

Kent Netball Player Development Programme



The Player Pathway is England Netball's process for developing athletes with the attributes to attain excellence. The programmes within the pathway are focused on developing athletes to reach their potential and form the foundations to enable England Netball to be the Number 1 Ranked Team in the World. Kent Netball delivers a Player Development Programme for U13 and U15 Academies, the first steps on the Player Pathway.

The role of the Kent Player Development Programme (U13 and U15 Academies)

England Netball Player Pathway aims to provide a countrywide network of accessible pathway programmes that are aligned to future Roses success and that are able to provide high quality experiences and support that will enable all athletes to achieve their potential.

The purpose of the Player Pathway is:

- To provide opportunities for players of the highest potential to learn, develop and progress into senior domestic and international netball or a future in netball.
- To support athletes to develop within an optimal environment for their age and stage encouraging their retention in sport.

What we are expecting from athletes who are successful in their selection to the programme?

- Regular attendance to Academy training sessions and participation in any match play events
- To commit to a home training programme and homework tasks where set
- To arrive at training prepared, with kit, and committed to train.
- To take responsibility for their own development and engage with coaches to support this.
- To be playing netball at an appropriate standard of competition for their age group (usually club netball)

Academy Trials for 2024-25 season

What are the trials for?

We are trialling athletes for both the Under 13 Academy and the Under 15 Academy. These are provided by counties as the first steps of the England Netball Player Pathway, as pictured below.

What you can expect to see at trials

Trials will typically be multi-phased events, where athletes are invited to further rounds before final selection into the academies. During these trial events, athletes will typically be asked to demonstrate their skills and game awareness in match play and, where feasible, other game-based activities, including warm-ups and athlete led games. Multiple selectors are used at these events, so athletes are seen multiple times, by different selectors, whose selections are aggregated to provide the final selection decisions.

What are the selectors looking for?

Selectors will be present throughout warm-ups, match play and any other game-based tasks the athletes are asked to engage with. They are looking for age-appropriate identifiers of the following;

- Technical skills – for example can the athlete catch with one or two hands, land safely, and pass with a variety of passes, and can they do these under pressure?
- Tactical awareness – does the athlete demonstrate an on-court awareness of their positional role, and responsibilities of the bib e.g. providing attacking, or defensive support where necessary, or being able to attack or defend with other athletes?
- Game sense – does the athlete show some evidence of game sense principles such as the use of space, awareness of other athletes' movement, dictating space, being able to transition between defence and attack
- Attitude and commitment – does the athlete demonstrate appropriate task intensity, are they able to commit pressure to maintaining possession or winning the ball and are they able to respond to coaching and/or peer instruction

Athletes may not necessarily demonstrate all these qualities, and some athletes may possess different balances of each quality. It is expected that these qualities are developing at under 13 level, but much more present at under 15 level.