

BOYS' CAG REGISTRATION REGULATIONS



**England and Wales Cricket Board, Lord's Cricket Ground
St John's Wood, London, NW8 8QZ
England**

INTRODUCTION

These Boys' CAG Registration Regulations ("**Regulations**") come into full force and effect on the Effective Date.

These Regulations set out the eligibility criteria, enrolment and player movement provisions relating to Boys' CAG Players. Each Professional County Club and Recreational Cricket Board responsible for delivering a Boys' CAG Programme (each a "**County**") has an obligation to promote, protect and support the individual wellbeing of each player on its Boys' CAG Programme. Where any Boys' CAG Player is under the age of 18, each County must ensure that the Boys' CAG Player's parent/carer is provided with appropriate information and gives their consent to the Boys' CAG Player's participation in the relevant Boys' CAG Programme. Where any of these Regulations require a Boys' CAG Player to take some action (for example, give notice to a County), that action can be performed by the Boys' CAG Player's parent/carer on their behalf where the player is under 18 years old. Any approach or notice by a County to a Boys' CAG Player that is under the age of 18 must be made or given (as appropriate) to the parent/carer of the player.

DEFINITIONS

In these Regulations, unless otherwise specified, defined terms have the meanings as set out in the Competitive County Cricket Registration Regulations and as set out below.

"Boys' Academy Programme" means the programme of support delivered by Professional County Clubs pursuant to the County Partnership Agreement to develop robust foundations of future performance through an intensive and individualised programme of development.

"Boys' CAG Competitions" means the ECB's county age group competitions.

"Boys' CAG Programme" means the training and competition programme for boys predominantly in the under 13 to under 18 age categories, to provide training and competition in order to test and develop skills under pressure. For the purpose of these Regulations, unless specified in a particular Regulation, any reference to a Boys' CAG Programme will include any participants aged under 12 or over 17 where their participation has been permitted in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 1.1.

"Boys' CAG Player" means a cricketer enrolled in a County's Boys' CAG Programme.

"Boys' County Talent Pathway Programme" means collectively the Boys' Early Engagement Programme, Boys' CAG Programme, the Boys' Emerging Player Programme and the Boys' Academy Programme. The Boys' County Talent Pathway Programme and any matches played as part of the Boys' County Talent Pathway Programme are Open Cricket.

“Boys’ Early Engagement Programme” (EEP) means the broad-based, locally delivered entry point into the County Talent Pathway, aimed at increasing diversity and improving access for children aged Under 10 to Under 12. It provides winter practice and summer match-play opportunities to help bridge recreational cricket and the talent pathway through the development of foundational skills.

“Boys’ Emerging Player Programme” means the programme of support to players aged under 13 to under 18 years to develop basic foundations of future performance through an individualised programme of development.

“Competitive County Cricket Registration Regulations” means the regulations governing registration for, amongst other things, the County Championship, as in force and amended from time to time.

“County Partnership Agreement” means the funding agreement between each Professional County Club and the ECB.

“Current County” means the County a Boys’ CAG Player is currently enrolled with.

“ECB Competitions Manager” means the ECB executive responsible for, amongst other things, the Boys’ CAG Competitions.

“Effective Date” means 24 March 2026.

“Guest Participation Form” means the form to be submitted to the ECB notifying the ECB Competitions Manager that agreement has been reached for a Boys’ CAG Player to play for a Team other than the Team of their Current County during the term of their enrolment in a Boys’ CAG Programme.

“Open Cricket” has the meaning given to it in the ECB’s Player Gender Eligibility Regulations.

“Professional County Club” means any of the clubs and/or companies from time to time listed in Schedule A to the ECB’s articles of association and/or any county cricket club from time to time playing in the County Championship.

“Recreational Cricket Board” means a body designated as such by the ECB which is responsible for the organisation of recreational cricketing activity and the development of cricket generally within a county and such other areas (if any) as may be agreed by the ECB.

“Talent Pathway Lead” means the person employed by a County to lead and be responsible for the Boys’ County Talent Pathway Programme.

