

## **ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP IN SPORTING EXCELLENCE (AASE)**

### **Disability Swimming Selection Policy 2009**

#### **What is AASE?**

The Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) is an England Talent programme designed to meet the needs of athletes aged 16-18 who have the realistic potential to achieve excellence in their sport and are seeking to perform at the highest level as their main career goal, whilst continuing with their education.

AASE offers the first opportunity for elite and potentially elite athletes to get a proper recognition of the skills, knowledge and understanding they are developing/gaining in their quest for excellence.

Athletes will receive additional support and guidance within their sport and education. This is a two-year sports apprenticeship programme.

The programme was launched in 2006 and has grown to have 230 athletes across all aquatic disciplines. Approx 70 athletes a year are selected from swimming. Over the past two years the programme has developed further athlete resources and is always developing ways to improve the sport and education pathway for AASE athletes.

#### **The Apprenticeship framework:**

- NVQ Level 3 Achieving Excellence in Sports Performance (Specific to your sport)
- Technical Certificate (Education): A choice or mix of any A/AS Levels, BTEC Sport Awards, GCSE's, Coaching Qualifications or any other sporting professional qualification undertaken at school/college or appropriate body. Funding for UKCC Level 2 in Coaching (all sports) is available for all AASE athletes and the RLSS Pool Lifeguard Qualification up to £220. If there are other qualifications you wish to undertake that you think might be eligible for funding please contact AASE Programme Manager.
- Key Skills Level 2 in Application of Number & Communication (Please note those who have achieved grade C above in GCSE English and/or Maths will be exempt, otherwise Apprentice's will complete key skills at their school/college.)

Talent and Development Officers will work with athletes to guide and assist them through the NVQ Level 3. The NVQ isn't academic and is based on everything elite athletes undertake along their talent pathway to a world-class level.

The NVQ allows swimmers to achieve a nationally recognised qualification awarded by Edexcel for the work they are already putting into swimming. The NVQ helps to educate swimmers more about what they are doing in the pool and encourages them to further their swimming career.

AASE swimmers will attend an offshore camp as part of their programme, regional camps and workshops will also take place annually and the dates are selected in a way that compliments the competition calendar. Camps are compulsory for all swimmers and fully funded as part of the AASE programme. However those swimmers who are World Class Programmes athletes do not have to attend additional camps if they feel they cannot commit to all camp requirements and can arrange to meet with their Talent Development Officer individually. Athletes who attend world class camps can use this to contribute towards achieving the NVQ Level 3.

AASE provides clear pathways and exit routes for elite swimmers either to professional swimming career, university, employment or a mix.

## Eligibility

To be considered for the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence Programme 2009-2010 swimmers must be of 16 years of age and born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 1992 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 1993. Swimmers must be based and educated in England.

In order to be considered for selection on to the AASE programme the athletes must:

- 1) Meet the performance criteria listed in the selection process
- 2) Have completed GCSE Exams by the summer of 2009. If the athletes achieved a Grade C or above for Maths and English they are exempt from the Key Skills component of the programme
- 3) Be in full time education in September 2009 in Year 12 or willing to undertake coaching awards and other sporting course over the 2 years.

## Selection Process

Swimmers will be considered for selection if they took part in DSE Junior Championships in March 2009, DSE International Disability Swimming Championships in May, or ASA Youth Championships in July/August and scored above 500 British Disability Points in at least one event and can demonstrate the required commitment level, within an appropriate environment, to be capable of achieving their potential within the sport. N.B. Selections are subject to approval by the British Swimming National Performance Director [Tim Reddish].

In order to be considered for selection on to the AASE programme the athletes must:

Follow an individual training and competition plan that maintains the trainability and fitness of the Apprentice and has been submitted by the Apprentices coach and agreed by the Talent Development Officer. The training programme of the selected athletes will be monitored by the Talent Development Officer.

Additional selections may be made at the discretion of the AASE Programme Manager and the Talent Development Coordinator. Swimmers selected on this basis will be required to demonstrate the required commitment level, within an appropriate environment, to be capable of achieving their potential within the sport.

All eligible athletes must complete the “athlete eligibility” form and return by **August 6<sup>th</sup> 2009** to AASE Office:

AASE Office, 35 Granby Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3DU, T: 01509 615458, E-mail: [aase@swimming.org](mailto:aase@swimming.org)

Swimmers selected on to the AASE programme must comply with all UK Sport and British Swimming provisions consisting of the ASFGB Doping Control Rules and Protocols, Selection Agreement and Code of Conduct, the ASFGB Disciplinary Code and ASA Child Protection Procedures.

The AASE Programme Manager and the Talent Development Coordinator may remove any athlete from the AASE programme where the athlete is:

- 1) Unwilling to complete work tasks as set by the TDO to fulfil requirements of the NVQ.
- 2) Unable to meet minimum training hours requirement.
- 3) Exhibits conduct that is detrimental to British Swimming or the ASA. Athletes will have to sign an Athlete Agreement and Code of Conduct.

For any further questions regarding the selection criteria or AASE information please contact the AASE Programme Manager [michelle.kiff@swimming.org](mailto:michelle.kiff@swimming.org) and/or the Talent Development Coordinator at [dave.legge@swimming.org](mailto:dave.legge@swimming.org).