

The English School Sports Programme **Selection Procedure – Criteria**

Introduction

Candidates for the Sports Programme must be successful in both meeting the Sports Programme Selection Criteria and in passing the Entrance Exam as well.

Sports offered

The Sports School will initially specialise in basketball, football, volleyball, tennis and athletics. However, elite athletes are welcome to express their interest in other sports. We will evaluate the applications that we receive with the intention of accommodating elite athletes in more sports where possible.

Procedure

Candidates will complete the Sports Programme section on the application form for the Entrance Exams, indicating their interest in the sports programme. Additionally, an original letter from their Sports Federation and/or Club must be uploaded or sent by email to Mr Yiannos Papaioannou (Yiannos.papaioannou@englishschool.ac.cy) with the following information:

- their distinctions/achievements in the last 12 months
- the details of the competitions where those distinctions were achieved, including the date and category in which they competed
- the record/success they achieved and their national ranking (where applicable)
- the number of participants in the competition in which they achieved their record/success

A reference letter from the athlete's coach would be welcome (uploaded or sent by email to Mr Yiannos Papaioannou (Yiannos.papaioannou@englishschool.ac.cy)).

Sports school candidates will be required to attend a practical evaluation session in their sport and/or an interview. Practical evaluation sessions and/or interviews will be administered by a Team of three Physical Education Teachers and/or Specialist Coaches on Monday 16th February or Tuesday 17th February 2026.

Selection Criteria

All candidates must be active in an Olympic Sport and members of a Club or association registered under the official Sports Federation.

In addition, the following criteria will apply to Team and Individual Sports:

For team sports, the candidate must succeed in the practical evaluation test, designed to assess their skills and competitive performance.

For individual sports the candidate will normally be required to have achieved 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th Place in a Federation or National Scheme of Grassroots Sports (ESYAA) Pancyprian Competition in the past 12 months, to be considered for selection. They may also be required to meet sport-specific standards as well, in order for us to establish their level of competence.

In exceptional cases, the Sports Programme Selection Committee may give special consideration to candidates whose performance was affected by injury or other extraordinary circumstances. In such cases, more evidence may be requested.

Practical Evaluation Assessment

The Sports Programme practical evaluation test will be administered by an experienced team of Physical Education Teachers and/or Specialist Coaches.

Indicative skills that will be assessed for a range of sports include:

Basketball

- Dribbling
- Passing
- Shooting
- Lay Up
- Movements without the ball
- In-game competitive profile

Football

- Ball control
- Passing
- Dribbling
- Shooting/Heading
- Defence - Attack
- In-game competitive profile
- Goalkeeper technical skills (only for goalkeepers)

Volleyball

- Setting
- Digging
- Service
- Defence - Attack
- In-game competitive profile

Selection for the Sports Programme requires success both in the Entrance Exams and in the Sports Programme selection process.

The Sports Programme

The Sports Programme will focus on developing the skills, fitness and tactical understanding of each athlete. Students entering the programme will initially commit for Years 1-3.

Sports Programme students will be required to participate in our School Teams as a condition of joining the programme. They will also be required to be a member of a sports club/academy, so that they can train in the afternoon as well. Our Sports Programme Coaches will liaise with each athlete's club/academy coach, in order to maximise the benefit that our Sports School can provide to our student-athletes.