims:**

- Develop players with world class technical & fundamental skills relative to their age, ready to excel in the pathway
- Develop creative and fun environments that keep players motivated
- Create an early investment in good habits and behaviours
- Support coaches to excel in developing elite youth players



PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE STRATEGY

The pathway development centres are a critical step at the start of a player's journey to develop world class potential in a creative and engaging environment, bridging the gap from entry into pathway to England national programmes.

● **Key delivery objectives across four strands:**

Environment
& System

Player
Development

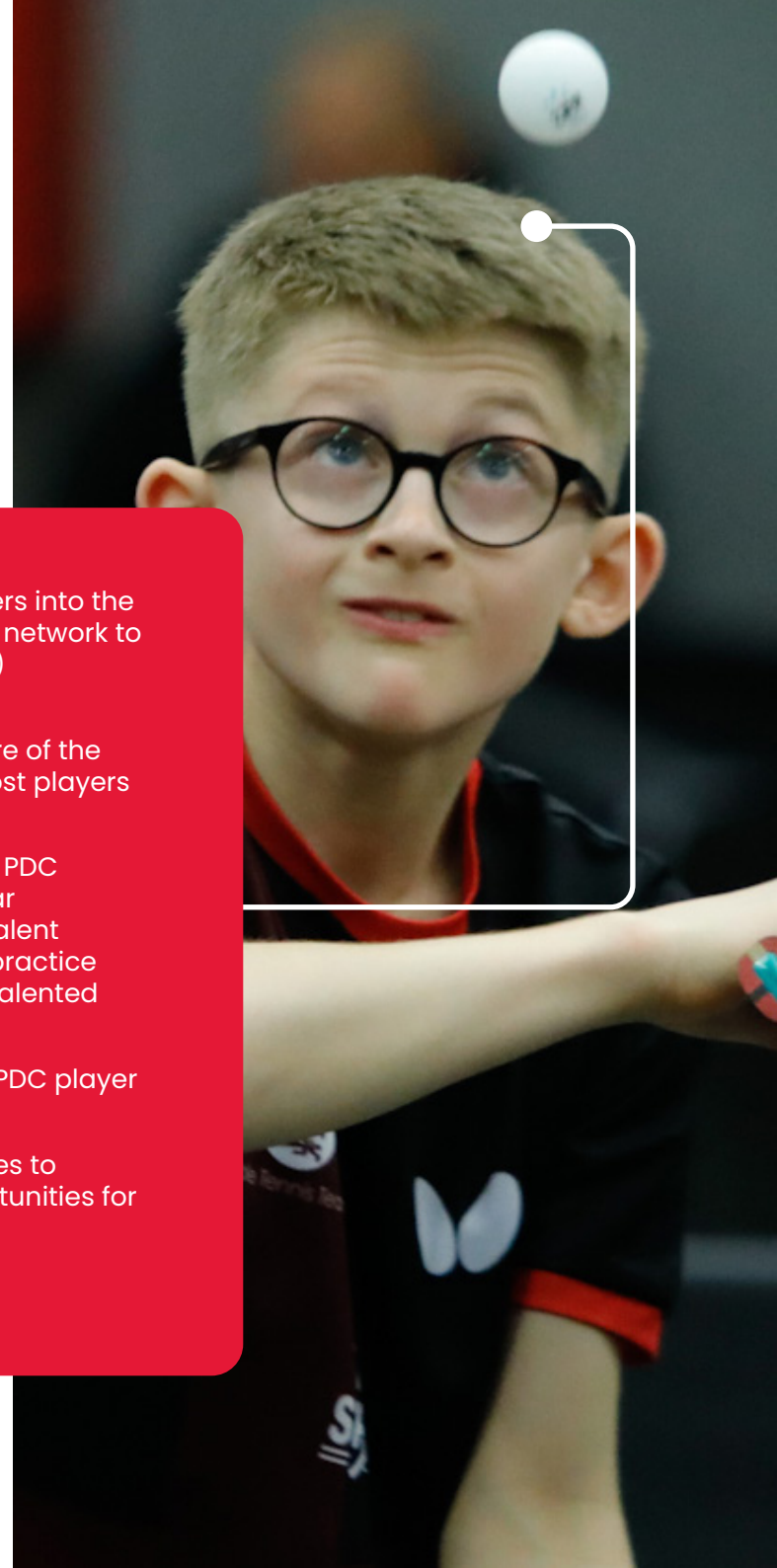
Coach
Development

Parent Support &
Engagement

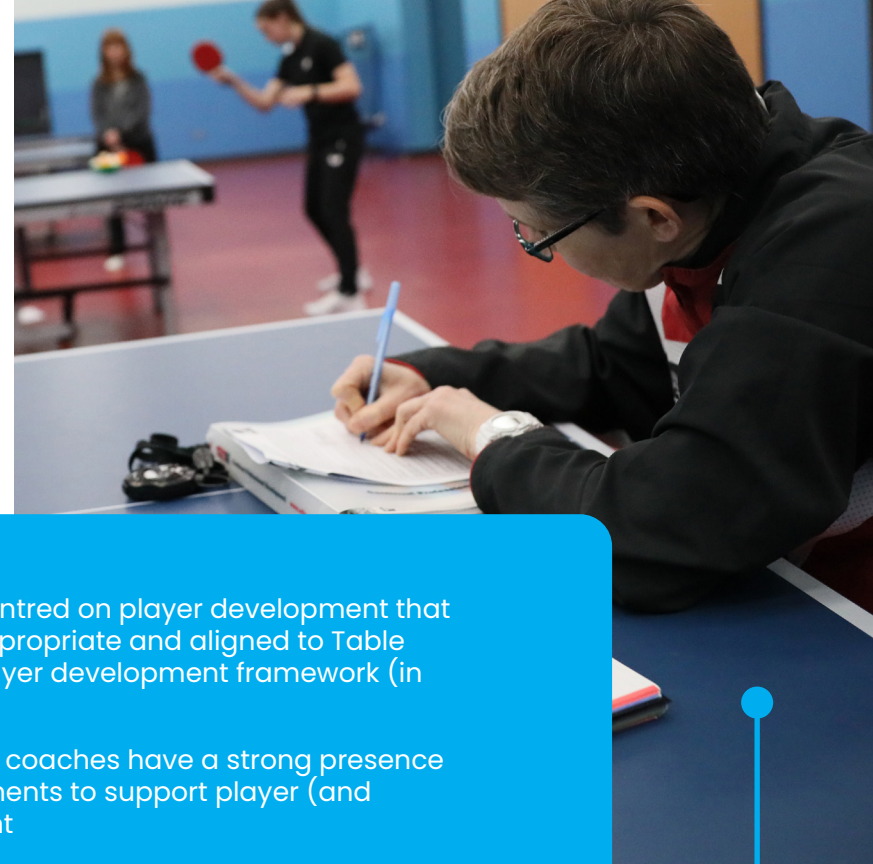
PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE STRATEGY

● Environment & System:

- Increase the number of talented table tennis players involved in English talent pathway activity at a younger age
- Provide a strong talent pool for the most promising players to feed into the England Futures Programme/wider squads
- Create a pathway structure within PDC environments, including the early development phase (8-11) and pathway phase (12-15), providing a progression route and exposure to the next level
- Create environments that are fun, engaging, and creative, and leave players wanting to come back for more
- Create interconnected hub models between PDCs and satellite clubs across the country
- Support every PDC to develop a plan around how they intend to detect talent across local environments to bring new players into the PDC (with support from the Area network to create an outreach programme)
- Ensure that everyone delivering development activity is aware of the PDC structure and how to signpost players demonstrating potential
- Create the Table Tennis England PDC network that will include a regular discussion forum and focus on talent development education & best practice supporting the development of talented youth players
- Establish the PDC awards – e.g., PDC player of the month
- Create the PDC competition series to provide more competitive opportunities for younger age groups (year 2)



PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE STRATEGY



Player Development

- A focus on developing players that have mastered world class basics providing the foundation for international success
- Support players to have an early investment of good habits and the desired behaviours that the Table Tennis England Performance Team are looking for
- Support the physical development of players through core fundamental movement skills activity and ensure that every session has this activity fully embedded
- Support the transition of players from the early development phase (8-11) to the pathway phase (12-15) within PDC sessions, ensuring that training practices within each phase are relevant to age and stage
- Ensure the PDC is centred on player development that is age and stage appropriate and aligned to Table Tennis England's player development framework (in completion)
- Ensure that national coaches have a strong presence within PDC environments to support player (and coach) development
- Ensure that every PDC has appropriate sparring partners to support player development and exposure to role models within the environment
- Where appropriate, players will be exposed to wider learning opportunities co-ordinated by Table Tennis England that are age and stage appropriate (e.g., nutrition, sport psychology)

PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE STRATEGY

Coach Development

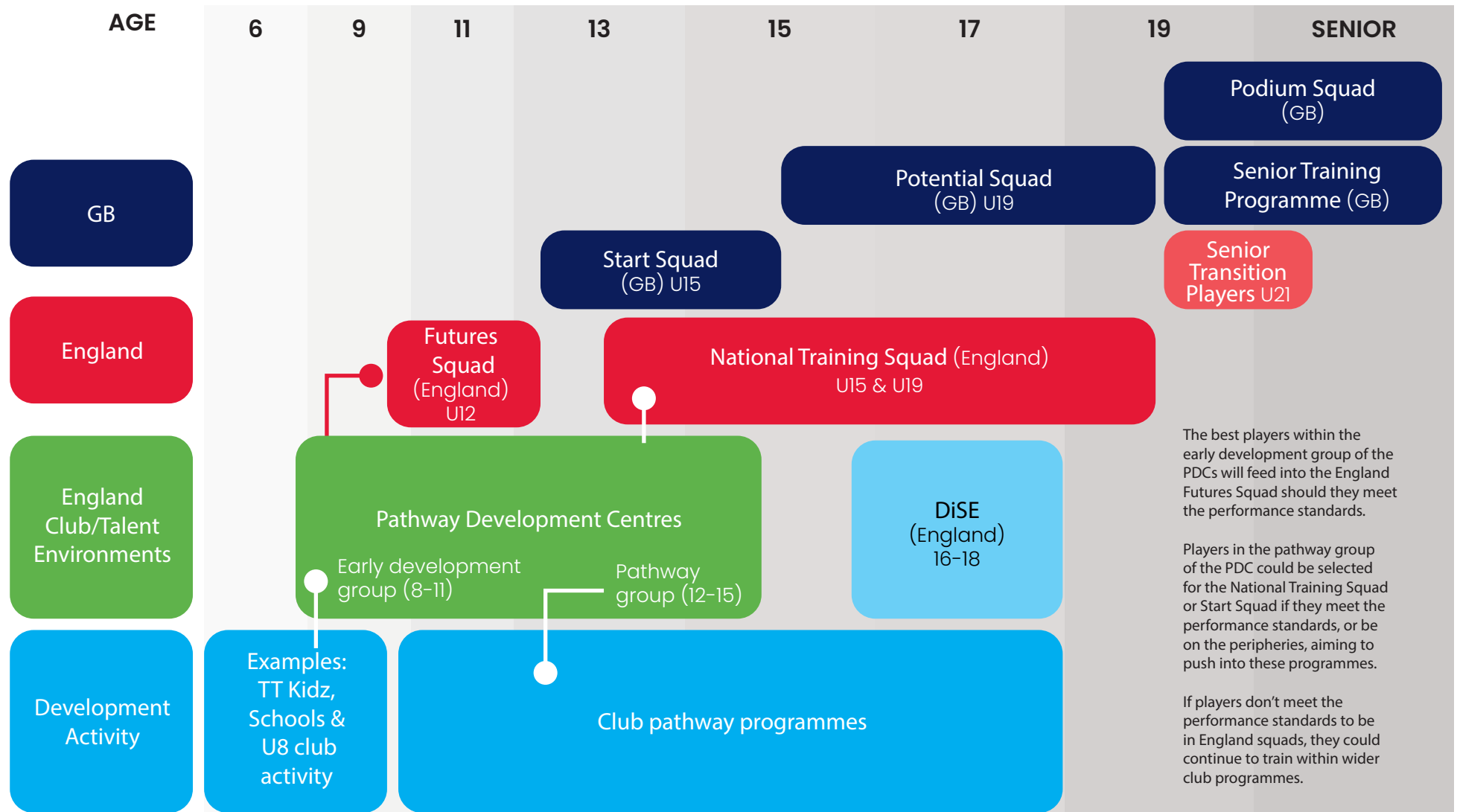
- Support the roll out of coach development opportunities within the PDC environment for local satellite clubs to facilitate peer to peer learning, with a focus on creating world class environments and coaching practices for early pathway player development
- Support lead PDC coaches with mentoring from national coaches, and support them to become experts in the delivery of world class early talent development
- Ensure PDC coaches are educated on the delivery of fundamental skills, and how to embed these into training sessions
- Provide opportunities for PDC coaches to attend and support national squad activity and feel integrated into the Performance team

