Pathway Development Opportunities 2027: Guide for Players and Families

We are excited to offer a new development opportunity for pathway players in summer 2027. Alongside the World Junior Championships, a new second international trip gives more players the chance to test themselves abroad. These opportunities provide further development for players who have shown they can compete at British level, and exposure at world level is something these players are ready for and will benefit from. This guide explains how places will be offered to pathway players, why we are doing it this way, and what is on offer. These trips are not funded by Scottish Squash and will only go ahead if the junior funding group raises enough to pay for them.

1. Why we are changing the approach

In the past the aim at the World Junior Championships has been to send the strongest team available. However, the team has finished around the same place whichever players were chosen, and the selection process itself caused stress for players and families. We have concluded that this is not the best use of the opportunity.

From 2027 we will treat the World Junior Championships as a development opportunity. A place is not an entitlement and it is not a reward for ranking alone. It goes to players who have shown they are ready to learn from competing at world level, and who are prepared to do the work that makes the experience worth having.

Three ideas sit behind this:

- **The experience matters more than the result.** The team's finishing position is not how we measure success. We measure it by what each player takes from the event and carries into the following seasons.
- **Readiness is shown, not assumed.** Players earn a place by meeting a standard that is published before the season starts, so everyone knows where they stand.
- **There are stepping stones.** A player who has competed at the British Junior Championships or the British Junior Open in the same season has taken the earlier step before the higher one.

2. What is on offer

This summer there will be two international opportunities, and the same standard leads to the one that suits a player's age and stage.

Opportunity	Who it is for	What it involves
World Junior Championships	U19 players who meet the standard, and U17 players where appropriate	Individual event and, where enough players qualify, the team event.

Opportunity	Who it is for	What it involves
Designated Event	U13, U15 and U17 players who meet the standard, with U19 players where appropriate	A second individual international event chosen each year, usually a European junior event, such as the Dutch Junior Open.

These opportunities are not funded by Scottish Squash. They go ahead only if the junior funding group raises sufficient funding, as explained in section 7. The dates and host of each event are published as soon as they are known.

3. How readiness is shown

A player shows readiness by meeting any one of three routes. The routes apply by age group.

1. **British Junior Championships.** A finish at or above the position shown in the table below for the player's age group and gender. A younger-year player is in the first of the two years in an age group and can compete in it again the following season.
2. **British Junior Open.** A finish at or above the position shown in the table below for the player's age group and gender. The positions are confirmed by the Pathway Manager each October, before the British Junior Championships.
3. **Scottish Junior Open.** A finish in the top 4 of the player's age group at the Scottish Junior Open in the same season.

Finishing positions needed, by age group and gender:

Age group and gender	Route 1: British Junior Championships	Route 1: younger-year players	Route 2: British Junior Open
Boys U13	Top 10	Top 17	Top [32]
Boys U15	Top 10	Top 17	Top [50]
Boys U17	Top 10	Top 17	Top [50]
Boys U19	Top 10	Top 17	Top [50]
Girls U13	Top 10	Top 17	Top [24]
Girls U15	Top 10	Top 17	Top [32]
Girls U17	Top 8	Top 12	Top [32]
Girls U19	Top 8	Top 12	Top [32]

To qualify through any route, a player must also have competed at the British Junior Championships or the British Junior Open in the current season.

The standard is set to be of comparable difficulty for boys and girls and in every age group. The results it is based on are in the appendix at the end of this guide. There are no discretionary places: a player who has not met the standard is not selected.

4. When fewer or more players qualify than there are places

Fewer than four players qualify. Players who have qualified attend the World Junior Championships as individuals. Scotland enters a team only when enough players of that gender have met the standard, and nobody is chosen to fill a team who has not met it. Where fewer than four U19 players have qualified, the Selection Panel may complete the team with U17 players who have met the U17 standard, if it judges that the older age group is right for them. A U17 player may decline without affecting any other opportunity.

More players qualify than there are places. Every player who qualifies is offered a place, subject to funding, and no selection decision is needed for them. Places are limited by the funding raised and, at team events, by team size. Only if more players qualify than there are places does the Selection Panel choose from the qualified players. It aims to select the group best placed to benefit from the experience and, at team events, to compete together, using evidence recorded in advance: competition results including those against each other, training attendance and engagement, readiness to compete at the event, age and remaining years of eligibility, and the views of each player's personal coach. The Panel writes down its reasons for every selection, and any member with a personal connection to a player in contention declares it and takes no part in the decision on that player.

A player who has qualified but is not selected for the team is not left out. They are offered a place at the Designated Event where its age groups allow and funding is confirmed, and they are named first among the reserves for the World Junior Championships.

No player qualifies. No player is selected for that gender or age group, and the opportunity does not go ahead for them. A place is never awarded to a player who has not met the standard.

