



**SURFING**  
**ENGLAND**

### **Surfing England Time off from Academic Education Policy**

Surfing England are committed to supporting our young surfers fulfil their competitive surfing potential, recognising this needs to be balanced with their academic and/or vocational endeavours.

In the circumstances outlined below, Surfing England will provide letters of support to young surfers who are seeking time away from their studies, be that higher or further education, vocational courses, apprenticeship, or other professional or placement programme.

In making a case to support school age leavers to be absent from school for International events or training as listed below, Surfing England will endeavour to provide time, quiet space, and Wi-Fi to enable the athletes to complete any work, studies set to them by their school/College/Employer.

It is always at the discretion of the school or learning provider, working with the surfer and their parent/s or guardian/s, to determine whether approval will be granted.

#### **Who is eligible**

In line with best practice established through SportsAid and TASS (Talented Athlete Support Scheme), Surfing England will only intervene to support surfers that are established within the Surfing England talent pathway.

For Junior surfers, this means they are named on the Team England Junior Squad as listed on Surfing England website. For open surfers and those in other surf disciplines, they need to have been in a Team England squad within the last 12 months.

#### **What activities are eligible**

##### Coaching/training

Coaches should facilitate training sessions outside of school time where possible, and in particular not during exam periods.

For elite athletes on the Team England program, Surfing England does recognise where an athlete may need to take time off from education to advance their surfing



development. This must be in the form of professional coaching or a structured training camp.

#### Surf Competitions (organised by other bodies)

For Team England athletes looking to compete at events such as WSL JQS, or if selected to represent Team England at ISA World Championships or European Surfing Federation Championships, Surfing England will provide a letter of support for the time off school.

#### Surf Competitions (organised by Surfing England)

Surfing England will organise its events program outside of term time as much as feasible to do so. There may be occasions when a clash with a typical school day does occur, due to the nature of the surfing season and environmental considerations to run a surfing competition. In this instance, Surfing England will provide a generic letter to support time off school for contest attendance, to athletes who have been confirmed to compete.

#### Best practise

Surfing England request athletes let their Team Manager know at the earliest opportunity any request for a letter to support time off school. The exception to route to Team Manager, will be Surfing England organised Events which the Events Manager will provide confirmed athletes with a letter.

At all times Surfing England encourages athletes to liaise with the school in advance to have adequate opportunities to learn remotely, to maintain the best possible academic progression.

Whilst Surfing England will support in appropriate cases, the decision to approve the time off is at the discretion of the school or learning provider.