Parent Support & Engagement

- Ensure parents are fully aware of progression opportunities in the pathway
- Table Tennis England will provide parent support sessions on areas such as the competition pathway, the player journey, behaviours, player development, and more



Where do PDCs fit in the pathway?



PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE HUB MODEL

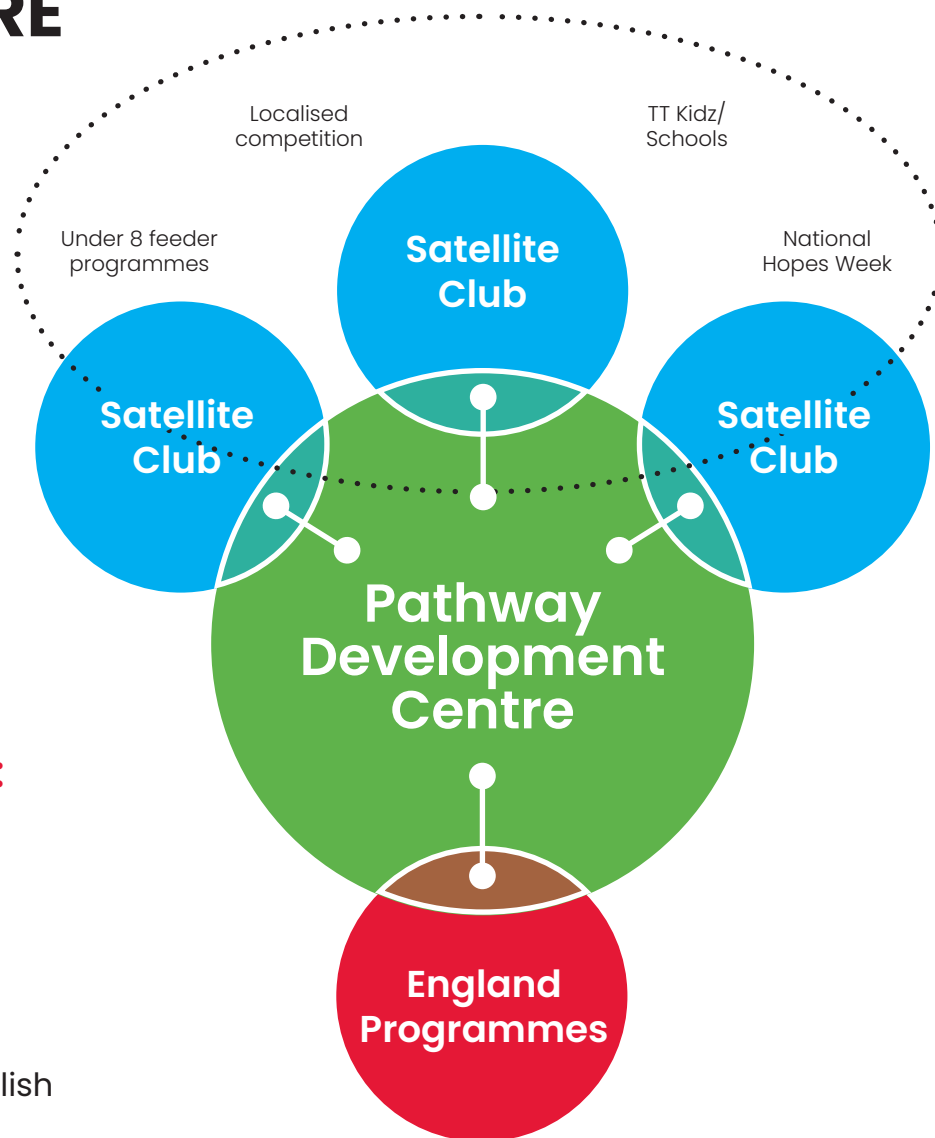
Development activities will feed players into satellite clubs or directly into the PDC.

