

## England Age Group - 2025 Nominations Guidance Document for Coaches

Firstly, thank you for your interest in the nomination process for the 2025/26 England Age Group programmes. In accessing this information, it is assumed you have already read the Open Nominations general information and have come through to this page as a coach who is now seeking to nominate a player for England Age Group open assessment.

The purpose of the Talent System is to support **sustained success** of **elite domestic** and **national teams**, by finding and developing players who demonstrate the qualities to progress to senior elite level. This means developing a system which is accessible to as many players as possible and ensuring selection decisions are based on a combination of current performance level and future potential.

For most players, nomination may be their first experience of an England Age Group activity. Whatever the future holds, and whether they are selected for further involvement in the England Age Group programme or not, we are passionate about it being a positive experience for every player. So that we can support this, we would ask you to commit a small amount of focused time on the resources below and familiarise yourself with the nomination process outlined. Before completing a player nomination please:

1. Read this guidance document fully.
2. In addition, nominating coaches may find it useful to familiarise themselves with the Talent System Framework against which the Nominations Profile is aligned.

The Talent System Framework document can be accessed [here](#).

At this stage we would like to acknowledge that we are continuing to evolve a new, more open method to identify players for England Age Group activity.

Some key points to be aware of:

- Only players nominated through the official nominations channel will be considered for the open assessment training days. Coaches are required to complete one form per player. Any nominations not fully completed will not be considered.
- Please note players involved in Talent Academies in 2024/25 will not be considered for an Open Nomination; these players can be considered for and observed throughout the Talent Academy cycle and at the Talent Academy Cup.
- Players not selected for the Talent Academy Cup might also, in a few cases, be put forward by Talent Academy coaches for a nomination; this might be due to the age profile of squads in one or two locations.
- We are inviting U16 nominations for those born in 2010 and 2011, and U18 nominations for those born 2008 & 2009. **We will not consider players born after 2011 for the U16 nomination.**
- In very rare and exceptional circumstances, younger players have been invited or nominated into England Age Group environments. An open nomination would not be the route for this; a coach believing they have an exceptional case would communicate individually with the Junior Talent Development Manager.
- Coaches should hold dialogue internally before nominating a player from their environment, avoiding multiple nominations for the same player from one environment.
- The coach must provide the details of a seconder from their environment who also supports the nomination.
- While considering future potential is important when nominating players, there are less than 30 England Age Group places per age group, per gender, so, players should be demonstrating a high level of competency in their current performance.
- The nomination training days and the England Age Group programme will support and challenge players. In nominating a player, you should be confident, with our support, this player is well placed to thrive in a supportive yet challenging international environment.
- It will be at your, the coach's, discretion if you choose to tell players they have been nominated. Nomination is not a guarantee of a player being taken forward to assessment.
- Parental consent must be expressly obtained by nominating coaches to provide consent for the nomination and for contact details being shared. We advise coaches to share information with caution and to manage expectations.
- If you wish to query an individual, please contact [brett.holland@englandhockey.co.uk](mailto:brett.holland@englandhockey.co.uk) (Girls) or [mark.bateman@englandhockey.co.uk](mailto:mark.bateman@englandhockey.co.uk) (Boys)

Examples of appropriate rationale for nominations:

- Player in your environment is consistently performing at a level you believe would fit into a junior international environment
- Player is a multisport athlete with minimal opportunity to access Talent System opportunities
- Player has a relatively low hockey training age in comparison to their peers but is already ahead of their peers in current performance

Open assessments should not be used to facilitate the following:

- Provide an “experience” to players who are not yet ready for this level of stretch
- To provide content for an exercise which you feel will enhance the profile of your club or school
- To provide a route for any and all players who have not been in Talent Academies to “be seen” or to be “seen again” e.g. where players who have attended a Talent Academy open assessment process during this cycle and have been unsuccessful
- To placate parents who may be placing pressure on you to nominate

If you are unsure if you should be nominating a player or not, please get in touch with your contact within the Talent System for some advice. If you are not sure who to contact, please email [dieter.hill@englandhockey.co.uk](mailto:dieter.hill@englandhockey.co.uk)

## Nominations

We invite you to nominate players by completing the Open Nomination Form. This will take approximately 15 minutes per player. Only fully completed online forms will be accepted. You must have the express permission of a parent / guardian to nominate and provide data. You will be required to provide the following information:

- Your email address
- Your telephone number
- The full name of the nominated player
- Nominated player's date of birth
- Email address for the nominated player's parent or guardian
- Telephone number for the parent or guardian
- Home postcode of the player you are nominating
- School of the nominated player
- Club of the nominated player (if applicable)
- The player's preferred playing line

The form asks coaches to consider a broad profile of the player across technical, tactical, mental, teamship and physical qualities. These qualities are aligned with the Complete Player Qualities in the [Talent System Framework](#).

Current performance and future potential will both be considered. The detail of these qualities and how to rate them is contained in the nominations form at the appropriate point.

The form must be completed electronically via the link provided. You can access the form by clicking [here](#) or by copying and pasting the URL below into your browser:

<https://forms.office.com/e/1eKnmmAxAM>

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any queries relating to the nominations process, please contact Dieter Hill ([Dieter.hill@englandhockey.co.uk](mailto:Dieter.hill@englandhockey.co.uk))