

PRESS RELEASE

Sainsbury's UK School Games – 2011

Over 1600 athletes will take part in the sixth UK School Games to be held from 1st/4th September 2011 in Sheffield. This annual multi-sport event is for the UK's elite young athletes of school age who will compete in 12 sports: Athletics, Badminton, Fencing, Gymnastics, Hockey, Judo, Mountain Biking, Rugby Sevens, Swimming, Table Tennis, Volleyball and Wheelchair Basketball.

This prestigious event was first staged in Glasgow in 2006, followed by annual events in Coventry, Bristol & Bath, South Wales, the North East and this year, around seven venues in Sheffield. Table Tennis will be staged at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre with 88 players taking part in team, individual and disability events.

In the Boys' Team Championships England South East (Lewis Gray, Igor Morais, Jared Patel, Helshan Weerasinghe) and Scotland (Scott Barton, Colin Dalgleish, Blair Fowler, Christopher Wheeler) are the seeded teams with England North East and 2010 Champions – England Midlands, hoping to get in the medals.

England South East Girls (Evangeline Collier, Tin Tin Ho, Yolanda King, Emma Torkington) are hoping to improve on last years' team who were silver medallists but Wales (Charlotte Carey, Nicole Hall, Angharad Phillips, Megan Phillips) also seeded, together with England Midlands and England South West will be pressing them hard for top honours.

Reigning Wheelchair Champion – Jack Hunter-Spivey (Saints Peter & Paul Catholic College, Widnes – England North West) is looking to retain his title. Jordon Abbott, from the same school, seeded No. 1 in the Learning Disability section will be hoping to improve on his silver medal success of 2010. Sam Bell (Ormesby Comprehensive School, Middlesbrough – England North East), a former gold medallist, is this year keen for success in the Standing Disability Championship. However, hoping for a podium place in the Disability events are Joe Land (Westcliff High School – England South East), Daniel Williams (The Glebe School, Brighton – England South East) and Charles Sketchley (De Ferrers Academy, Burton on Trent – England Midlands).

In the Boys' Individual Championship, the strength of England South East is again shown where three of their team are top seeds: Lewis Gray (Cranbrook School, Kent) – last year's silver medallist, Igor Morais (West London Academy) and Helshan Weerasinghe (The Judd School, Tonbridge). They are joined by Scott Barton (Knightswood Secondary School, Glasgow – Scotland) who is 4th seed.

Current UKSG Individual Girls' Champion, Emily Bates (Kesteven & Grantham Girls' School – East Midlands) is looking to retain her crown but she will be challenged by Tin Tin Ho (City of London School for Girls – England South East), Charlotte Carey (Glyncoed Comprehensive School, Ebbw Vale – Wales) and Yolanda King (St. Bede's Senior School, Hailsham – England South East) all looking to improve on last year's performance.

Play starts at 09.00 on Friday 2nd September with Team and Disability events; 09.00 on Saturday with Team events followed by Individual groups; 09.00 on Sunday with the continuation of groups followed by Knockout Finals in all Individual and Disability events. Grand Finals will be staged at 13.35 followed by medal presentation at 14.20.

Spectators are welcome each day to see play at the highest level on 12 Butterfly tables.

Full team information can be found on the UK School Games website: www.ukschoolgames.com. Live results will be published throughout the three days of the event on this site.