

## **Appendix 2:** **Athlete Survey: school backgrounds, ethnicity and socioeconomic status**

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**Prepared by the TOP Foundation for Ofsted**

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## 1.0 Introduction

The data in appendix 2 presents information on the backgrounds of current English internationals in major sports at under-19, under-21 and senior levels. The data includes the athlete's name and type of school attended (state/independent), gender, ethnicity and socioeconomic background.

## 2.0 Method

Twenty eight National Governing Bodies of sport (NGBs) were asked to forward a short online survey to their senior and adult age group representative teams. The survey asked the individual athletes to provide information on their schooling, their ethnicity and their eligibility for free school meals (FSM)<sup>1</sup>. The completed anonymous surveys were centrally collated by the research team. The advantage of using this distribution method was that it provided direct access to the athletes, however the disadvantage was that any email failure or out of date email contacts will have had a lowering effect on the final return rate.

The data was collected over a period of 4 weeks during January and February 2014, and was then cleaned and analysed using Microsoft Excel. Athletes who represented England and Great Britain were included in the study; those selecting other home counties were excluded from the cohort. Athletes were asked to name up to 4 different schools that they had attended between the ages of 13 and 19. In the analysis, athletes that provided a combination of state (non fee paying) and independent (fee paying) schools have been defined as attending both types of school.

The national averages for state and independent schools have been identified using data from the Independent Schools Council (2013<sup>2</sup>) and the Department for Education (2013<sup>3</sup>). The national average percentage of school aged children attending independent schools is 7%. This figure rises to over 14% for pupils aged 16 or over.

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<sup>1</sup> Free school meals data was self-reported by athletes. In the Ofsted athlete survey, athletes were asked "were you/are you eligible for free school meals when you were at school? *All answers are anonymous*".

<sup>2</sup> This figure has been estimated from 2 sources: the Independent Schools Council's 2013 Census, [<http://www.isc.co.uk/>] and the Department for Education's 2013 Statistical First Release on Pupils and their Characteristics [<https://www.gov.uk/>]. A comparison of these indicates a potential error of +/-1% for the under 16s data and a possible +/-3% error for the over 16s data.

<sup>3</sup> National average sourced from: Department for Education (2013) Schools, Statistical First Release: Pupils and their Characteristics, London. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk>.

### 3.0 Data tables and analysis

This section provides a summary of the squads asked to complete the survey as well as the athlete information provided by the athletes themselves.

This data is based upon 224 athlete replies from 19 sports, of which have been split into three defined groups including:

- 1) Sports with a return rate of 25% or above
- 2) Sports with a return rate of 25% or below
- 3) Sports with no return rate, classified as 'other'

Figure 3.0a Athlete cohort descriptor

Groups	Sports with a return rate of 25% or above	Sports with a return rate below 25%	Other
Number of athletes (n)	114	61	49
Number of sports (n)	8	6	5
Sports	Taekwondo Wheelchair Basketball Rugby Union Table Tennis Wheelchair tennis Rounders Hockey Cycling	Equestrian Disability swimming Football Lacrosse Basketball Football ID	Diving Swimming Water Polo Canoeing Disability Table Tennis

The survey received 246 athlete responses, of which 224 athletes were used for data analysis (91%).

