



Army Briefing Note

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ARMY ELITE SPORTS PROGRAMME (AESP)

ISSUE

1. The Army Elite Sport Programme (AESP) is Army's strategic partnership with UK Sport (UKS), the English Institute of Sport (EIS) and sporting National Governing Bodies (NGBs). The aim is to identify new sporting potential for Tokyo 2020 and Great Britain World Class Development (WCD) sporting programmes.

TARGET AUDIENCE

2. All Regular and Reserve personnel, commanders and commanding officers, Royal Army Physical Training Corps (RAPTC) personnel and All Arms Physical Training Instructors (AAPTIs).

KEY POINTS

- An AESP Performance Manager was appointed in Apr 14 to lead the Programme in collaboration with a number of high profile strategic partners (UKS, EIS and NGBs).
- Adopting the same 'No Compromise' philosophy as UKS, the AESP will take an evidence-based approach to target investment into those sports that are most likely to deliver athletes to the GB Podium and World Class Development programmes.
- Talent Identification (TID)¹, Talent Transfer (TT)² and Talent Confirmation (TC)³ will provide the underpinning framework for the AESP.
- The development of Army sport coaches and coherent elite athlete transfer pathways will be an essential component of future sustainable success of the AESP.
- The first formal TID campaign will be launched in Sep 14 under the banner of **Girls4Gold: Army** (*details will be issued separately*).
- Other areas of initial engagement with UKS include a review of Army Boxing and the potential partnership between the Army Rifle Association and GB Shooting.
- The AESP is fully supported by the chain of command with the specific aim of identifying and developing athletes with the potential to compete in Tokyo 2020 and beyond.

¹ UKS has adopted the principle that talented athletes will be a maximum of eight years away from the podium, or less in the case of TT schemes.

² The structured re-assignment of athletes across sports which have similar and transferrable talent characteristics. Athletes selected for TT programmes will often develop in their new-found sport within compressed timeframes, having already developed many 'ready-made' skills courtesy of their first (donor) sport.

³ TC follows TID/TT and could take a period of 3 - 12 months before a decision on access to Podium/WCD programmes is made.

EXTRACTION FOR UNIT ROUTINE ORDERS

3. The following is to be repeated in Unit Routine Orders:

The Army Elite Sport Programme (AESP) is being launched with the specific aim of identifying potential Army athletes for the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020 and other UK Sport (UKS) World Class Development programmes. There will be a number of targeted Talent Identification (TID) campaigns conducted with UKS and the English Institute of Sport (EIS) to identify potential Army athletes with the programme, beginning with a **Girls4Gold: Army** campaign in September 2014.

Full details on how to apply for the **Girls4Gold: Army** campaign are available from the Army Sport Control Board Website ([Army Sport Control Board](#)) or from formation J7/G7 Physical Development Branches. General information about the AESP is also available from the ASCB Website which will be kept up to date regarding future AESP and UKS national sporting talent recruiting campaigns.

BACKGROUND

4. The Army has joined with UKS, EIS and NGBs to take forward the AESP with the specific aim of identifying Army athletes who have the potential to be considered for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and WCD sporting programmes. Investment will be specifically targeted to those sports where there is evidence of existing gaps in GB Olympic and WCD programmes - particularly in areas where the Army has the potential and track record⁴ to deliver high performance athletes via a range of targeted TID, TT, TC campaigns and strategic partnerships. Wider details of UKS activities, milestones and targets can be found at this link [UK Sport Website](#).

5. The new AESP strategic partnership with UKS offers exciting opportunities which could potentially open pathways that were previously unavailable for the identification and development of the Army's most talented athletes. The identification and confirmation of future potential will always be difficult but the AESP now provides a pathway for Army athletes who previously could not be considered for the conventional UKS national recruiting campaigns⁵ due to the nature of military service limiting access to NGB pathways for the WCD programme.

6. The AESP provides an exciting and unique opportunity for Army athletes to transfer onto UKS Olympic and WCD sporting programmes. It is both recruiting and retention positive and aligns with CLF's wider intent and emphasis on the reinvigoration of physical training, adventurous training and sport in the contingency era. Commanders at all levels are strongly encouraged to support the AESP when opportunities arise.

7. **Point of Contact.** Any questions relating to this ABN should, in the first instance, be directed to the Army Elite Sport performance Manager (AESPM).

⁴ For example, based on previous results, performances and records from female athletes, combat sports, shooting and winter sports.

⁵ Previous UKS campaigns such as; Sporting Giants 2007, Girls4Gold 2008, Pitch2Podium, Power2Podium, Talent 2012: Paralympic Potential, Fighting Chance: Battle4Brazil and Talent 2016: Tall and Talented.