5. What we ask of selected players

Meeting the standard earns a place. Making the most of it takes preparation, and selected players agree to:

- follow the Scottish Squash Code of Conduct for Performance, the Player Agreement and the anti-doping regulations;
- attend any preparation camps or trials set for the event;
- keep open communication with the Pathway Manager and Coach before, during and after the event; and
- take part in a review of their development goals once the event is over.

Before a selection is confirmed, the Pathway Manager and Coach checks each player's wellbeing and competing commitments, including exams.

A selection is provisional until the event. If a player stops meeting these conditions, the Selection Panel may review the selection after hearing from the player, their family and their personal coach. The Panel may withdraw the selection and records its reasons in writing. The place then passes to the next reserve, and the same review process applies.

6. How decisions are made and reviewed

A player who meets the standard and the eligibility conditions is offered a place, subject to funding, and no selection decision is needed. A decision is needed only where more players qualify than there are places, as described in section 4. In that case the Selection Panel decides, the same panel that makes junior selections under ADM07-P03. It is chaired by a non-executive Director (Performance), who does

not vote. The voting members are the Head of Performance and Pathways, the Pathway Manager and Coach and a Performance Coach, with the Head of Performance and Pathways holding the casting vote. Decisions are recorded in writing.

The Pathway Manager and Coach keeps a record for each pathway player covering training attendance, progress against the development plan, competition entries and results, and input from the player's personal coach. The Panel relies on this record for any decision that results alone do not settle.

Selections are provisional and confidential until any review has concluded. A player or family may ask for a review within seven days of being told of a decision. A review may concern only whether the player met the standard on the published results, or the Panel's decision where more players qualified than there were places. The Pathway Manager and Coach checks the results and corrects any error. The Chief Executive reviews a Panel decision, and a review succeeds only if the written criteria were not followed, the decision was made without sufficient evidence, bias or bad faith is shown, or no reasonable decision maker could have reached it. Disagreement with the Panel's judgement alone is not a ground for review.

The Pathway Manager and Coach speaks individually to the families of players likely to be in contention, so that nobody learns where they stand from anyone else.

7. Cost and fundraising

Each trip is funded and delivered by SS Juniors Limited, the junior funding group, and goes ahead only if enough money has been raised to cover it in full. If the funding is not raised, the trip does not take place.

Funding comes from fundraising, sponsorship and donations. Fundraising materials describe the purpose as funding international development opportunities for pathway players, so that donations are used as donors were told. Pathway Programme coaching and preparation continue as part of Scottish Squash's normal work.

Families of players who qualify stand to benefit directly, and we encourage them to support the funding campaign. This is an invitation and not a condition: selection is never conditional on a player's or family's fundraising contribution or ability to pay, and nobody is asked to fundraise as a condition of taking a place.

Early fundraising is led by the families of players who have already qualified. Public fundraising for selected players begins once selections are confirmed, from April 2027, and the wider parent group is brought in at that point.

8. Timeline for the season

Stage	Timing
Policy and this guide published	Before the British Junior Championships, end of October 2026
British Junior Open, Birmingham	2 to 6 January 2027
Provisional selections confirmed	[February or March 2027]
Review period	Seven days from notification

Stage	Timing
Public fundraising for selected players	After selections are confirmed [from April 2027]
Events	World Junior Championships in Chengdu, China, July 2027 [exact dates to be confirmed]. Designated Event [to be confirmed]

9. Questions and who to contact

Please bring any question about the standard, a player's position or the process to Kylie Lindsay, Pathway Manager and Coach, so that every family receives the same information from one place. Kylie will speak individually to the families of players likely to be in contention.

This guide summarises the Pathway Development Opportunities Policy 2027. If the two differ, the policy applies. Behaviour towards staff, volunteers and other families is governed by the Code of Conduct and Fair Play Policy (HR05-P01).

Appendix: The results behind the standard

The standard is based on what players who went on to senior level achieved as juniors. The table shows nine former pathway players. Each finished in the top 10 of their age group at the British Junior Championships, and the table gives their British Junior Open result from the same season.

Player	British Junior Championships	British Junior Open
Georgia Adderley	1st, GU19, 2019	6th, GU19, January 2020
Alasdair Prott	3rd, BU19, 2018	23rd to 24th, BU19, January 2019
Alison Thomson	4th, GU19, 2014	13th, GU19, January 2015
Robyn McAlpine	4th, GU19, 2024	24th, GU19, January 2025
Rory Stewart	6th, BU19, 2014	35th, BU19, January 2015
John Meehan †	7th, BU17, 2018	33rd to 34th, BU19, January 2020
Andrew Glen	8th, BU17, 2018	57th to 58th, BU17, January 2019
Ellie Jones	9th, GU17, 2014	21st, GU17, January 2015
Rory Richmond	10th, BU19, 2022	Joint 43rd, BU19, January 2023

BU and GU denote the boys' and girls' age groups. † The Championships result is from 2018 and the Open result from January 2020. The Pathway Manager checks all results against the published draws before this guide is published.