



Olympic Futures Selection Policy 2026-27.V2.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Futures Programme aims to recognise, confirm, and engage the potential of athletes and coaches aiming to progress onto the World Class Programme (WCP) in the next cycle, and to support those with the capability to succeed at future Olympic and Paralympic Games. Central to the programme is a commitment to understanding each athlete as individuals, their circumstances, support network, and personal journey. Through collaboration with each athlete/coach pair around their Individual Athlete Plan (IAP), the programme offers guidance and experiences that provide the opportunities to build the skills, and abilities needed for senior international success.
- 1.2 There are two levels to the programme:
 - a) **Futures Academy:** The entry stage of the programme, focused on developing a deep understanding of the skills, abilities, and behaviours needed for long-term success. Athletes and coaches are supported to engage fully with high-performance learning, building the knowledge and foundations required to progress towards senior international performance.
 - b) **Futures Transition:** The advanced stage of the programme, designed to consolidate understanding and strengthen engagement with the demands of senior performance. Athletes and coaches are supported to refine and confirm the technical, tactical, and psychological attributes necessary to move onto the World Class Programme within 1–2 years, while receiving tailored support to prepare for milestone events and championships.
- 1.3 Athletes and coaches invited to join the programme will be assigned a UKA Engagement Lead, whose primary role is to collaborate closely with them and develop a clear understanding of their goals, circumstances, and support network. Working alongside the Performance Support Team and existing home-based provision, the Engagement Lead helps to facilitate and refine the Individual Athlete Plan (IAP). By sharing and reviewing the IAP at key points throughout the season, athletes and coaches enable the programme to identify where additional support and experiences can add value to their journey.
- 1.4 Athletes based overseas may be considered for Futures support on a case-by-case basis. The level of support for both athletes and coaches may vary, particularly considering the degree of input and influence possible based on individual circumstances and location. Note that athletes will not be eligible for direct financial support through the program.

Full details of the programme can be found here - <https://www.uka.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/20221014-Futures-2022-Overview-A4.pdf>



2. ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

- 2.1 All the following, as well as any other factors that may be deemed relevant, will be considered by the panel when assessing selection for the programme:

Requirements	Futures Academy	Futures Transition
Age	17-23 years*	N/A
Duration	2-3 years	1-2 years
Commitment	- The athlete and coach consistently demonstrate commitment, engagement, and collaboration in pursuit of senior international success. - Demonstrates readiness for Olympic success through consistent, goal-driven behaviours. - Commits fully to the programme. - Has engaged with previous Pathway programmes. - Maintains consistent effort across preparation and competition phases. - Collaborates openly as an athlete-coach pair, sharing information and works with the wider support team.	
Championship Performance	In 2026, an athlete has successfully competed for Great Britain at an age-group Championship or showcased performances in senior championships successfully progressing to the finals.	In 2026, an athlete has competed for Great Britain at a Senior or age-group Championship successfully progressing to the finals.
Performance Standard	- Yearly progression profile (should be rising at least equal to or steeper rate than the event trend); - Position on the relevant Olympic finalist Performance Funnel; - Major competition history	1. Produced a performance(s) at a championship that was in line with their potential. Demonstrated through performing close to or exceeding SB and/or through abilities that allowed the athlete to progress as far as possible through rounds 2. The performance level is trending towards Podium-Potential entry standard at a rate that gives the panel confidence that it will meet or exceed it within 2 years. Event trend/progression will be considered to add context to athletes current Performance trajectory
Performance Consistency	The panel will consider factors around age and stage for the specific event.	Athlete must demonstrate consistent performance levels across multiple competitions within the season, or show clear potential to achieve such consistency within 1–2 seasons, providing the panel with confidence in progression towards senior championship success.
Performance Potential and progression	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 including: - Injury history - Training and competition history & volume. - Lifestyle and training environment. - Maturation (in primary or potential future events)	Athlete demonstrates the capacity to improve technical, physical, psychological, and/or tactical performance within 1–2 seasons, giving the panel confidence in progression towards success at Senior GB & NI Championships.



2.2 Exceptional Consideration

- a) In exceptional circumstances, athletes outside the specified age range or performance standards may be considered where:
 - i. They compete in events with longer developmental pathways, or
 - ii. They demonstrate significant potential when assessed against the Athlete Development Framework.
- b) Such athletes must present an overwhelmingly positive profile, providing the panel with confidence in their potential to progress towards the Olympic Games in or beyond 2028.
- c) Recommendations from WCP Selection Meetings, Event Leads, and programme coaches may also be taken into account.

3. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- 3.1 The UKA Futures standards, derived from the age and stage profiles of Olympic finalists, are crucial for selection into the Futures Programme. These benchmarks ensure that athletes are evaluated against the performance levels required for future Olympic success.

Women			Event	Men		Senior
Senior	u23	u20		u20	u23	
Individual event profile	11.25	11.41	100m	10.34	10.30	Individual event profile
	23.10	23.48	200m	20.85	20.70	
	52.00	52.84	400m	46.10	45.65	
	2:01.00	2:02.92	800m	1:46.80	1:45.50	
	4:07.00	4:13.00	1500m	3:42.00	3:38.43	
	NA		3000m		NA	
	15:22.19	15:48	5000m	13:38	13:28	
	9:30.91	9:40.70	3k Chase	08:32	08:27	
	13.13	13.3	100m/110m Hurdles	13.48	13.65	
	55.95	57.7	400m Hurdles	51.00	49.22	
	1.90	1.86	High Jump	2.18	2.20	
	4.30	4.15	Pole Vault	5.42	5.61	
	6.69	6.38	Long Jump	7.77	7.90	
	13.88	13.77	Triple Jump	15.90	16.20	
	17.10	15.75	Shot	18.85	19.16	
	55.00	52.57	Discus	59.00	62.00	
	66.00	61.61	Hammer	72.00	73.50	
	55.00	51.50	Javelin	71.00	77.00	
	5750	5550	Multis	7561	7960	

3.2 Relay Places

- a) Aligned with the Senior World-Class Programme, athletes will be selected for relay positions based on evidence this season from the key determinants model applicable to both relay programmes.
- b) Where selected Athletes must demonstrate commitment to the Futures Relay programme and make themselves available for selection to GB & NI age-group internationals.



3.3 NUMBER OF PLACES ON THE PROGRAMME

- a) The number of places on Futures is limited and may vary from year to year.

4. FUTURES ACADEMY & TRANSITION - SELECTION PROCESS

- 4.1 The selection process is split across four stages:

Stage 1 – Pathway Athlete/Coach are shortlisted by UKA Performance 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

4.2 Selection Panel

- a) The Futures Selection Panel will:
 - I. Nominate pathway athletes for consideration for WCP selection – Confirmation, Podium Potential, Podium
 - II. For existing Futures members - confirm, change the level of, or graduate. Also, 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.
 - III. Consider and select new athletes for the Futures Academy or transition programme.

4.3 Voting

- a) UKA Performance Team Staff.
- b) Senior UKA Coach or Home Nation Event Leads (relevant to the event discussed)

4.4 Non-Voting

- a) Head of Performance Pathways and Programmes
- b) One or more representative of each event-group
- c) Medical representative
- d) Statistician
- e) Independent Sport Observer & Note taker



5. ELIGIBILITY

5.1 To be considered for membership of the UKA Futures Programme, an athlete must fulfil the following Eligibility criteria:

- a) Be eligible to compete for Team GB at the Olympic Games and for Great Britain in all relevant Championships and events including relay events.
- b) A British Passport holder.
- c) Not currently serving a period of eligibility as a result of a transfer of allegiance.
- d) Not currently serving a provisional or permanent suspension for a doping violation.
- e) Has not, whether by an act or omission, brought UKA into disrepute.
- f) Not serving a period of ineligibility from the sport as determined by UKA. For example, due to misconduct and / or disciplinary reasons.

5.2 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.

6. SELECTION DECISIONS

6.1 The Eligibility Criteria set out above must be met. If they are not, an athlete shall not be considered for selection.

6.2 Decisions of the Selection Panel shall be discretionary, considering the following factors:

- a) In relation to individual events, the age and stage progression profiles and the WCP Performance Matrix.
- b) Performance against any previous Performance Targets and Conditions set for the athlete.
- c) Any information received from the UKA Technical Director as to priority events and/or strategic direction.
- 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 Selection 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 with Age Group Championships and Home Nation Pathway programmes in previous years

6.3 **Appeals:** All decisions are considered carefully and made through a fair and transparent process. As such, there is no formal appeals process.