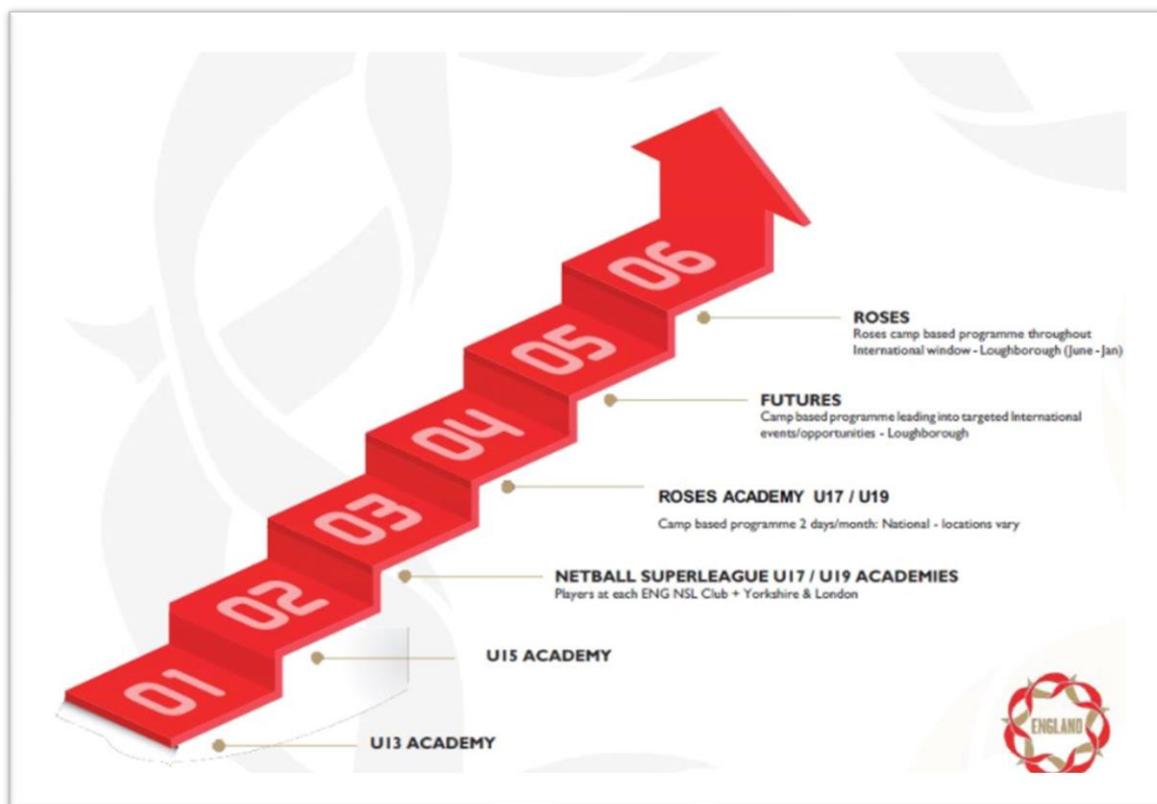


Welcome to the Kent Netball Academy Trials for 2021-21 season

What are the trials for?

We are trialling athletes for both the Under 13 Academy and the Under 15 Academy. These are provided by counties as the first steps of the England Netball Performance Pathway, as pictured below.



The role of under 13 and Under 15 Kent County Academies;

- To be able to identify, develop and educate talented athletes to be able to support their progress towards the next level of the pathway.
- To provide an environment where the athlete is encouraged to learn how to train for performance effectively
- To help prepare athletes for the competition environment by using games-based approaches to training and performance preparation.

What we are expecting from athletes who are successful in their selection to the programme;

- Regular attendance
- To commit to a home training programme and homework tasks where set
- To arrive prepared, with kit, and committed to train
- To take responsibility for their own development and engage with coaches to support this
- To be playing netball at an appropriate standard of competition for their age group (usually club netball)

What you can expect to see at trials;

Trials will typically be multi-phased events, where athletes are invited to further rounds before final selection into the academies. During these trial events, athletes will typically be asked to demonstrate their skills and game awareness in match play and, where feasible, other game-based activities, including warm-ups and athlete led games. Multiple selectors are used at these events, so athletes are seen multiple times, by different selectors, whose selections are aggregated to provide the final selection decisions.

What are the selectors looking for?

Selectors will be present throughout warm-ups, match play and any other game-based tasks the athletes are asked to engage with. They are looking for age appropriate identifiers of the following;

- Technical skills – for example can the athlete catch with one or two hands, land safely, and pass with a variety of passes, and can they do these under pressure?
- Tactical awareness – does the athlete demonstrate an on-court awareness of their positional role, and responsibilities of the bib e.g. providing attacking, or defensive support where necessary, or being able to attack or defend with other athletes?
- Game sense – does the athlete show some evidence of game sense principles such as the use of space, awareness of other athletes' movement, dictating space, being able to transition between defence and attack
- Attitude and commitment – does the athlete demonstrate appropriate task intensity, are they able to commit pressure to maintaining possession or winning the ball and are they able to respond to coaching and/or peer instruction

Athletes may not necessarily demonstrate all these qualities, and some athletes may possess different balances of each quality. It is expected that these qualities are developing at under 13 level, but much more present at under 15 level.

