



FUTURES PROGRAMME (PARALYMPIC): 2024-2025

1. INTRODUCTION

The Futures Programme aims to confirm an athlete's potential to transition onto the World Class Programme (WCP) in the next cycle and support those who have highlighted the potential to succeed at future Paralympic Games. The programme runs from the 1st December to 30th November and has been redeveloped from previous years, with the focus on supporting aspects of the athlete/coaches Individual Athlete Plan (IAP) and through additional support and experiences, provide athletes and coaches with the opportunities to develop the skills and abilities required for senior international success.

There are two levels to the programme:

1. **Futures Academy** – The first phase of the programme which emphasises learning and the development of skills and processes necessary to become a successful senior athlete.
2. **Futures Transition** – To support and confirm the skills and attributes needed to progress onto World Class Programme in the next 1-2 years, while also providing support in preparation for performing at key milestone events across the season.

Athletes and Coaches invited onto the programme will be assigned a British Athletics Engagement Lead whose role is to facilitate and support the IAP process, in conjunction with the Performance Support team or current home-based support. To identify areas where the programme can support and add value, athletes and coaches will be required to share their IAP and to review it across key points throughout the season.

Athletes based overseas may be considered for Futures support on a case-by-case basis. The level of support for athlete and coach may differ from the below, particularly when considering the level of input/influence that may be possible based on Individual



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circumstances and location. Athletes will not be eligible for any direct financial support throughout the programme.

2. ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION MATRIX

2.1 The table below outlines the requirements and their associated standards at each level.

2.2 This Matrix is a decision-making framework for the Selection Panel. Compliance with any or all elements of the Matrix does not guarantee that an athlete will be allocated a place at that level or at all.

2.3 All criteria will be used by the panel in the process of selection and membership.

Requirements	Futures Academy	Futures Transition
Duration	1-3 years	1-2 years
Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of athlete and coach on Pathway support Programmes. Shows consistence in effort over sessions and training block and preparation. Athlete/Coach willingness to share and collaborate with a wider support team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletes will have been identified as having the attributes to pursue success in the Paralympic Games and have committed in a trial period.
Championship Performance	In 2024, an athlete has successfully competed for your Home Nation or showcased performances in National age group or senior championships.	In 2024, an athlete has successfully competed for your Home Nation.
Performance Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yearly progression profile (should be rising at least equal to or at a steeper rate than the event trend). Achieved a standard that at the selection panels discretion demonstrates the ability to surpass that standard over the next competitive season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yearly progression profile (should be rising at least equal to or at a steeper rate than the event trend); Achieved a standard within 12% of the Paris 2024 Bronze medal standard or at the selection panels direction demonstrates the ability to meet or surpass that standard over the next competition season.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yearly progression profile (should be rising at least equal to or steeper rate than the event trend). Position on the relevant Performance Funnel: Major competition history. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position on the relevant Performance Funnel. Competition history.
Performance Consistency	The panel will consider factors around and stage for the specific event.	If the level of consistency is too low at the panel's discretion, the panel has confidence that it's possible to address the reasons for the inconsistencies over 1 to 2 seasons.
Performance Potential and progression	<p>At the Selection Panel's discretion, it is clear that the athlete shows technical, physical, psychological, and/or tactical aspects of performance can be improved over 1 to 3 seasons, to progress on to confirmation including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Injury history. Training and competition history & volume. Lifestyle and training environment. Maturation (in primary or potential future events). 	At the WCP Selection Panel's discretion, it is clear that technical, psychological, and/or tactical aspects of performance can be improved over 1 to 2 years send seasons, enabling the gap to Podium-Potential and Podium levels to be closed.



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3. FUTURES ACADEMY AND TRANSITION - SELECTION PROCESS

The process is split across four stages:

Stage 1 – Pathway Athlete/Coach are shortlisted by UKA Pathway Team.

Stage 2 – Pre-selection - Pathway event review with relevant UKA & Home Nation Leads around potential progressions of athletes onto each stage of the pathway.

