



AASE Facts

What is the AASE?

The AASE is a unique sporting qualification designed to meet the needs of young athletes *who have the realistic potential to achieve excellence in their sport and who are seeking to perform at the highest level as their main career goal.* The AASE has been designed as the qualification of choice for the UK's young sporting talent, providing a structured national training and development route across all sports.





Rugby photography by Getty Images.

“ The AASE offers players firsthand experience of what is required to become a world class rugby player. ”

Lawrence Dallaglio MBE, former England rugby captain

Who created the AASE?

The AASE was developed in 2004 by SkillsActive – the Sector Skills Council for Active Leisure and Learning – in conjunction with a number of governing bodies of sport and industry experts. The programme is fully funded by the Learning Skills Council (LSC) and falls under its national Apprenticeships scheme.

Why was it developed?

The AASE programme was developed to ensure top young athletes seeking to perform at the highest level receive the support and training they require to succeed in today’s elite sporting environment. The programme has also been designed so that if an athlete falls short of their ultimate goal, they have the skills, knowledge and qualifications to pursue a secondary or supplementary career.

Who can enrol on the AASE?

The AASE caters for athletes aged between 16 and 18 and has four categories of involvement. These include;

1. Professional, full-time athletes;
2. Athletes involved in the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS);
3. Athletes identified by their NGB as ‘elite’;
4. Athletes involved in the academy environment at professional clubs.

How long does the AASE take?

Notionally, the AASE takes two years to complete.

What sports are currently delivering the AASE?

The AASE programme is currently operating across football, rugby union, cricket, tennis, diving, waterpolo, swimming, disability swimming and synchronised swimming. It is being piloted in golf, athletics, basketball, netball, judo, triathlon, motorsport and taekwando, with volleyball, handball and hockey also expressing interest in the programme from September 2009. SkillsActive aims to have the AASE rolled out across all 2012 sports by the end of 2010.

How is the AASE structured?

The AASE qualification provides flexibility and choice. The framework contains the Level 3 NVQ, Key Skills at Level 2, plus 780 Guided Learning Hours for Technical Certificates from a large range of academic or vocational qualifications, including BTEC, AS and A levels, and VRQs.

How many athletes are on the AASE?

There are currently more than 2500 athletes on the AASE throughout England.

Why join the AASE programme?

The AASE helps develop and nurture elite athletes. The programme gives athletes more quality coaching hours, better access to modern, well equipped facilities and the use of new technologies. It also provides for second career development, should an athlete fall short of their ultimate sporting goal or choose to follow an alternative career path.

