



**GBTT Athlete Nomination Policy for UK Sport
Athlete Performance Awards (APAs)
Potential Programme
2025-2026**

Next review: August 2026

GBTT Athlete Nomination Policy (Potential Programme)

1. Purpose

The GBTT Potential Programme is designed to support and develop players from the GB Training Squad (GBTS) who are capable of and wish to reach the Olympic Podium. These players are currently showing that they can achieve this within the next eight – ten years.

Athletes in the GBTT Potential Programme are eligible for nomination for direct athlete funding known as an Athlete Performance Award (APA). This award, which is solely funded by National Lottery income, is paid directly to the athlete and contributes to their living and sporting costs. APAs are administered centrally by UK Sport and are aimed at enabling athletes to pursue medal success in the Olympic Games and in other major championship events.

APA funding is a contribution designed to enable athletes to appropriately engage in a sport's high-performance programme and meet the demands associated with progression towards the Olympic podium. The purpose of this document is to explain the process by which a GB Table Tennis athlete can be nominated to UK Sport to be considered for an APA.

2. Eligibility Criteria

Great Britain Table Tennis will only consider athletes for selection who:

- i. Are affiliated to a Home Nation Table Tennis Association, holding a valid Home Nation Table Tennis Association Player Licence and are in good standing.
- ii. Are eligible to represent GB in Olympic events and have a valid British Passport.
- iii. Are not currently under disqualification or suspension under the rules of any Home Nation Table Tennis Association or ITTF or ETTU.
- iv. Are not currently serving any sanction for an anti-corruption or anti-doping rule violation under any relevant anti-corruption or anti-doping rules.
- v. Sign (or have already signed a valid version of) and adhere to the Athlete Agreement with GB Table Tennis (a copy of which is available on request).
- vi. Meet all the requirements of the UK Sport Eligibility Policy, which can be found [here](#).

3. Performance Criteria

Outlined in the table below is the Performance Matrix. This describes the objective criteria that athletes must meet to be **considered** for nomination or for retention for an APA. Only data from the past 12 months is considered for nomination.

APA Level	Award	Competition Outcome	Performance Criteria	Commitment	Targeted Events
A	£29,000	Singles or Doubles (mixed/same gender) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieved a medal winning performance at an Olympic Games or ITTF World Championships; or Achieved a medal winning performance at two WTT Grand Smashes or WTT Finals/ITTF World Cup in a year without an Olympic Games or World Championships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranked within the Top 8 in the world (working towards a seeding of a semi-final finish at the Olympic Games) Full commitment to performance services team (including strength and conditioning programme, sport psychology, regular physical screening, performance lifestyle and performance analysis) Exceeding key benchmarks in objective testing data A detailed review plan of the athlete's individual plan is operational, with meetings between all key parties at a minimum of 5 points in the year A full periodised competition programme is operational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment to a full-time training programme that includes a minimum of 25 hours training per week (either at the ETC in Sheffield or hybrid between the ETC and periods on tour) Minimum of 12 international competitions per year within the WTT framework, to include all major Championships (e.g., European Championships) Accessing a minimum of 250 days with a specified performance coach for each athlete per year Meeting key benchmarks in objective testing data (physical dashboard) 	Players will be looking to target per season: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-9 Star Contender/ Grand Smash / WTT Champions events, and all the World, Olympic and European championships

APA Level	Award	Competition Outcome	Performance Criteria	Commitment	Targeted Events
B	£24,000	Singles or Doubles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieved a quarterfinal finish at an Olympic Games or ITTF World Championships; or Achieved a quarterfinal finish at two WTT Grand Smashes or WTT Finals/ITTF World Cup in a year without an Olympic Games or World Championships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top 25 in the World Senior Ranking Full commitment to performance services team (including strength and conditioning programme, sport psychology, regular physical screening, performance lifestyle and performance analysis) Exceeding key benchmarks in objective testing data A detailed review plan of the athlete's individual plan is operational, with meetings between all key parties at a minimum of 5 points in the year A full periodised competition programme is operational. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment to a full-time training programme that includes a minimum of 25 hours training per week (either at the ETC in Sheffield or hybrid between the ETC and periods on tour) Minimum of 12 international competitions per year within the WTT framework, to include all major Championships (e.g., European Championships) Accessing a minimum of 250 days with a specified performance coach for each athlete per year Meeting key benchmarks in objective testing data (physical dashboard) 	Players will be looking to target per season: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-9 Star Contender/ Grand Smash / WTT Champions events, and all the, world, Olympic and European championships
B* Games Potential	£20,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletes will only be considered at this grade where they have previously been in receipt of a Podium A or B grade award and there are exceptional circumstances that have prevented them from retaining an award at that grade. Despite not meeting the competition outcome standard to remain at A or B grade, there will be strong evidence that the athlete can bridge the gap to medal success at the next Olympic Games and has made the commitment to do so. 			