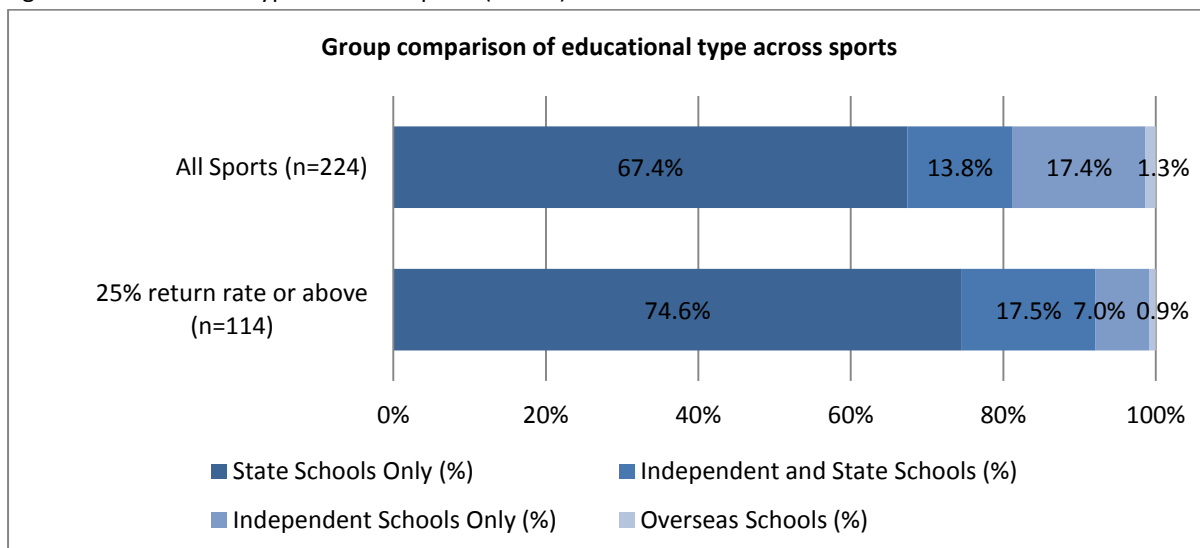
Data taken out of the dataset included 18 (7%) non-English athletes and 4 (2%) athletes who found to be too young.

Of the athlete data used, 60% of the athlete cohort was at senior level, and 40% were age group representatives. The athlete cohort was 44% male and 56% female athletes.

#### 3.1 School type

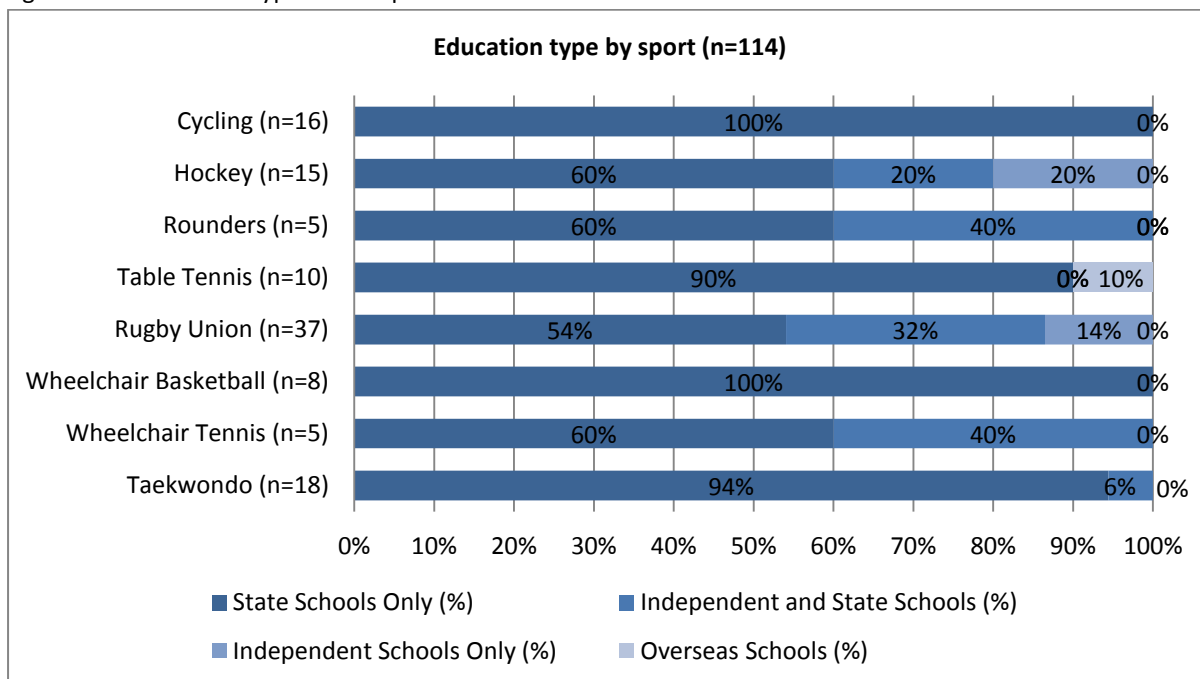
In the total athlete cohort, 67% of the athletes attended state schools, 17% attended independent schools, while 14% attended both state and independent. Specifically, the 25% or above return rate group held a larger proportion of state school athletes (75%) and a smaller proportion of independently schooled athletes (7%) (figure 3.1a).

