



*Getting started!*

# National Talent / Development Squad Structure

Update 1 as part of a series of briefings at:

Wigan & Leigh 4<sup>th</sup> Sept

Leytonstone 12<sup>th</sup> Sept

Academy 19<sup>th</sup> Sept

9<sup>th</sup> Sept 2009



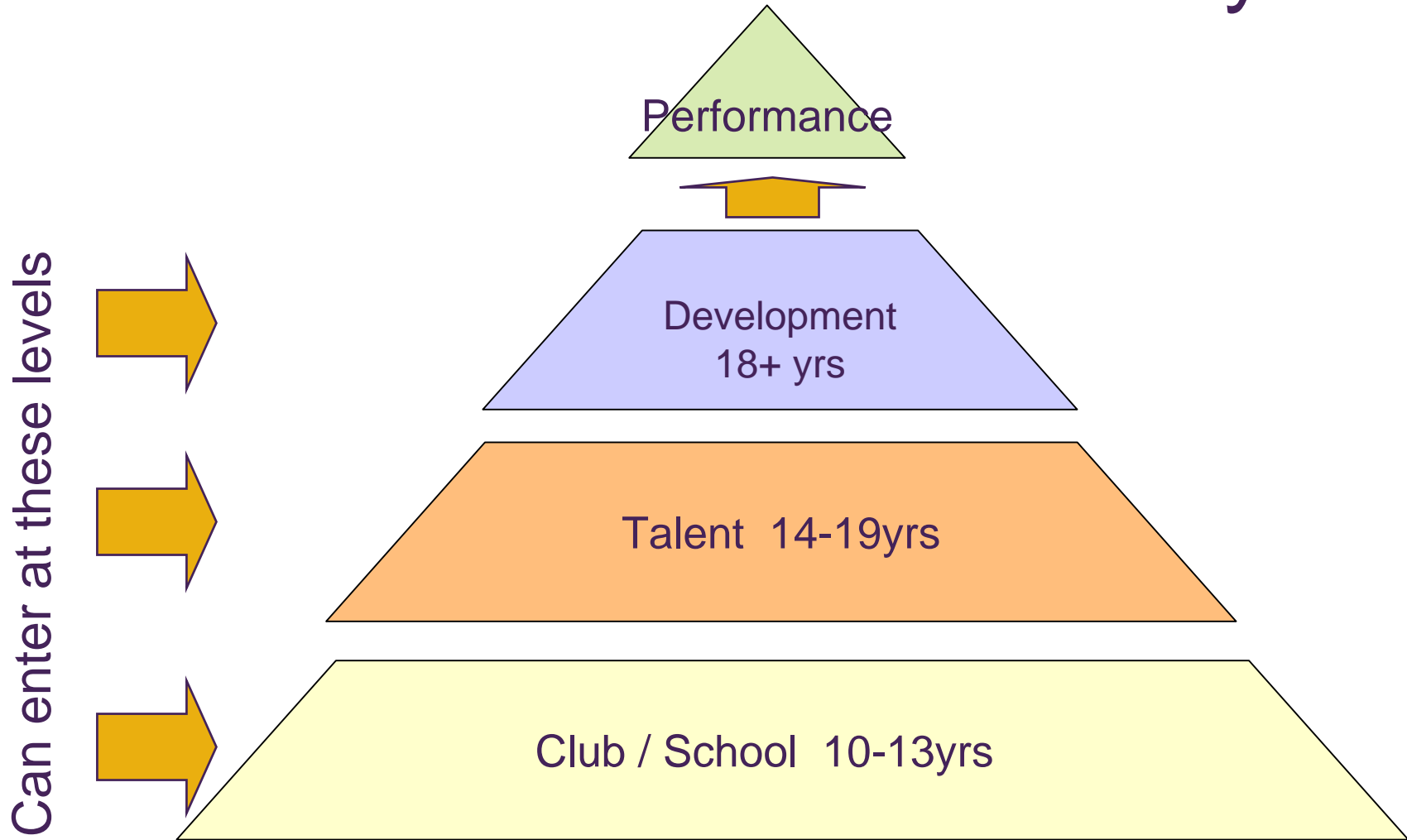
# This presentation covers: -

- National Talent Squad
  - Why Change from current system?
  - Links to Performance Pathway
  - Structure of new Talent Squad
  - Selection criteria
  - Way Forward
- National Development Squad
- Schools/Clubs Regional Squads
- British Wrestling White Award
- Recreational Membership
- Questions & Answers

# Why Change from current system?

- Variety in standard of athletes
- Too many participants – clubs currently nominating individuals
- Selection criteria not clear
- No clear performance pathway
- Need to develop structure capable of consistently producing international standard athletes

# Performance Pathway



# National Talent Squad

- Age group 14 – 19yrs, Males/Females
- Only athletes capable of competing in international weights (Cadet and Junior)
- Transparent selection process i.e. top 3 in British Championships to be considered
- Selection committee – performance director, junior national coach and junior assistant coach
- Squad meets on regular basis and minimum 6 times per year
- Current expectation is that there are unlikely to be more than 20 athletes of the required standard

# Selection criteria

- **Potential to compete at an international level**
- **Technical ability**
- Consistency of performances and current rate of improvement
- Past achievements at major domestic / international events
- Current level of physical conditioning and current medical/injury status
- Suitability as a team member (past behaviour)
- Clarity:
  - **Not suitable for children that have only just begun wrestling**