C	£19,800	Singles or Doubles Have achieved three of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top 16 finish in an Olympic Games, World Championships, WTT Grand Smash or WTT Finals/ITTF World Cup • Quarterfinal finish in a WTT Star Contender • European Senior Championship medallist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A world ranking of between 40 –75 and in the Senior world ranking at the age of under 25. This is in line with direct qualification for Olympic Games and all top WTT events. • Evidence of main draw qualification of WTT Grand Smashes at under 23. • Qualification to Europe's top 22 at Senior level. • World ranking of top 16 in a mixed doubles and doubles pairing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting key benchmarks in objective testing data (physical dashboard) • Commitment to a full-time training programme that includes a minimum of 25 hours training per week (either at the ETC in Sheffield or hybrid between the ETC and periods on tour) • Minimum of 12 international competitions per year within the WTT framework, to include all major Championships (e.g., European Championships) • Accessing a minimum of 250 days with a specified performance coach for each athlete per year. 	
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APA Level	Award	Competition Outcome	Performance Criteria	Commitment	Targeted Events
D	£12,825	Singles/Doubles Have achieved two of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top 32 finish in an Olympic Games, World Championships, WTT Grand Smash or WTT Finals/ITTF World Cup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A world ranking of between 60 –100 and in the Senior world ranking at the age of under 25. • Evidence of main draw qualification of WTT Grand Smashes at under 23. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the 2 years we would be expecting the player to start to transition to full time training at the Elite Training Centre 	Players will be looking to target per season: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-6 Senior Contenders/ Star Contender events. • 4-6 Grand Smash / WTT Champions events

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top 16 finish at a WTT Star Contender/Contender • Quarter final at the Youth World Championships or two Quarterfinals at the WTT Youth Grand Smash. • Medal at the U21 European Championship • Winner of a WTT Senior Feeder event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualification to Europe's top 22 at Senior level. • Evidence of wins against the world's top 50 		
E (Entry Level)	£7,875	<p>Singles/Doubles Have achieved two of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterfinal finish at WTT Senior Feeder. • Top 16 finish at European U21 Championships or World Youth Championships. • Medal at WTT Youth Star Contender/Contender or European Youth Championship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing trajectory of potential to be ranked within the top 200 in the senior world ranking (as an U21) within the programme. • Evidence of good performances and nearly wins against players in the world's top 200 as an under 21. • Has a professional club abroad in one of Europe's top leagues, showing above 50%-win rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to a full-time training programme that includes a minimum of 25 hours training per week, with a commitment of 50% of their time spent at the Elite Training Centre • Accessing a minimum of 125 days with a specified performance coach per year • Introduction to the development of an individual athlete development planning and athlete's showing encouraging signs of taking ownership of their training programme. 	<p>Players will be looking to target per season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-6 Youth Star Contenders/Contenders • 4-6 Senior Feeders • 2 Senior contender events

- Satisfying the Performance criteria alone is not sufficient to determine an athlete's future medal winning potential (and therefore their eligibility for nomination for an APA). The panel must also be satisfied that the athlete possesses a performance and development profile in relation to their age and stage of development relative to the timescales for the 2028, 2032 and future Olympic Games.
- Named APA Athletes may be considered for nomination for promotion to a higher level only once they achieve the levels of performance outlined for that level.
- Athletes may only move up from E to C level, not down.
- Olympic medallists will remain eligible to receive an A grade APA for up to a maximum of four years (i.e. the current Olympic Cycle) provided they remain on track to achieve a medal winning performance at the next Olympic Games.
- Athletes receiving an A grade APA that has been triggered through performance at a World Championship (or the alternative criteria for years without an Olympic Games or World Championship) can, in principle, remain eligible to receive an APA at this grade for two years provided they remain on track to achieve a medal winning performance at the next Olympic Games.
- Athletes receiving a B grade award can, in principle, remain eligible to receive an award at this level for two years provided they remain on track to achieve a medal winning performance at the next Olympic Games.
- Athletes at A or B level who do not meet the criteria to retain an A or B award yet remain a strong medal prospect for the next Olympic Games may be permitted to move down from A and B level to B* for one year only.
- Named APA athletes who continue to satisfy the matrix at their existing level but who do not progress to performances equivalent to a higher level within the timescales set out within their annual review may be retained for a further year upon clear evidence of future medal winning potential. Any such decision will usually be accompanied by athlete-specific performance targets.
- Potential new named APA athletes may, in some circumstances, be placed on a lower level of APA than they have hit through the APA matrix. The athlete's age, stage of development and personal circumstances will be considered where necessary when considering the appropriate level of support.