Figure 3.1a. Education type across all sports (n=224).



Of the 25% or above return rate group, all of the sports were made up of at least 54% state educated athletes (figure 3.1b). The range for state schooling was 54-100%, whereas the range for independent schooling was 0-20%.

Figure 3.1b. Education type across sports with a return rate of 25% or more.



Specifically, cycling and wheelchair basketball were made up of 100% state schooled athletes, while taekwondo was comprised of 94% of athletes from a state school background. Across the sports, wheelchair tennis (40%), rounders (40%), rugby union (32%) and hockey (20%) had the highest percentages of athletes from a mixed state and independent background. Overall, the contribution from independent school athletes was low for the sports with a return rate of 25% or more (Figure 3.1b).

### 3.2 Scholarships

#### 3.2a Sport scholars

Overall, the total percentage of athletes receiving a scholarship (sport or other academic) during their time at school was 16% of the athlete cohort which equated to 36 out of 224 athletes, from 10 of the sports. Specifically, the total number of athletes receiving any type of sports scholarship was 15% equating to 33 athletes. Only 3 athletes received an academic scholarship or scholarship of another type (figure 3.2a). Crucially, 9 sports overall did not have any athlete scholars (taekwondo, wheelchair Tennis, wheelchair basketball, table tennis, cycling, football ID, canoeing, disability table tennis, water polo).

Sports with a return rate of 25% or above held the majority of sports scholar athletes, with rugby union containing the highest number of athlete scholars, occupying 16 out of the 20 scholarships in the group. Alongside rugby union, rounders and hockey were the only other sports with athlete scholars in the high return rate group.

Figure 3.2a. Number of sport scholarships and total scholarships obtained.

Group		Scholarships	
		Sport and sport academic (actual)	All types (actual)
25% return rate or above (n=114)	n	20	21
	%	17.5%	18.4%
All sports (n=224)	n	33	36
	%	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>16.1%</b>

#### 3.2b Point at which scholarships were received

Information to suggest that athletes attain scholarships and move across educational types was analysed. Please note that this information was only available for 17 of the 36 athlete scholars.

##### 3.2bi. State to independent school

Interestingly, 16 out of the 17 (94%) known athlete scholars transferred from a state school to an independent school and attained a scholarship. Rugby union had the highest number of athletes undertaking this transfer, with 10 out of the 16 athlete scholars carrying out this transition (figure 3.2b).

##### 3.2bii. Independent to state school

Only 1 (6%) athlete from wheelchair basketball out of the 17 known scholars moved from an independent to a state school and received a scholarship (figure 3.2bi).

Figure 3.2b. The number of athletes transferring from a state to an independent school and then attaining a scholarship

