

England



Angling Trust Team England Fly Fishing (AT TEFF) Elite Performance Programme

Introduction

AT TEFF is solely responsible for the senior England Fly Fishing team's representation at all National, International, European and World competitive fly fishing at home and abroad. The overarching goal is to make England the number one fly fishing nation in the world.

The purpose of this proposal is to consider a new approach to selection of World and European teams to compete in Fips-Mouche competitions with the aim of improving performance and results in these competitions.

Rationale

- Recent performance & results at World & European Championships
- Limited Fips-Mouche style events in AT TEFF portfolio with only the Bank National, Bank International and 5 Nations events fished to FIPS-Mouche rules and format
- No clear pathway to elite level
- Lack of clarity regarding selection
- Perception relationships drive selection
- Anglers disillusioned with current system

In the last nine World and European competitions spanning five years England have recorded one top 3 finish. In World Championships from 2012 England have achieved 7th, 8th, 3rd, 12th and 14th place finishes. From 2013 the European team has recorded 10th, 4th, 7th and 8th place finishes, the team did not compete in 2012.

AT TEFF's domestic competitive structure in England is focused on delivering Nationals in river, lake and bank. The river and lake (loch) boat competitions are based around IFFA rules and format. Other than Bank National Championship, AT TEFF does not have a structure to provide anglers eligible for World & European teams with the opportunity to develop skills or compete in all the events relevant to Fips-Mouche competition.

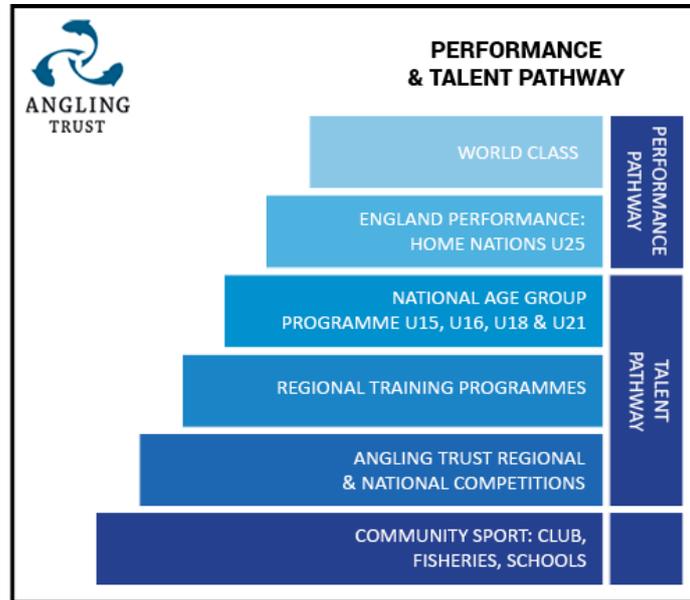
In 2016 the Angling Trust introduced a Performance & Talent Pathway Map. The map documents the journey of an angler from grassroots to world class level. AT TEFF has an existing pathway in the form of Eligibility Criteria and Points System which is documented on the website, however the process is complex and anecdotal evidence suggests anglers do not understand the system. Anecdotal evidence suggest this has led to anglers withdrawing from the competition scene and current anglers becoming disillusioned with the system, many feeling their journey to world class is out of their control and once out of the system there is no way to get back to that level.



England



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Solution

- Abandon current Eligibility Criteria and Points System
- Introduce a new league system (Elite Performance Programme)
- Establish eligibility criteria for entry to Elite Performance Programme
- Selection becomes qualification for World & European teams

A new league system would be introduced in order to select teams for World & European Championships. The Programme would contain events over a minimum of 5 weekends. As World and European Championships are predominantly river based the venues used would be reflect that bias. All events would be pegged (excluding boat) matches fished to Fips-Mouche rules (all).

Eligibility to the Programme would be based on the Performance Pathway with anglers progressing from the England Performance Programme (Home Nations events). Criteria for entry to the Elite Performance Programme would be;

1. 1 River cap plus 1 Loch or Bank cap
2. 1 River cap plus previous World or European Cap
3. 2 international caps (any discipline) plus River reserve
4. 2 international caps (any discipline) plus forthcoming River International Team including Reserve

Anglers would need to have fished or been travelling reserve in an international before being classed as a cap for the purpose of this Programme only. Once anglers have achieved the criteria they would remain eligible for the Programme indefinitely, regardless of whether they choose to fish it or not. Anglers with 2 caps can demonstrate success in two disciplines and possess experience of competing in an International environment and competition, a sound base for progression to the Elite Performance Programme. Anglers would opt into the Programme on a date specified by AT TEFF. Any angler that qualifies for a World or European team but does not accept a place would be excluded from the subsequent Programme for a minimum period of 1 year.