Players from these clubs (or wider environments) to attend the PDC a minimum of 3x per week. Players may train in satellite clubs for the remainder of the week.

Strong partnerships and coach relationships are encouraged between development activity, satellite clubs, and the PDC (the PDC team will identify where the satellite clubs are).

Recruitment to PDCs could occur through a variety of ways, including (but not limited to):

- PDC outreach activities to satellite clubs
- U8 club feeder programmes
- Development activities such as TT Kidz
- National hopes week - 2024
- Localised competitions (including 1 and 2 * competition & English schools' events)
- Recommendations of the Table Tennis England Performance team



The roles and responsibilities of the PDC

Player Development & Recruitment

- Deliver **10 hours** of engaging and intense training activity per week (session split to be determined by the PDC) that is **additional** to any current activity happening within the environment (the funding cannot support current club sessions & the PDC must evidence how the activity is new or replacing previous activity)
- Establish a progression structure within the PDC consisting of an early development group (approx. 8-11yrs) and a pathway group (approx. 12-15yrs) for a group of 12-16 players (approx. 6-8 in each group)
- Provide a lead coach who will be the main point of contact for Table Tennis England and a support coach, if available (who will each lead on one of the player groups in the PDC)
- Deliver fundamental skills activity across each session (to be supported by Table Tennis England)
- Arrange appropriate player sparring and support in the environment as required
- Develop links with wider development activity (e.g., schools, TT Kidz) and foster relationships with local clubs to ensure there is a clear pathway and pool of players to progress into the PDC when ready (e.g., U8 club feeder programme)
- Lead on the recruitment and deselection of players into/out of the PDC environment with the support of Table Tennis England

Coach Development

- Support the development and delivery of at least 3 coach development opportunities for neighbouring clubs per year
- PDC coaches to be regularly engaged with national squad coaches regarding player development and attend a series of national training camps across the year

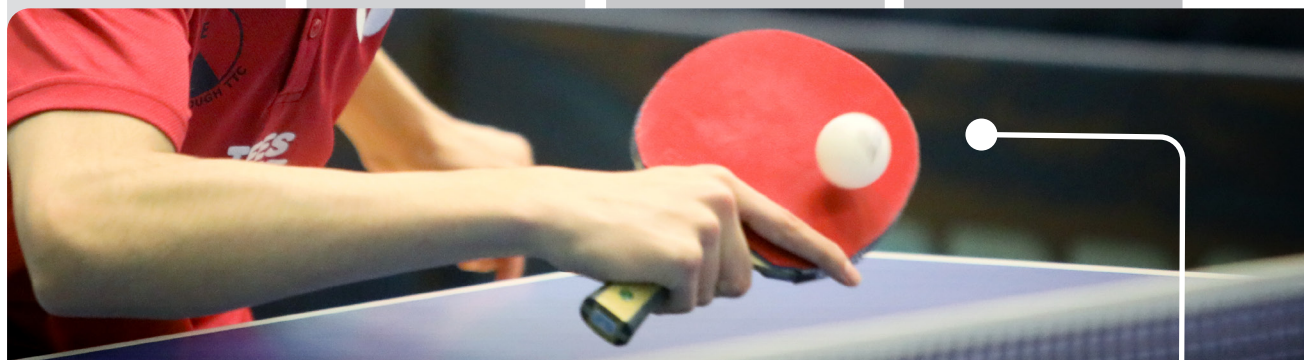
Logistics & Monitoring

- Complete appropriate player progression and attendance monitoring activities as required by Table Tennis England at various points across the year
- Attend 3 online or in person touch points with the Table Tennis England Head of Pathway Development
- Communicate with parents of players around entry/exit from the PDC environment
- Support the coordination of parent engagement workshops ran by Table Tennis England in the PDC environment/online
- Ensure that DBS checks have been completed (every 3 years) for any person who is engaged in the programme and is required to be checked according to the DBS regulated activity guidance
- Attend group meetings with other PDC leads to discuss best practice
- Support any research and development projects related to the PDC network
- Ensure players complete all appropriate documentation prior to accessing the PDC

Player Criteria/Standards (Early Development Group – 8 to 11 years)

The criteria below should be used as a guide to support player entry into the early development group of the PDC. Although technical aspects should be taken into consideration, behaviours, athleticism & commitment are priority criteria for players fairly new to the sport (e.g., aged 8).