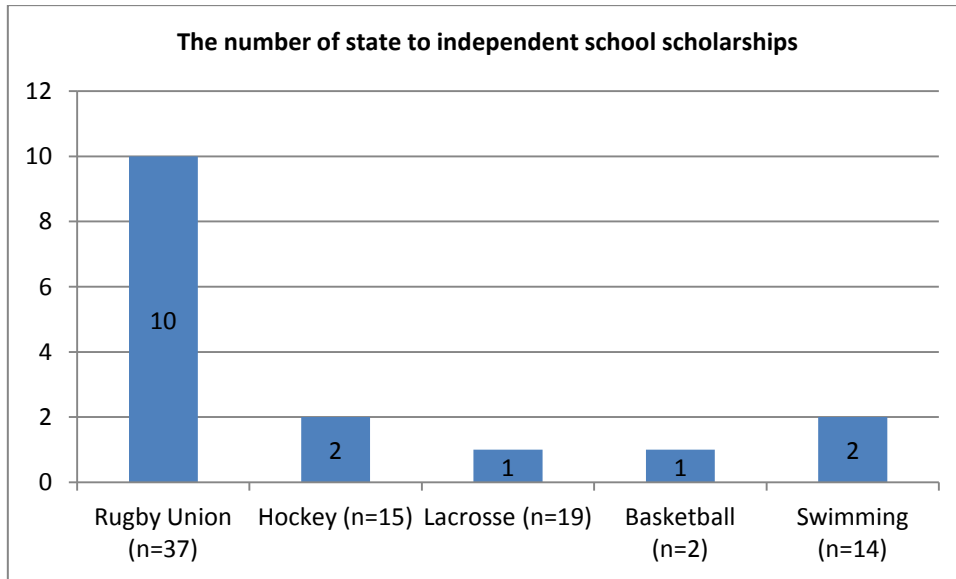
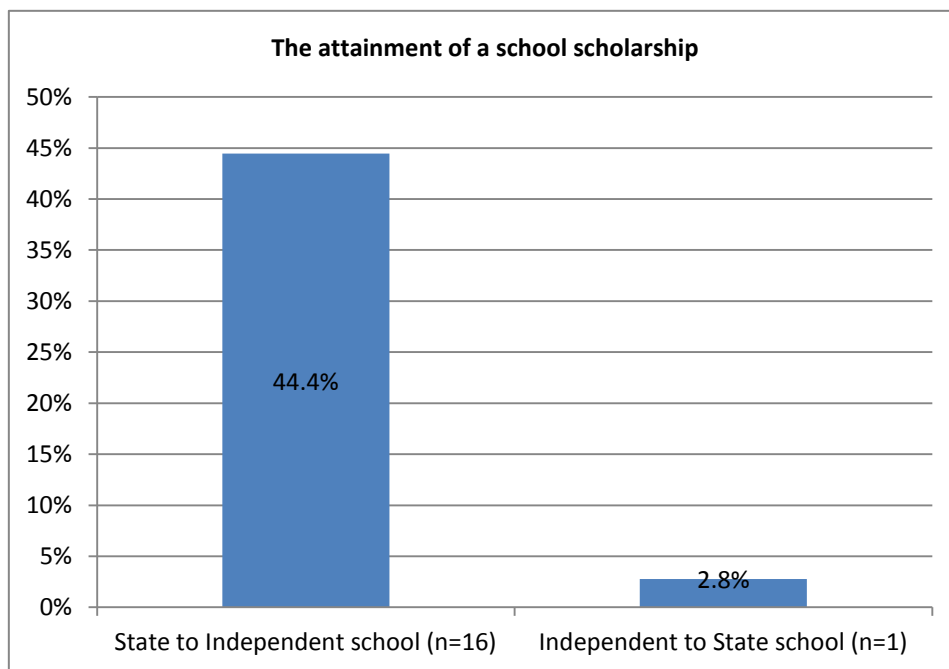


Figure 3.2bi. Percentage of athletes moving between state and independent schools and then being awarded a scholarship



Please note that for 19 of the 36 scholars (53%), school transfer information was not available.

### 3.3 Ethnicity

Overall, 206 (92%) of the 224 athletes selected their ethnicity to be white (figure 3.3b). Specifically, from the sports with a 25% return rate or above, taekwondo was shown to be the most ethnically diverse sport representing the national average more than any other sport. These national averages can be seen in figure 3.3b. Table tennis is the next most ethnically diverse sport, while the majority of athletes in other sports have a 93% or above white background (figure 3.3a).

Figure 3.3a. Ethnicity comparisons between sports with a 25% return rate or above.