4. Nomination Process

GBTT will nominate athletes to UK Sport for named APA places using the process set out below. It is important to note that achieving the performance criteria does not automatically convey selection; it merely enables the player to be considered by the panel for nomination.

1. **Pre-nomination/Individual Athlete Meetings** – As part of their quarterly review meetings, athletes and coaches will review progress against the performance criteria for APA nomination. For athletes already in receipt of an APA, these meetings will review progress against

performance targets and timelines to advance to the next APA grade. Where the appropriate standard has been met, the Head Coach and GB Director of Performance will submit the athlete for review at an annual GBTT APA Nomination Panel meeting.

2. **Nomination Panel Meeting** – The nomination panel will convene annually in December to review each athlete against the eligibility and performance criteria, assess their performance and development profile in relation to their age and stage, and make a decision on which athletes to nominate (or re-nominate) for APA places. Following the meeting the nominated athletes will be submitted to UK Sport.
3. **UK Sport Decision** – UK Sport will ratify or reject the nomination.
4. **Communication to Athlete** – Athletes will be notified by the Performance Director verbally and in writing whether they have been nominated for an APA. Athletes who are nominated for an APA will need to sign the GBTT athlete agreement before being invited to apply for the APA by UK Sport, done via email.
5. **Receiving an APA** – In order to receive an APA, athletes must on an annual basis review and update their personal details, complete an income assessment and accept an APA Offer (should they be eligible) via the UK Sport Athlete Zone portal, and attend an induction.

Any athlete can request a meeting with one or more members of the nomination panel for feedback on decisions made at the nomination panel.

5. Selection Panel

The selection panel (all with voting rights) is as follows:

- i. GB Director of Performance (Chair, casting vote)
- ii. GB Head Coach
- iii. GB Coach
- iv. At least one other member of the HNPG with appropriate knowledge of elite table tennis
- v. UK Sport Advisor (non-voting observer)

Additional experts may be asked to provide evidence and/or advice to the selection committee, at the request of the Chair.

In the event of any conflict of interest for any member, the GBTT conflict of interest policy should be adhered to. Any member with a conflict of interest shall not be involved in any decision related to that conflict.

6. Injury, Illness, and Pregnancy

Injury and Illness

- It is highly likely that players will, at some point, suffer a performance limiting injury or illness (either physical or mental). Throughout a player's membership of the GB Potential Squad, rehabilitation from injury/illness will be managed by the GB Athlete Support Team in conjunction with the GB Head Coach (or equivalent) and GB Director of Performance. Provided a player makes every effort to adhere to their rehab/prescribed treatment and follow medical advice and not do or fail to do anything which may jeopardise their recovery/return to performance, their squad membership (and associated APA) will continue at its current level until the renomination process begins.
- At this time, the Squad membership of athletes affected by a significant performance limiting injury or illness in any given selection year will be afforded a certain amount of protection.
- Athletes who are unable to satisfy their agreed objectives or the criteria set out in this policy due to significant injury/illness in the current selection year may be re-nominated by the Selection Panel for a subsequent 12-month period.
- In retaining an athlete on the GB Potential Squad who has not met their agreed objectives or the Criteria set out in this policy due – either in full or part – to a performance limiting injury/illness, the Selection Panel may add return-to-fitness (relative to the specific injury or illness) performance conditions to that player's membership that they will be expected to meet in order to be retained for the whole year, or in future years. These conditions may explicitly require a player to engage with appropriate science/medicine staff to support any ongoing medical or illness issues and engage in any testing/monitoring as reasonably required.
- Athletes who are NOT currently a member of the GB Potential Squad will not be afforded the same protections relating to performance limiting injury/illness as described above. Potential new members who are offered Squad membership may be expected to undergo a medical screening/profiling process prior to their place being confirmed. Should they have a current performance limiting injury/illness at the start of their year, the prognosis of which is deemed likely to have an impact on the athlete's ability to progress, GBTT reserve the right to not select this athlete for the Squad.