Stage 3 – Selection Panel.

Stage 4 – Induction.

4. FUTURES ACADEMY SELECTION PANEL

The Futures Academy Selection Panel will:

- 4.1.** For existing Futures members - confirm, change the level of, or graduate.
- 4.2.** The panel may set conditions and targets for each athlete, that will need to be met by a particular point in the season for membership to continue.
- 4.3.** Review and recommend new athletes for the Futures Academy or transition programme.
- 4.4.** The Selection Panel will comprise of:
 - A. UKA Paralympic Performance Lead.
 - B. UKA Pathway Manager
 - B. UKA Pathway Event Coaches
 - C. Senior UKA Coach or Home Nation Event Leads (relevant to the event discussed).



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4.5 The non-voting attendees will comprise of:

- A. Independent Sport Observer.
- B. Notetaker.
- C. Chairperson.

5. VOTING

- 5.1. Voting of the Selection Panel is by simple majority. In the event it is required, the Head of Paralympic Performance will have the casting vote.
- 5.2. In relation to each athlete being considered at a selection meeting, Selection Panel members and other attendees must declare any conflict of interest. Where a conflict of interest exists, the relevant person will not be permitted to contribute to discussions about the athlete in question and, if a vote is required, a conflicted Selection Panel member will not be entitled to vote and must not be present when the vote takes place. Where there is any doubt as to whether there is a conflict of interest, the matter will be decided by the Chair of the selection meeting.

A. ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION DECISIONS

6. ELIGIBILITY

- 6.1 To be considered for membership of the UK Athletics Futures Programme, an athlete must fulfil the following Eligibility criteria:
 - a) Be eligible to compete for Paralympics GB at the Paralympic Games and other significant events.
 - b) A British Passport holder.
 - c) Hold a UKA National Paralympic classification or in the process of having it confirmed.
 - d) Not currently serving a period of ineligibility as a result of a transfer of allegiance.
 - e) Not currently serving a provisional or permanent suspension for a doping violation.
 - f) Has not, whether by an act or omission, brought British Athletics into disrepute.
 - g) Not serving a period of ineligibility from the sport as determined by UKA. For example, due to misconduct and / or disciplinary reasons.



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- 6.2** Any athlete who has associated, or intends to associate, themselves with a coach, doctor or other medical or support person who UKA reasonably considers it inappropriate for the athlete to associate with, shall not, at the discretion of UKA, be eligible for selection for membership.

7. FUTURES ACADEMY SELECTION DECISIONS

- 7.1** The Eligibility Criteria set out below must be fully met otherwise athletes will not be considered for selection.
- 7.2** The Future's Academy selection panel will consider the following factors during the selection process:
- a) The age and stage progression profile of individual events and the Performance Matrix outlined above.
 - b) Performances against any previous Performance Targets and Conditions set for the athlete.
 - c) Any information received from the UKA Technical Director or Head of Paralympic Performance as to priority events and/or strategic direction of the Paralympic Pathway. This may include, but not restricted to, prioritising the selection of athletes in events with no current WCP athlete representation.
 - d) For athletes currently on the programme - progress in key physical, technical, psychological and/or tactical areas related to performance.
 - e) Notes & reports from event specialists / points of contact / personal coaches (which may be supplied to the Section Panel or requested by them).
 - f) Any other relevant information requested by, available to or within the knowledge of the Selection Panel.
 - g) Compliance with the Athlete/Coach Agreement in previous years.
 - h) Engagement, progression and behaviours at Age Group Championships and Home Nation Pathway programmes in previous years.



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Appeals

There shall be no right of appeal to the selection of the Futures Academy level made by the Selection Panel. The appeals process in relation to Confirmation (WCP) level is available in the 2024-25 WCP Selection Policy.

Amendment

UK Athletics reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy at its sole discretion and will make any amended version publicly available (including the date on which any amendment was made) at www.britishathletics.org.uk.



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