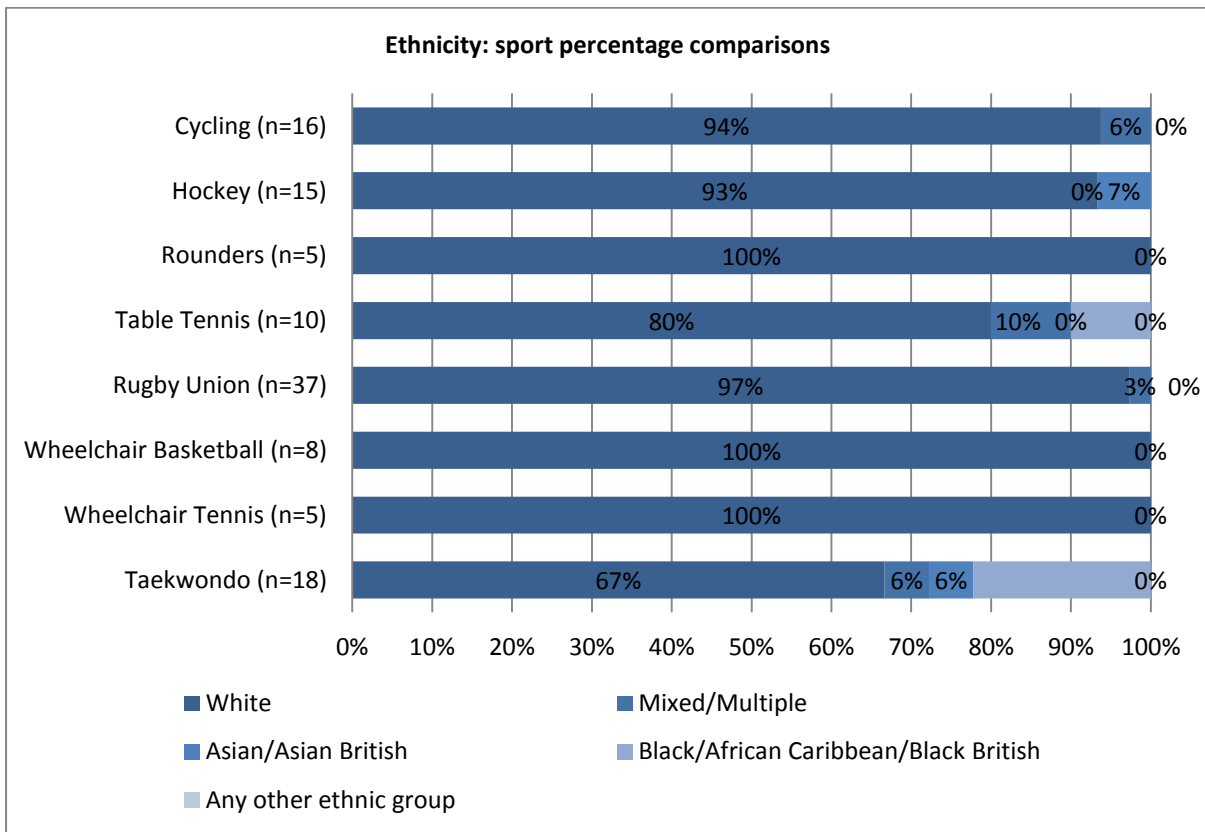
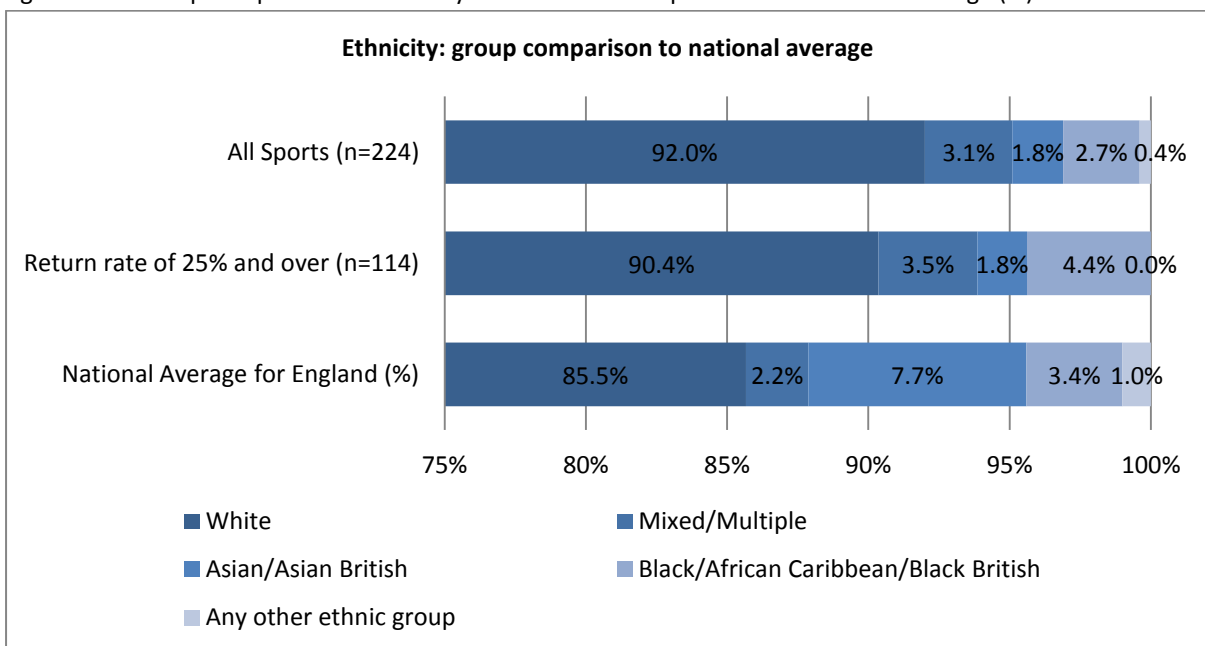


