

## Dr. Neil McCarthy, Talent Development Coach & Performance Consultant, UK



**Brief Bio:** Neil is Head of Player Development at Premiership Rugby, England. He became a professional Rugby player in 1992. During a twelve-year career, he played for England and is one of only a handful of players to have an England cap at every representative level. After retiring as a player Neil became the Academy Director at Leicester Tigers. He had a key leadership role to ensure they were at the forefront of player development. Culminating in the inclusion of six players for the successful 2013 British & Irish Lions tour, an achievement unparalleled in the Academy system in the UK.

Neil went on to be Head of Academy at Gloucester Rugby. He strategically and operationally led the turnaround of an underachieving Academy programme. Reviewed, re-designed, developed and implemented an evidence-based, logic-led pathway model, achieving excellent outcomes in player development.

He transitioned to Performance Pathway & Talent Manager at British Bobsleigh and Skeleton Association. He was part of the senior leadership team in the run-up to the 2018 Winter Olympic games, resulting in 3 medals for Team GB. From 2019-2021 he was Head of Talent & Coaching at Pentathlon GB, winning two pentathlon gold medals at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

For 7 years Neil was a Board of Trustees Member for NYAS (National Youth Advocacy Service)

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