England



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Selection of the teams would be based upon results following the completion of the Programme. AT TEFF has recommended the following method to select teams to compete in World & European events.

1. Top 10 qualify for World & European teams, a selection committee (TEFFIC) will select teams for World & European Championships based on skill sets and experience relevant to the venue for the Championship. (see Selection Policy for further details)

Anglers finishing outside the automatic places would have the opportunity to travel as a reserve with either team. This opportunity must either be self funded or contribution from AT TEFF subject to finances. If there are multiple parties interested, then decision will be based upon final position with the highest placed anglers chosen. Reserves must be ratified by AT TEFFIC

Teams will be selected at the end of the Programme for the following year, ensuring angler performance is as current as possible and less opportunity for personal circumstances to change. Matches would provide team members of that year with relevant competitive opportunities in the lead up to World & European events in that year.

Note: FIPS-Mouche has agreed that from 2021 World & European Championships will run alternate years. Alterations to the Elite Performance Programme will be necessary and will impact on how a team will be selected. Only one England team per year will compete in FIPS-Mouche championships.

Timeframe for Programme

A flexible approach should be adopted in regards to when and where the Programme takes place. Consideration should be given to the date, location and venues to be used for the World & European Championships. Using the 'regular' dates for World & European Championships as a guide we expect the Programme to begin around November and finish before the end of July. Allowances will be factored into planning when the dates for FIPS-Mouche competitions change.

The Elite Performance Programme would commence in November 2017 and finish in July 2018 with five weekends. This would provide the World & European teams to compete in the 2019 FIPS-Mouche competitions.

The deadline for entry to the Programme would be 31st August each year.

Venues for the events would be based where possible to be representative of those used for the relevant World & European Championships. Specific information may not yet be available but can call on experience of previous championships to support venue selection.



England



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Format – based on 16 anglers

- Rivers: 3 x 2 day events, fished to FIPS-Mouche rules, measure and Release format. 8 x 1½ hour sessions, anglers will fish in 2 sessions and control 2 sessions each day. Shorter sessions (perhaps crossing over with a neighbouring peg) will increase opportunities to avoid bad pegs.
- Loch: 3 x 1 day events with 2 x 3 hour sessions per day, anglers will fish 2 sessions per day, changing of boat position between sessions. Boat partners would control each other. Matches will be fished to measure & release.
- Bank: Sessional peg rotations, catch, measure and Release. 1 day event with 2 sessions, anglers fish 4 pegs for 45 minute each per session. Fishery staff or volunteers to control

For full details of rules and scoring please see **Factsheet**

Anglers would not be required to fish Nationals but still have the opportunity to compete in Nationals if they choose and fish IFFA events if they qualify.

Finance

Participants would pay an entry fee of £150 (£30 per weekend) before entering the Programme plus fishing fees on the day of the events.

A recurring theme is the amount of money it costs anglers to compete in order to maintain their ranking and therefore eligibility for World & European. Removing the necessity to compete in nationals will enable those with the ambition to represent England at World & European level to invest their money in events relevant to achieving their goals.

Benefits

- Provides anglers with relevant experience of Fips-Mouche competitions
- Enables anglers to develop strategy and approach to Fips-Mouche competitions
- Provides clear pathway to World & European teams, anglers know exactly what they have to do
- Removes any ambiguity around selection
- Onus is on the angler to demonstrate their ability and suitability for World and European teams
- Encourages anglers to develop skills in other disciplines
- Opportunity to recognise and reward performance at World & European Championships
- Teams based on results encourages World and European team members to be open and honest in sharing information and evaluating performances
- Potential to increase entries across the nationals format in order to gain entry to the programme
- Anglers can invest their money in relevant competitions
- Opportunity to increase the talent pool with new and past competitors



England



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Conclusion

This proposal will provide anglers with the opportunity to gain and build experience of fishing in Fips-Mouche style events, while there is no guarantee it will ultimately improve performances and results, it will increase the potential for improvement in these events and assist England achieve the goal of becoming the number one fly fishing nation in the world. A clearly defined pathway with a more simplistic system will provide anglers with the inspiration to achieve their goals and allow them to map their own progression through to World Class level.

A number of perceptions that may or may not be true appear to exist, this proposal removes a number of those perceptions and should help to create an environment which is fair, open and transparent ensuring anglers are in control of their own destiny.