Figure 3.3b. Group comparison of ethnicity contributions compared to the national average (%).



The total athlete cohort does not reflect or represent the national average for ethnic groups; there is a higher contribution of white athletes and therefore substantially less Asian/Asian British athletes than the national average (figure 3.3b).

Likewise, the athletes in the 25% return rate or above group had a higher representation of White

athletes and a lower representation of Asian/Asian British athletes than the national average (figure 3.3b).

Figure 3.3c Percentage difference between return rate groups compared to national average for each ethnicity group.

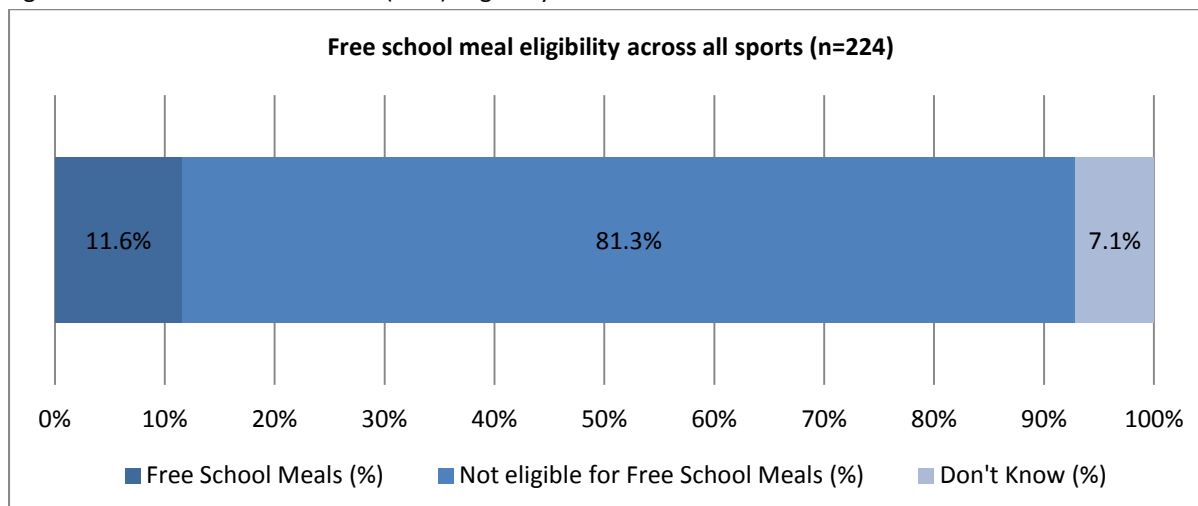
Ethnicity Group	National Average for England (%)	Percentage Difference (%)	
		Return rate of 25% or above (n=114)	All sports (n=224)
White	85.5%	4.9%	6.5%
Mixed/Multiple	2.2%	1.3%	0.9%
Asian/Asian British	7.7%	-5.9%	-5.9%
Black/ African Caribbean/ Black British	3.4%	1.0%	-0.7%
Any other ethnic group	1.0%	-1.0%	-0.6%

For the top return rate sports and all sports, the percentage difference compared to the national average was calculated (figure 3.3c). Similar results were reflected in the 25% return rate and above and all sport, whereby the white background had a higher percentage in comparison to the national average and other groups, specifically Asian/Asian British having a much lower percentage.