Pregnancy

Being pregnant and an elite athlete should not be mutually exclusive. To ensure support is provided for athletes who wish to have a child whilst they are in the GB Potential Squad and in receipt of an APA, the following policy will apply:

- Athletes in receipt of APA funding will remain eligible to access their full APA (subject to means testing) for the duration of the pregnancy at the APA grade they were on at the time of becoming pregnant and for up to nine months post childbirth.
- Continued access to the APA post childbirth will be dependent on:

- a) The athlete's intention to return to the sport and the programme being discussed and confirmed no later than six months post childbirth.
- b) At the point where the intention of the athlete is clear, forming a mutually agreed plan/ timetable for return to training and competition – this plan should acknowledge the athlete's experience of pregnancy, the impact on them physically and mentally and the nature of the event they are returning to.
- c) Monitoring, reviewing, and confirming that the athlete has made the necessary commitment to this plan and is on track to return.
- If the level of commitment and or progress against this plan are not demonstrated, the athlete would be given notice and offered a period of transition before the APA funding stops.
- At nine months post childbirth the potential of the athlete will be assessed. This assessment will consider the athlete's future medal potential and not necessarily performance outcomes.
- An athlete who announces their retirement from their sport during pregnancy or in the six months post childbirth, will not be given a further period of notice before the APA terminates.
- In the event of complications either during the pregnancy or post childbirth, this policy will be flexed as is reasonable to accommodate these circumstances on a case-by-case basis.
- Additional guidance from UK Sport is available [here](#).

7. Leaving the programme

- A notice period of one-month will be provided to all athletes that are no longer nominated for an APA, or who will receive a reduction in APA funding due to the grade at which they have been nominated. This period of notice should be within an athlete's current award term.
- Additional transitional funding will be offered at the current APA grade for a period dependent on the total continuous period of programme membership. This additional transitional funding will be provided as follows:

>1 year but <2 years	1-month transitional award
>2 years but <3 years	2 months transitional award

>3 years	3 months transitional award
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8. Transition between countries

- Athletes who wish to transfer from another country to compete for GB Table Tennis at international competitions are not eligible to receive Public Funding and/or Publicly Funded Benefits until the Athlete (in addition to obtaining a British Passport or British Nationality) has received written confirmation from the British Olympic Association and GB Table Tennis of their eligibility to compete at international competitions.
- Where a GB athlete wishes to transfer to and compete for another country, and / or if they have already qualified for the other country and obtained results (that means they are no longer eligible to compete for, or represent GB at international competitions), then the athlete will not be entitled to receive any Public Funding and/or Publicly Funded Benefits, as outlined in paragraph 3 of the UK Sport Eligibility Policy.

9. Appeals

All appeals related to GBTT's nomination process should follow the appeals process set out in the Table Tennis England Appeals Policy which is set out here:

<https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/content/uploads/2023/07/TABLE-TENNIS-ENGLAND-Selection-Review-Policy.pdf>

10. Timeline

GBTT Potential Programme squad selections are made annually in December. The standard timeline for annual review and nomination of athletes already in receipt of an APA is set out below. However, nominations for any new named APA places may take place at other times of the year in accordance with UK Sport's timelines.

September	Selection policy shared with all athletes
October-November	One-to-one meetings with all athletes (as part of regular quarterly review of their Individual Athlete Plans) – athletes at risk of deselection will be notified as part of this meeting
December	Nomination Panel meeting
December	GBTT nominates Athletes and UK Sport reviews nominations
Early January	Athletes notified of selection decision by GBTT and announcement made on Table Tennis England website
Early January	Athletes sign Athlete Agreement (if selected)

Mid-January	Athletes receive communication from UK Sport if selected and complete an application for an APA Award – including logging into Athlete Zone to update personal details and submit an Income Assessment Form
Late January	Any appeals received and considered in accordance with Appeals Process
February	Athletes receive an APA offer (following means testing) and accept the offer through Athlete Zone
February	Athletes receive first payment of new award from UK Sport

11. Policy review

This policy will be reviewed annually in August to incorporate any changes in UK Sport policy and ensure the process remains fair and efficient. As part of this process GBTT will seek feedback from the selectors, athletes and coaches and consider any insight from previous Appeal Panels.