



Team Denmark - New national talent program aims to bring more swimmers into the world elite

Team Denmark, together with SvømDanmark, is launching a new national talent development program, which, with funding from the Salling Foundations, will strengthen the transition from junior to senior and turn more talented athletes into world-class athletes.

International competition is merciless, and for many sports, the transition from talent to the world's top is one of the most challenging phases in an athlete's development and career.

With a new pilot project, Team Denmark and SvømDanmark are now making targeted efforts to strengthen the quality, continuity and cooperation in talent development across Danish swimming sports towards the upcoming Olympic cycles.

"If Danish swimming is to continue to make its mark internationally in the future, it requires that more talents receive the right support in the crucial transition to senior level. With this project, we are investing in young athletes with international performance potential and giving them a stronger foundation to be able to take the crucial steps needed to reach finals and swim for medals at the Olympics, World Championships and European Championships," says Lars Balle Christensen, sports director at Team Denmark.

The project is being established as a talent program in SvømDanmark and will support young swimmers aged 16-20 with final potential for the Olympics, World Championships and European Championships. At the same time, the program will develop a model that can create stronger connections between training environments, coaches and federations — and ensure that more talents are given the right conditions to succeed in the transition to senior level.

"Danish swimming is developing positively, and with the talent program it will be possible to build on all the good and exciting things that are happening in our training environments. The ambition is to support and supplement the already strong development work by providing extra support to swimming's greatest talents," says Thomas Stub, national team manager at SvømDanmark.

The program will equip young talented athletes for a career at an international level and will focus on:

- Create clear development paths from talent to International High Performance
- Secure young talents acquire relevant skills that can help them take the next step in development
- Supplement and strengthen coaches' and clubs' existing talent work
- Collect and document knowledge that can boost Danish talent development across sports

Salling Fondene behind ambitious investment in future talent development

The pilot project runs from 2026-2028 and has received significant financial support from the Salling Foundations, which for several years has supported the athletes who fight for Danish sports.

In addition to the pilot project's sporting ambition to strengthen the swimmers' development in the transition from talent to international world class, the pilot project will present documented experiences, systematic data and recommendations.

The goal is to create knowledge about how a federation-driven talent program can strengthen the coherence of Danish talent development — for the benefit of both swimming and future efforts across sports.

"The talent program is not only an investment in individual swimmers, but in the overall talent development in Danish swimming. The ambition is to create experiences and solutions that can, in the long term, strengthen the entire system surrounding the Danish elite athletes of the future across sports and disciplines," says Lars Balle Christensen.

Team Danmark <post@teamd danmark.dk>