### 3.4 Socioeconomic status (FSM eligibility)

Socioeconomic status can be identified through FSM eligibility. Overall, 12% of the total athlete cohort (n=224) across all sports were eligible for FSM (figure 3.4a).

Figure 3.4a Total Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility across the total athlete cohort.



Disability table tennis and table tennis had the highest percentage of athletes eligible for FSM; 40% and 30% respectively. Wheelchair basketball, football and wheelchair tennis had between 20-25% of their athletes eligible for FSM. All other sports had less than 20% FSM eligibility. In addition, 5 sports did not have any athlete eligible for FSM including; basketball (n=2), diving (n=5), football (n=9), rounders (n=5) and water polo (n=8) (figure 3.4b).



Figure 3.4b. Sports that have athletes eligible for FSM.

Sport	FSM eligible athletes	
	n	%
Disability Table Tennis (n=5)	2	40%
Table Tennis (n=10)	3	30%
Wheelchair Basketball (n=8)	2	25%
Football (n=9)	2	22%
Wheelchair Tennis (n=5)	1	20%
Taekwondo (n=18)	3	17%
Swimming (n=14)	2	14%
Hockey (n=15)	2	13%
Rugby Union (n=37)	4	11%
Disability Swimming (n=10)	1	10%
Cycling (n=16)	1	6%
Equestrian (n=19)	1	5%
Lacrosse (n=19)	1	5%
Canoeing (n=19)	1	5%

These figures should be treated with caution as the number of athletes for each sport are low.

#### 4.0 School lists of the athletes

The following tables illustrate the most frequent schools attended by athletes who replied to the survey. That is, the schools which multiple athletes attended. Each school was attended by two athletes.

Figure 4.0a. The most frequently attended schools for female athletes.

Female			
1	North London Collegiate School	Independent	2 - Lacrosse
1=	Earls High School	State	2 - Cycling and Wheelchair Tennis
1=	Heathside School	State	2 - Canoeing
1=	Hipperholme and Lightcliffe School	State	2 - Equestrian

Of the 4 most frequently attended schools for females, 3 were state.

Figure 4.0b. The most frequently attended schools for male athletes.

Male			
1	Biddenham Upper School	State	2 - Canoeing and Rugby Union
1=	Forres Academy	State	2 - Taekwondo
1=	Millfield School	Independent	2 - Hockey and Rugby Union
1=	Northampton School for Boys	State	2 - Hockey and Rugby Union

Of the 4 most frequently attended schools for males, 3 were state.

Figure 4.0c. The most frequently attended schools for all athletes.

All			
1	ADT College	State	2 – Disability Table Tennis (male), Football (female)
1=	Biddenham Upper School	State	2 – Canoeing and Rugby Union (both male)
1=	Bournemouth School	State	2- Disability Swimming (female), Rugby Union (male)
1=	Earls High School	State	2 - Cycling and Wheelchair Tennis (both female)
1=	Forres Academy	State	2 – Taekwondo (both male)
1=	Heathside School	State	2 – Canoeing (both female)
1=	Hipperholme and Lightcliffe School	State	2 – Equestrian (both male)
1=	Ivybridge Community College	State	2 – Diving (male), Rugby Union (female)
1=	King Edward VI Five Ways School	State	2 – Hockey (male), Disability Swimming (female)
1=	Millfield School	Independent	2 – Hockey and Rugby Union (both male)
1=	North London Collegiate School	Independent	2 – Lacrosse (female)
1=	Northampton School for Boys	State	2 – Hockey and Rugby Union (both male)
1=	South Bromsgrove High School	State	2 – Cycling (female), Table Tennis (male)
1=	St Helen & St Katherine	Independent	2 – Lacrosse & Equestrian (both female)

Of the 14 most frequently attended schools by all athletes, 11 were state and 3 were independent.

**END**