# Way Forward

- Selection Day on 19th September at Academy
- Talent Squad will meet on regular basis and at least every 8 weeks
- Squad sessions will be held over weekend periods and seek to coordinate with school / college holidays (dates take account of different national holidays and international calendar e.g. European Cadets & Juniors)
- Only talent squad athletes will be eligible for international selection
- Continued membership will depend on commitment, performance and development, with reviews following English Juniors, British Juniors and camps
- Funding: Self-funding and BWA will support athletes in seeking awards

# New Development Squad

- Age group 18 + yrs, Males/Females
- Only athletes capable of competing in international level (Seniors)
- Transparent selection process i.e. top 3 in British Championships to be considered
- Selection committee – performance director, junior national coach and National Senior Coach – criteria as per Talent squad
- Squad meets on regular basis and minimum 6 times per year
- Current expectation is that there are unlikely to be more than 20 athletes of the required standard
- Squad composition would be reviewed following English Seniors and British Closed Champs



# Club / School Regional Squads

- Sits below the performance pathway
- Coordination by Nations/Regions, planning in progress
- Age group 10 –13yrs (male and female combined)
- Has been put on agenda at next Board Meeting
- Regional Representatives have been asked to talk to coaches (No harm in you going to them!)

# British Wrestling White Award

- Introduction level prior to FILA Award Scheme, specially tailored for 6-8 week school periods, to give a sense of achievement within a short space of time
- The White Award, which is a quality award and will be consistent across the UK
- Standard foundation knowledge of: -
  - Grips; stance; basic exercises; moves
- Targeted at school participants and beginners
- Assessment by present Level 2 coach
- Initially a pilot, so will be reviewed and adjusted Christmas-time



# White award – cont.

- Costs:
  - Taking award: £10 (certificate, administration, p&p)
  - To be eligible to take award: required to be Recreational Member of BWA: £5 (£4 returned to Regions)
  - Badge: £5 (optional) [FILA Awards will have pins)
- Current situation:
  - N Ireland has own award scheme which was fully funded by NI Awards for Sports but is moving over to the national structure. It is hoped that other clubs will see the merits of the structure and follow suit.
- Supporting Material:
  - DVDs available to Level 2 Coaches: (Others view on You-Tube)
  - Available via web-site
    - Flow-Chart to support managing the BWA White Award process
    - Assessment Form
    - Contents of White Award





BRITISH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

# WHITE AWARD

Awarded to .....

Style .....

At .....

(Club/School/City)

Approved  
BWA coach

.....  
(Name, Print)

.....  
(Signature)

.....  
**Malcolm Morley**

*BWA Chairman*

Date .....

BRITISH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

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# Recreational Membership

- Required to be eligible for White Award\*, e.g. at mid-six week course stage for run in to White Award
- Cost £5 (£4 returned to Regions, £1 retained for p&p, administration)
- Impact on Block Membership
  - Now for maximum of 6 weeks
  - Cut-off point for White Award
- Recreational Memberships cease when individuals compete (need full BWA membership).
- Pilot scheme, subject to the deliberations of the new Membership Committee

*\* N Ireland will continue with its NIWA membership for the time being*



# Current Q&As

(From Wigan & Leigh briefing)

Q: Where does the New Development Squad fit compared to the old structures?

A: It is similar to what was known as the National Senior Squad

Q: How many athletes are expected in the Talent and New Development Squads?

A: It is expected that there will be 20 or less in each of these squads

Q: How do reviews take place?

A: Each athlete gets a 3mth review including improvement, physical development, commitment

Q: Who will run the New Development Squad?

A: The New Development Squad will be run by the National Coach, Nikolai Kornieiev



# Current Q&As cont.

Q: What about children just younger than Talent Squad level - can they still travel abroad to tournaments, e.g. to France?

A: It is envisaged that this will be possible on a regional/national basis but the structures have not yet been defined. But those competing in FILA accredited Junior / Cadet competitions must be Talent Squad members

Q: Can Clubs/Regions/Nations take non-Talent Squad (14-19yrs) or Clubs/Schools (10-13yrs) athletes to international competitions?

A: Possible on a regional /national basis with approval from BWA, but:

- Correct ratios for athletes/coaches /referees/child welfare officers should be observed
- There is also a recommendation that athletes should have finished in the top three of the British Juniors or English Juniors within the previous twelve months
- These conditions will be considered by BWA before approval is given.

# Current Q&As cont.

Q: What will happen to the Gold/Silver/Bronze awards in Northern Ireland?

A: They will all be replaced by the White Award and the new FILA awards

Q: How many FILA awards are there?

A: There are ten, but only three are relevant to clubs as level 2 coaches can accredit these. Further FILA awards can only be accredited by regional or national coaches. The final 3 Awards Silver, Gold and Platinum have to be accredited by submission of a DVD to FILA.





# Current Q&As cont.

Q: Does our award structure align with other sports, e.g. British Gymnastics?

A: Yes

Q: Where should we record the names for Recreational Memberships?

A: There will be a new Recreational Membership form

Q: Will the athletes in the Talent Squad, New Development Squad or Club/School 10-13yrs Squad be financially supported by BWA?

A: British Wrestling will help any athlete looking for funding. This new structure enhances the opportunity for competitive development, but it is not able to change the current funding picture

