



Area and England Masters Hockey

Nomination Process to England Trials

The aim of this paper is to continue the strong relationship between the England international Masters programme and Area Masters and reaffirm the player nomination process for England trials.

For England to have the best players in its national Masters teams it's vital that the best players are put through to England trials. The Area championships tournaments are the first step in the nomination process, but how does that process work and secondly, how are all players accounted for?

Nomination Process

Pre-Tournament

- The Area Masters Chair will provide the England age group Leads with the dates of all the Area Championships tournaments and the contact details of all Area age group Leads in their age group and the age group below.
- Players are selected to represent their Area.
- Area age group Leads consider their nominations and ask their players if they wish to be put forward.
- England age group Leads contact the Area age group Leads for a squad list with shirt numbers and the names of their nominees.
- England age group Leads or their Head Coach attend their age group Area tournament, watch all players and discuss nominations with each Area age group Lead. Some players may be rejected; some may be added.

Post-Tournament

- The England age group Lead confirms with the Area age group Lead their nominations and is provided with the contacts details of all nominees.
- The England age group Lead contacts the England age group Lead and the Area age group Leads from the age group below to determine any further nominations.
- The England age group Lead invites nominees to trials for the following year with details of dates, venues and times.

Area Championships Tournaments

- Tournaments will be best v best and a filter, or an initial access point, to England trials. The tournaments will not be England trials. It is important to ensure the integrity of the independent England trials that follow.
- There is an expectation that all players hoping to trial for England will play in their Area Championships tournament.

Players – who should be nominated?

- Any player playing in the Area Championships tournaments that qualifies to represent England is eligible for nomination.
- Players will not be able to nominate themselves directly.
- All nominees must be strong enough to be selected to represent their Area.
- Players can only be nominated by the Area they represent in the tournament.
- Only those players who would be genuinely competitive at England trials should be nominated.
- Nominees should be the amongst the best of an Area squad.
- There is no set number of nominations per Area squad.

What if a player doesn't attend their Area Championship Tournament?

Where a player is injured or has a genuine reason for not attending an Area Championships tournament, they may still be put forward by an Area for England trials. Such players will be taken on a case-by-case basis.

England age group Leads should not carry previous England players over from year to year who have not attended their age group tournament without discussing the players' circumstances with the relevant Area age group Lead.

What about players moving up and age group?

Current England players that will be moving up an age group should be recommend to the England age group Lead for the next age group up by their current England age group Lead.

England age group Leads should also contact the Area age group Leads for the age group below, to determine any nominations of Area players moving up an age group.

England Trials - Required Standard?

Support with understanding the required standard for England trials should come from the England age group Lead or Head Coach in discussions with Area age group Leads.

Area age group Leads are often amongst the strongest players in their Area squads and may be either an England player or have previously attended trials. As such, they will understand the required standard. If this is not the case, Area age group Leads are welcome to attend and watch England trials and/or training sessions to better understand the level required.

34-Year-Olds

The Area MWO35 Championships tournaments are open to players that will be 34 in the year of a tournament (1st January to 31st December). Such players will turn 35 in the following year, and therefore eligible for England in that year. This not only helps increase the flow of younger players engaging with Area Masters but helps to ensure as many players as possible eligible for England are seen by the England Lead/Head coach.

Any queries on the nomination process should be raised with the Chair of the Area Masters Committee or the England Masters Programme Manager.

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