Behaviours	Technical competence	Anticipation & decision making	Athleticism & coordination	Game awareness & coachability	Commitment
<p>Player: Demonstrates some of the following behaviours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passion and drive • Resilience • Curiosity • Self-management • Gratitude and respect • Adaptability • Thrives in competition • Takes care <p><i>*An overview of how these behaviours may appear in an U9 and a 9-12yr old player is available in the player development framework* - under development</i></p>	<p>Player:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a good grip that is not limiting • Shows they are capable on both wings • Can take the ball early before the top of the bounce on all attacking shots • Ability to hold the table (not running back) • Good ready position and recovery • Minimum of 2-3 services • Has a basic understanding of spin • Has a good forearm speed • Has good feeling in the hand and able to use the wrist • Is able to move laterally and in and out of the table • Is able to undertake basic movement drills on the table 	<p>Player:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows good ability to anticipate where the ball is going during irregular play • Has an awareness of the 'right shot at the right time' • Has the ability to change the pace of play (i.e., speed up or slow down) 	<p>Player:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can use strength in legs to move around the table • Demonstrates high levels of coordination (or ability to improve) in basic fundamental movement skills activities (e.g., ladders, catching) 	<p>Player:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has an awareness of the basic rules of table tennis and how to compete • Is able to take on feedback from a coach and make changes accordingly 	<p>Player:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates commitment to attending all PDC based sessions • Shows they are committed to improving their level and progressing in the sport • Shows commitment to start or continue competing



Player Criteria/Standards (Pathway Group – 12 to 15 years)

The criteria below should be used as a guide to support player entry OR progression into the PDC pathway group. The criteria should be used as a guide and not as a definitive.

Behaviours

Player:

Demonstrates the following behaviours:

- Passion and drive
- Resilience
- Curiosity
- Self-management
- Gratitude and respect
- Adaptability
- Thrives in competition
- Takes care

**An overview of how these behaviours may appear in a 12-15yr old player is available in the player development framework* - under development*

Performance Criteria

Player:

- Has a ranking within the top 40 within their respective age group (U13 & U15)
- Competing regularly in 4* and wider national events

Technical competence

Player:

- Demonstrates high level competence on both wings
- Strong variety of service and receive
- High competence in footwork
- Strong tactical development

Athleticism & coordination

Player:

- Can use strength in legs to make explosive movements around the table
- Demonstrates high levels of coordination

Commitment

Player:

- Demonstrates commitment to attending all PDC based sessions
- Shows they are committed to improving their fitness and table tennis level
- Can evidence a minimum of 10-12 hours a week of training, inclusive of PDC sessions



PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE SUPPORT PACKAGE

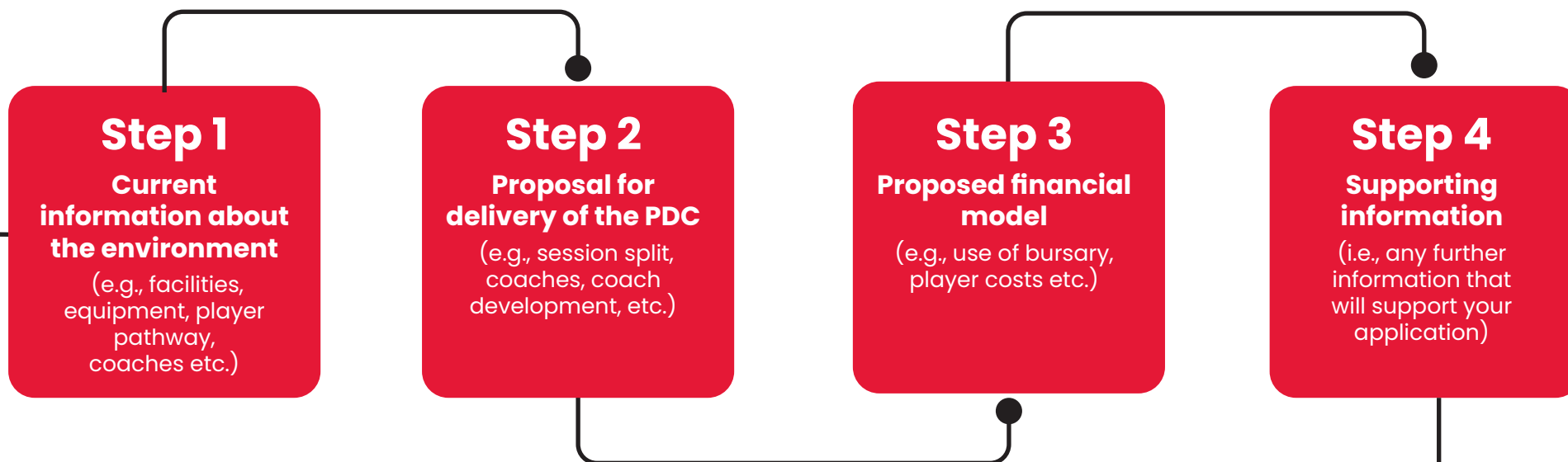
● Table Tennis England agrees to the following:

- Provide up to £12,000 across a 1-year period, to be delivered across 3 instalments in the calendar year following each touch point (providing the PDC is progressing as agreed) – this will be paid pro-rata based on when the PDC is active (e.g., Oct-April)
- Mentoring support from a national coach and regular development opportunities in the national squad environment
- Support to deliver a purposefully designed fundamental movement skills programme
- Support to establish connections with neighbouring satellite clubs and local development activity
- Support to establish and run coach development opportunities hosted in the PDC
- National coach support in the PDC – a commitment has been made for national coaches to spend a proportion of their time within the PDCs
- The delivery of player and parent education sessions
- PDC network community support – once a series of centres are up and running, a key focus will be creating a community, that includes peer to peer learning and best practice
- Promotion of the PDC across our news and social media channels
- Be a consistent source of support and presence in the PDC environment

PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE APPLICATION PROCESS

Gaining PDC will be an open application process.

Interested environments will be required to complete an application form with a series of questions on the following areas:



We are also interested in applications from prospective PDCs that are interested in match funding to develop a full-time coach role.

Applications open on **Monday 3rd July** and close on **Friday 11th August at 9am.**

[Click here to download an Application form.](#) Applications should be sent to emma.vickers@tabletennisengland.co.uk

