

Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE)

From the beginning

In 2003, SkillsActive identified an opportunity to develop a structured pathway for talented young athletes seeking a career in top-level sport. At the time, sports committed to the development, education and training of elite performers did not have access to a dedicated advanced apprenticeship framework. Public funds to support that development, education and training were accessed by ad hoc arrangements, which did not provide for the structured development of the young performers.

So together with the Learning Skills Council, in conjunction with several industry bodies, SkillsActive created the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence – a unique sporting qualification providing a structured national training and development route across all sports.





Tennis photography by James Jordan.

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AASE is a tremendous benefit to our high performance centres, giving clear pathways forward for our players from age 16, developing young professional role models within the centres, and creating a future workforce for British Tennis.”

Roger Draper, CEO, Lawn Tennis Association

The philosophy

The AASE is not simply a qualification for ‘playing the game’. The AASE framework follows a distinct philosophy based on athlete and employer needs.

Research has shown that only a small percentage of the young people who embark on elite training in their chosen sport are successful in sustaining a professional or full-time career. In the majority of sports, earnings are not sufficient to make this possible and – in many cases – young players fail to realise their early potential or suffer injuries that impede their development.

What’s more, even if a young person is successful in achieving a professional contract or a full time occupation, their career as a performer often has a fairly limited lifespan. Most professional athletes’ careers are in decline by their early thirties and some are often forced out earlier due to injury, loss of form, or employer financial constraints.

So to be a real success, it was important that the AASE framework provided the possibility for second career development. The framework, therefore, not only gives young people the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge needed to perform at the highest level, but also opportunities to broaden their expertise into other technical/occupational areas within the Active Leisure and Learning Sector. This includes work within the related fields of coaching, sport development, health and fitness, operational management of sports facilities, sports leadership and the outdoors.

The AASE is expected to make a real and tangible impact on UK sport over the medium to long term. As well as providing athletes with more quality coaching hours, better access to modern, well-equipped facilities and new technologies, the AASE also ensures athletes gain the knowledge and skills required to have a successful career – on or off the field.



SkillsActive
Shaping Skills for the Future

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