



### **Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE)**

The AASE Programme provides students aged 16 to 19, with an academic and sporting programme which requires them to improve their sporting performance as a criteria for assessment.

Students work towards two main areas of educational achievement.

- Academic element - National Certificate in Sport (Excellence and Performance) which is the equivalent of 2 A levels.
- Vocational element - NVQ Level 3 in Excellence and Sport Performance.
- Key Skills in IT, Communication and Application of Number.

On the course students are required to complete modules on the following:

- Developing Skill
- Fitness and Fitness Training
- Fitness Testing
- The Professional Sports Person
- Psychology for Sports Performance
- Nutrition and Sports Performance
- Evaluation and Analysis of Sports Performance

The Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence represents a significant opportunity for the partners of England Golf to develop a network of further education providers that specialise in golf and work towards developing aspiring players to achieve their potential.

The AASE programme also presents an opportunity for players to further their academic study at a time which is critical to their future golfing development. Currently players who take A levels have to sacrifice much of their sporting endeavour in order to meet the demands of their academic schedule, the AASE programme actually requires them to develop their game while also providing a route into further education and other careers within the sport.

AASE Graduates have also gone onto successful playing careers with many representing England at Full international level or as touring professionals on the Challenge Tour or Europro tour.

Those graduating with an Advanced Apprenticeship are also able to access Higher education opportunities both within or outside golf. These education opportunities include:

- The Foundation Degree (PGA)
- Applied Golf Management Studies (Birmingham University)
- Other golf related degrees
- Other sports related degrees
- US Scholarship

## **What an England Golf AASE Academy provides**

### **Physical Resources**

- Full membership of an approved golf club
- Unlimited access to a fit-for-purpose practice facilities
- Access to a fit-for-purpose putting green
- Sufficient access to a suitable facility for fitness training
- Where delivery occurs on multiple sites, apprentices will be offered transport between the sites

### **Human Resources**

- 60 coaching sessions per year
- Coaches will be responsible for devising, implementing and monitoring an individual coaching programme with each player to meet their own needs
- Coaches will work with a players personal coach where appropriate
- Sports psychology support
- Physical training and/or nutritional support
- Physical screening and feedback time
- Sufficient access to a mentor/assessor for each apprentice to successfully complete the qualification with the individual support they require
- Sufficient opportunity to meet with a careers advisor and support with any applications to Higher Education

### **Educational Resources**

- All academies will be linked to approved educational establishments.
- Students will have computer and internet access for a minimum of three hours per week with tutor support towards key skills completion, NVQ portfolio and technical certificate assessments
- All AASE apprentices must have a fair opportunity to achieve all available grades on their academic programme
- All AASE apprentices must have sufficient support in planning and developing their careers both within and outside the sport
- Where relevant, apprentices must be supported with UCAS applications

### **Competitions**

- Players will be supported in managing their competitive schedules so and flexible arrangements will be made for players who are required to miss elements of college do to representative commitments.
- Players will be provided with a regular competitive opportunity in team events as a part of the college team where appropriate.
- Support will be provided to assist in competition expenses for those players that are able to play in elite level amateur competitions.

## **Frequently Asked Questions.**

### **What is AASE?**

The Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) has been designed to meet the needs of young players (aged 16-19), who have the realistic potential to achieve excellence in golf and are seeking to perform at the highest level as their main career goal. Usually taking two-years to complete, the AASE framework will provide a structured training and development route for talented young golfers, many of whom are hoping to progress into the professional ranks and possibly become world-class players.

The programme combines academic study in Sports performance in Excellence with a National Vocational Qualification in the same topic to provide each student with a comprehensive learning experience which requires them to improve at their chosen sport as a core part of their educational achievement.

### **What qualifications will I get at the end of it?**

Students will usually complete a National Certificate in 'Sports Performance and Excellence' which requires students to show understanding of the key aspects of an athlete undertaking a performance development programme. The National Certificate is a continuous assessment programme involving the completion of a number of assignments and is the equivalent of 2 'A' levels.

### **I would like to study for a qualification which has more UCAS points than 2 'A' levels, can I do this?**

Yes. Students on AASE can either 'top up' their academic programme with an additional 'A' level or 2 'AS' levels to gain additional UCAS points or they can opt to take a 'National Diploma' course which requires the completion of some additional units and is the equivalent of 3 'A' levels.

### **I would prefer to do 'A' Levels, is this possible?**

It is possible for students to complete the programme following an 'A' level route although it should be noted that this requires the student to take on a fairly strenuous extra workload.

### **What is an NVQ?**

National Vocational Qualifications are designed to recognise 'work based learning' which provides a means by which the student can show what they have learned while actually on the job.

Instead of the student demonstrating that they are competent at a specific skill or work area, an NVQ examines the student's ability based on what they can actually do in their place of work, in this case the golf course and practice ground.

The NVQ which is a part of AASE has been specifically designed to be fully reflective of the broad range of abilities required in professional sport. It is designed to directly measure the student's ability to apply themselves to professional development in the technical, tactical, physical and psychological aspects of golf as well as addressing wider issues, such as lifestyle, communication and media, career management and social interaction.

### **What are the selection criteria for AASE?**

4 handicap or below for males and 8 handicap or below for females. However each AASE academy will grant places to players with higher handicaps if they can demonstrate that they have significant potential to go further and achieve excellence.

Selection will also include some or all of the following:

- Performance in an 18-hole stroke play qualifying event.
- Skills tests.
- Assessment by a PGA Coach.
- Previous academic performance.
- Previous performance in golf tournaments.
- A selection interview

### **Contact Details:**

For further information regarding AASE and opportunities in further education in golf please contact either:

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