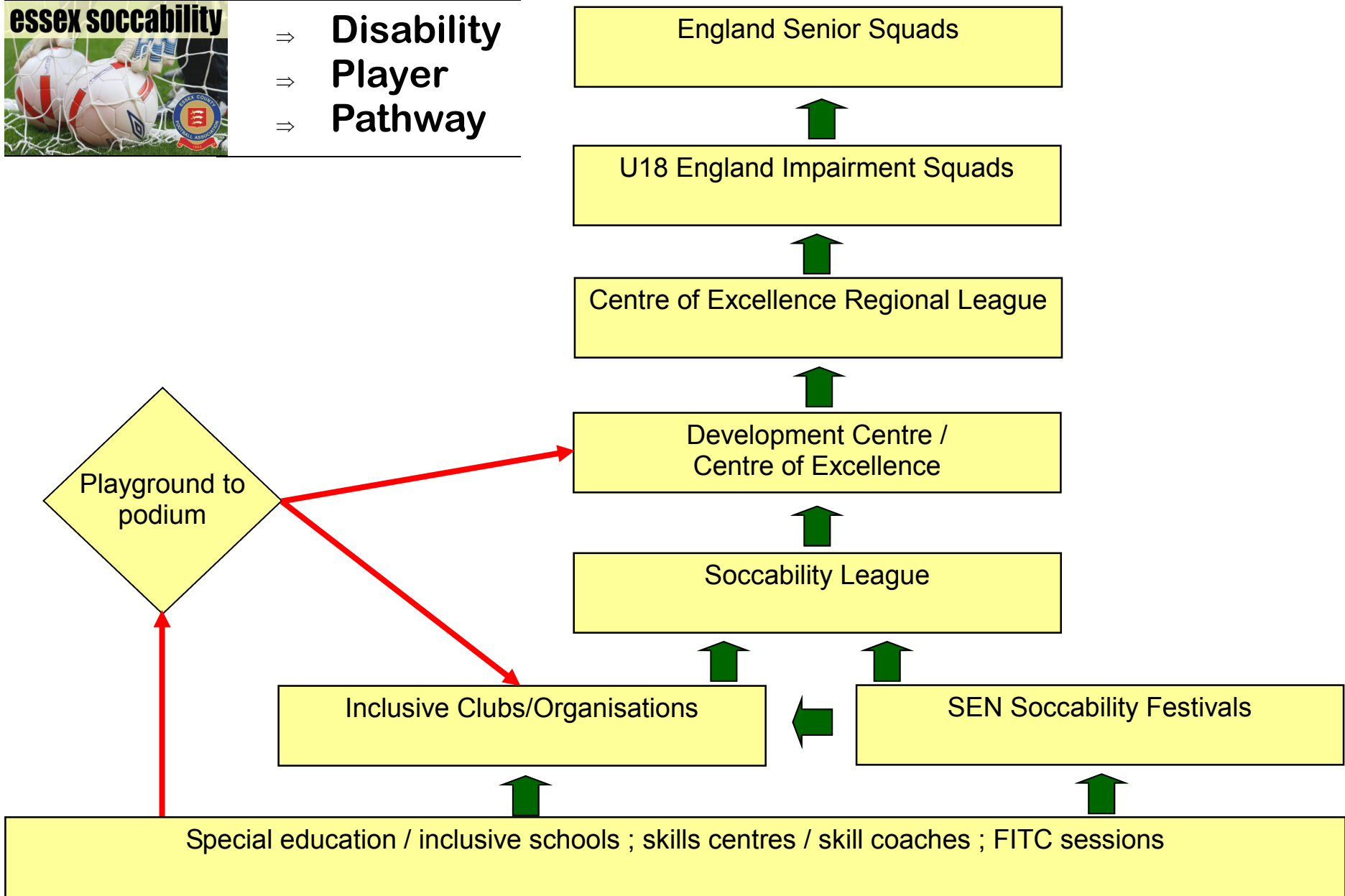




⇒ **Disability  
Player  
Pathway**



## Essex FA Disability Player Pathway

At the Essex FA, we are committed to providing football for all and are continually working to establish a pathway in Essex that will help individuals and clubs achieve their potential.

There are two entry points for people with a disability to play structured football in Essex.

The first is by attending an **Inclusive club/organisation**. Information of these opportunities can be found through the Essex FA or local media channels (newspaper, supermarkets etc)

The second, is through coaches and teaching staff delivering **sessions within schools** along with Football In The Community sessions run by professional and semi professional clubs. These sessions will offer a basic taster of what participants can expect from attending football sessions.

From this opportunity participants can either be directed to an Inclusive club/organisation or they can form a school team to enter an **SEN Soccability festival** and play regular fixtures throughout the season. Once involved in a SEN Soccability festival a player can either find links to a local club/organisation, or, if the schools desires, enter a team into the Essex Soccability League..

The **Essex Soccability League** is open to all clubs/organisations in Essex catering for individuals with a disability and provides them with regular competition throughout the season. This league will consist of 6 match days, with one match day per month. Each match day will consist of a round robin tournament for both junior and adult participants. These match days will be held throughout the County.

For the 2010/11 season Southend United Community and Education Trust will be partnering with Rochford Disability Academy to run a **development centre (U16 and Open Age)**.

The development centre offers players from the league the opportunity to receive a higher level of coaching drills/session to improve their footballing ability whilst still being connected to Inclusive clubs/organisations and their mainstream clubs.

As well as assisting players to be equipped to attend England Disability Trials for National Development squads, the centre will lay a foundation for a future, FA registered Disability Centre of Excellence in Essex

The FA **Disability Centre of Excellence** is a programme for U14 and U17 participants to play a higher standard of football than the Essex Soccability League by playing against other centres through the East and South East regions.

The centre has specific parameters and will cater for all impairments that have pathways to national teams: Amputee; Cerebral Palsy; Deaf; Partially sighted and Learning Disability. (Nb: all male only apart from Deaf)

Those players engaged with the Centre of Excellence will then be encouraged and supported to attend the England U18 development squads for the impairment groups mentioned above and if successful will then enter into the England National team setup

The County Athlete Assessment & Development Centres sits at the heart of **Playground to Podium** scheme. This scheme aims to increase the number of podium finishes at the 2012 Paralympics.

This centre is used to signpost Individuals to the right paths for developing their talent. Individuals will be selected to attend these centre through School Sports County Partnership throughout the County. Those individuals showing a clear ability to be an elite performer will be referred to a Centre of Excellence.

Those individuals with potential that needs developing will be referred to high quality coaching opportunities within the local club structure for their sport (Development Centres).

Individuals who lack the required potential/ability to be considered for the elite performance will be referred back into community sport and will be signposted to opportunities to continue at a recreational level. (Inclusive clubs/organisations)

**For more information please contact John Manning (Essex FA) on 01245 393 095 or email [john.manning@essexfa.com](mailto:john.manning@essexfa.com)**