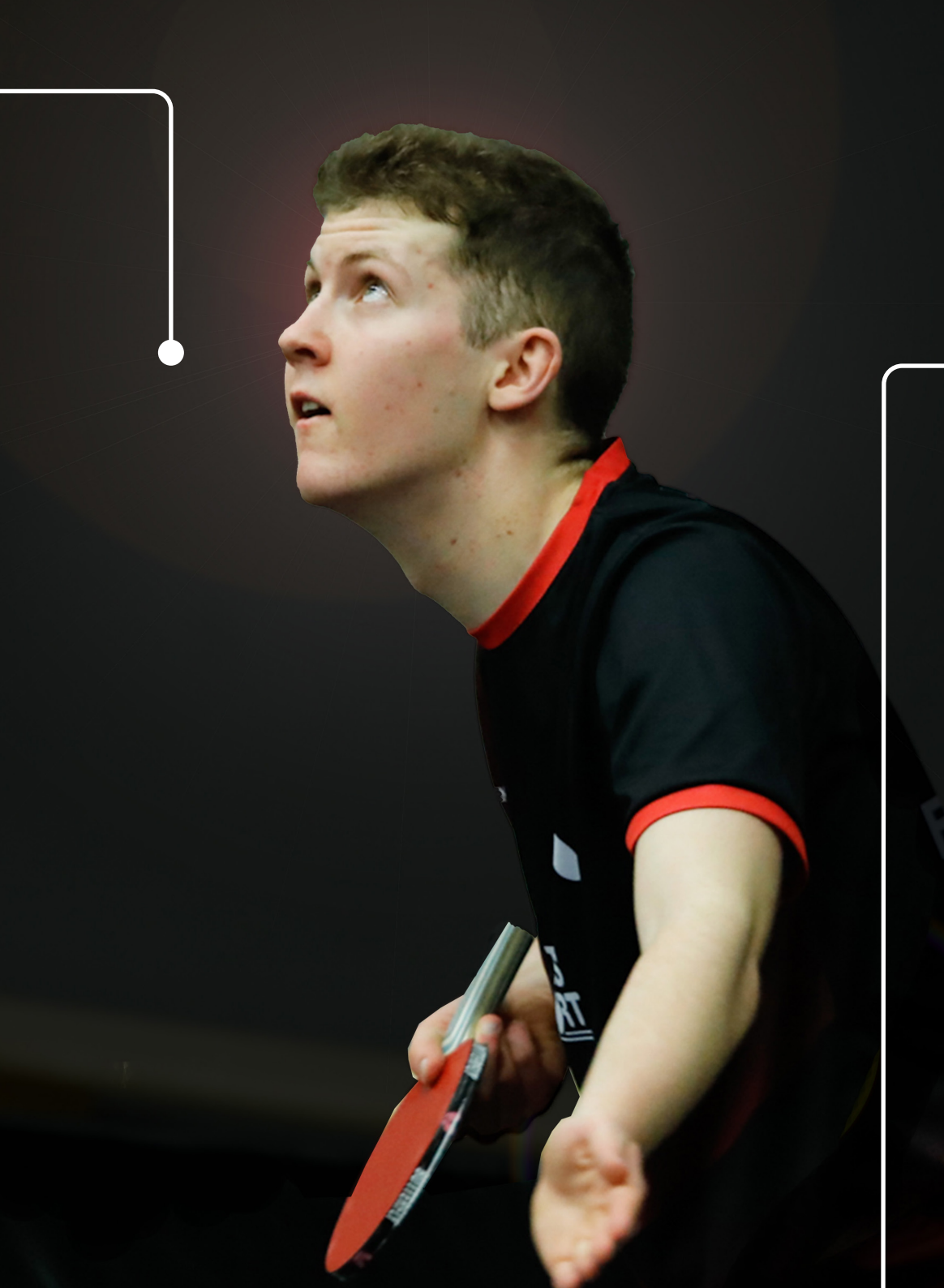
Application review – Applications will be reviewed by a selection panel consisting of representatives from Performance, Development, Coaching, and the Talent & Performance Committee.

PDC APPLICATION MUST MEET CRITERIA

Applications should come from environments that can evidence:

- A venue that has a minimum of 8 tables (this could be a number of environments, including a club, university, or college) that has:
 - Access to 10 hours of availability for protected PDC activity across the week
- A designated head coach and a lead coach that:
 - Hold a Table Tennis England coach licence (preferably UKCC Level 2 coach or above)
 - Have significant experience with developing and progressing talented players or be motivated and willing to engage in a future high performance coaching career
 - Are committed to engaging and working closely with Table Tennis England's performance team
- A clear feeder pathway into the PDC environment (e.g., U8 club programme, school links, relationships with satellite clubs)





PDC ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS

We want to support PDCs to become operational long-term, and therefore it is essential that applications are made on the basis of a long-term partnership with Table Tennis England.

Successful PDC's in Year 1 will be subject to a 1-year performance review with the Table Tennis England performance team, where they will be reviewed against a series of KPI's that are agreed at the beginning of the partnership.

After this review, the PDC will be informed of their funding for a further year.

Although PDCs will begin operational delivery September-October 2023, they will eventually run in line with our performance programme squad selection and financial year, April-April.

Performance Review 1 will therefore take place in March 2024.

PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE TIMELINE



YEAR 1 (23-24)

development of 3-4 centres,
operational Sept-Oct 23

YEAR 2 (24-25)

review need for further PDCs

PHASE 1 (April-June)

Visits to possible sites, finalise
criteria & application

PHASE 2 (July)

Year 1 PDC applications open

PHASE 3 (Aug)

Year 1 PDC sites selected

PHASE 4 (Aug-Sept)

PDCs notified and engaged in
planning meetings with Table Tennis
England Performance & Area Team

PHASE 5 (Sept-Oct)

PDC selects and
informs players

PDC start dates may be subject to
change based on the environment's
individual circumstances.