

Selection Policy - Diploma in Sporting Excellence (DiSE)

Table Tennis England DiSE Programme 2026-27 Season

For the 26/27 season, there are 18 new places to award.

1. Overview

This selection policy relates to the Table Tennis England Diploma in Sporting Excellence (DiSE) Programme for 2026-2027. DiSE is a training and education programme for talented players. More details are provided in the information pack.

2. Programme Purpose

The DiSE programme aims to help players develop a clear understanding of the commitment, standards, and demands associated with elite international table tennis and high-performance sport. It also prepares athletes for potential future careers within the sports industry.

This is delivered through national and, where appropriate, international training and competition opportunities, alongside specialist workshops and reflective learning sessions. In addition, the programme seeks to strengthen the player pathway by building a wider periphery squad for the Great Britain programmes. This increases player depth and creates greater competitive pressure within the performance pathway.

3. Selection Panel

A selection panel will be established comprising:

- Table Tennis England Head of Pathway Development
- Table Tennis England DiSE Lead & Talent Pathway Support
- Table Tennis England National Coach

4. Minimum Eligibility Requirements (Nationality & Education)

Table Tennis England will only select players for the DiSE programme who:

- Have a valid British Passport
- Are eligible to represent England, or other Home Nation and Great Britain in International Competitions
- Are aged between 16 to 18 (or aged 19 to 24 if you have an Education, Health and Care plan) when you start the programme
- Are studying in Further Education (FE) in England from September 2026 (full time or approved part time study)
- Will be in either a state funded study programme or attending a fee-paying school under the following conditions:
 - (a) State funded programme – are studying towards either an academic (e.g., A-level) or technical qualification (e.g., NVQ)
 - (b) Fee-paying school – under the following circumstances you can be considered for DiSE if:

You are / will be in receipt of a school's means-tested bursary of at least 50% fee remission, or In receipt of a talent / ability-based scholarship of at least 50%, but were this not to be the case then you would have otherwise qualified for your school's means-tested bursary of at least 50% fee remission,

or At least 50% of your student fees are being paid for by the third sector organisation but were this not the case then you would have otherwise qualified for your school's means-testing of at least 50% fee remission.

5. Eligibility Requirements (Table Tennis)

The DiSE programme is targeted at players who are aged between 16 to 18 years old who wish to continue to pursue performance level table tennis whilst they continue their further education.

Automatic selection criteria:

- Any player currently within the Great Britain Training Squad (who is able to commit to the training and educational demands of the programme)
- Any home nation player who has a rating of top 20 in England (living in England)

Remaining squad selection:

The remaining squad selections will come through an open application process, considerations will be made around:

- Home nation players who have represented their country at European Youth level (living in England)
- Current national U19 ranking
- Recent competition results
- Engagement in the pathway at an earlier stage e.g. former Hopes/PDC squad player
- Players who are part of academy programmes (e.g., Grantham College)
- Academic level and commitment
- Future goals to remain within the TTE/GB pathway
- Players in the GBPTT pathway squad

6. Application Deadline

Table Tennis England will only consider players for the 2026-2027 DiSE programme who have completed and submitted their application form by **9am on 10th July 2026.**

Players will be required to complete the DiSE Player Application form:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Xj0wcgYNRUSsl8EgL1kw9z3d5gPg8U5FjIJoFGNBz2VUN083VUZNMjITMVIBUVQwUE40N0lETzJJu4u>

Players will also be required to submit an academic reference form:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Xj0wcgYNRUSsl8EgL1kw9z3d5gPg8U5FjIJoFGNBz2VUQkJVTUs3NE9NMTREM05YWEwyV01VNINHNS4u&route=shorturl>

7. Assessment & Selection Process

The assessment & selection process will consist of the following:

Applications will be reviewed by the selection panel, with selected players invited to join the 2026-2028 DiSE cohort.

Timings as follows:

- Friday 10th July 2026 – Application window closes
- Wednesday 29th July 2026 Applications shortlisted / selected

- Friday 14th August 2026 – Selection / non-selection notification

If selected, players will be required to sign the players code of conduct.

8. Deselection

Table Tennis England retains the right to deselect an athlete under any of the following circumstances:

- The player is no longer eligible for selection for this programme
- The player does not adhere to the players code of conduct
- The player does not fulfil the educational requirements of the programme
- The player fails to comply with any reasonable training or competition programme set out by Table Tennis England performance staff

9. Acknowledgement

In applying for this programme, you are fully committing to the programme of activity that is set out (on the separate DISE programme overview), with this being prioritised over other competition and training. Each player shall acknowledge that they have read, understood, and accepted these selection criteria and guidelines by signing this form and sharing with:

dise@tabletennisengland.co.uk **by Friday 10th July 2026**

For any Under 18 players, a parent or guardian will also be required to sign the returned copy. Players should retain the second copy for their own records.

Acknowledged by:

Name _____ Signed _____ Date _____
(Player)

Name _____ Signed _____ Date _____
(Parent/Guardian)