“Team” means any County first XI or second XI, or any team formed as part of a Boys’ Academy Programme, Boys’ Emerging Player Programme or Boys’ CAG Programme.

1. ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1. Subject to the annually agreed exemption for overaged players, which is agreed at the ECB's sole discretion, cricketers seeking to participate in the Boys' CAG Programme must be aged between 12 and 17 (inclusive) on the 31 August immediately prior to enrolment. If a cricketer aged 11 or under wishes to enrol in a Boys' CAG Programme, the County must be satisfied that the cricketer is of an appropriate level of skill and maturity to participate and, if so, the County must adhere to these Regulations in relation to that cricketer.
- 1.2. Cricketers will be enrolled in a particular age category within the Boys' CAG Programme and must be the relevant age for that age category. For example, cricketers who are aged 12 as at midnight on the 31 August immediately prior to enrolment will be classed as under 13 players.
- 1.3. If a cricketer wishes to participate in fixtures in a different age category, the following rules apply:
 - a) If a cricketer is seeking to "play up", the County must be satisfied that the cricketer is of an appropriate level of skill and maturity to participate at that level; and
 - b) If a cricketer is seeking to "play down", prior agreement must be reached by the County Pathway Leads for both participating Counties in the relevant fixture.In each case, the cricketer's participation in any fixture must also be permitted under any applicable competition regulations.
- 1.4. Subject to the overriding discretion of the ECB, a cricketer will be eligible to participate in training and match play as part of a Boys' CAG Programme if:
 - a) the cricketer is resident within the County of the Boys' CAG Programme in which they seek to participate (whether through being permanently resident in that County or otherwise residing in that County for the duration of the season); or
 - b) the cricketer was born within that County; or
 - c) the cricketer is attending an educational establishment within that County (other than as a temporary exchange student); or
 - d) the cricketer has been a playing member of a club within the County of the Boys' CAG Programme in which they seek to participate for at least one prior full season; or
 - e) the cricketer has participated in that Boys' CAG programme during a previous season; or
 - f) the provisions of Regulation 1.5 apply.
- 1.5. Where a cricketer does not meet the requirements prescribed by Regulation 1.4(a) to (e)

above, the cricketer may still be permitted to enrol on a Boys' CAG Programme other than one they are eligible for under Regulation 1.4, where there is agreement between the cricketer, their parent/carer and the relevant Counties, that it is in the cricketer's interests for them to enrol and participate in a Boys' CAG Programme run by another County. For the purposes of this agreement, the relevant Counties will be the County (or Counties) the cricketer would otherwise be eligible for, in accordance with Regulation 1.4, and the County running the Boys' CAG Programme in which the cricketer is seeking to enrol. Such agreement must not be unreasonably withheld, but any ongoing disagreement will be determined by the ECB in accordance with Regulation 5.

- 1.6. The provisions of the ECB's Player Gender Eligibility Regulations will apply to these Regulations and the Boys' CAG Programme is classified as Open Cricket.

2. ENROLMENT PROCESS

- 2.1. Each County may enrol an unlimited number of Boys' CAG Players on their Boys' CAG Programme in each age group from under 13 to under 18, including any Boys' CAG Players aged 11 or under where the County is satisfied that the cricketer is of an appropriate level of skill and maturity to participate. The County must adhere to these Regulations in relation to all such cricketers.
- 2.2. A Boys' CAG Player may only be enrolled in one County's Boys' CAG Programme at any given time and must not play for any Team other than the Team of their Current County unless the requirements of Regulation 2.3 are met.
- 2.3. Agreement may be reached for a Boys' CAG Player to play for another Team in addition to the Team of their Current County during the term of their enrolment provided that:
 - a) one of the two Counties is not a Professional County Club;
 - b) the Boys' CAG Player's Current County gives permission, which must not be unreasonably withheld;
 - c) the ECB, the two relevant Counties, the Boys' CAG Player and the Boys' CAG Player's parent/carer are all satisfied that it would be in the Boys' CAG Player's best interests;
 - d) the two relevant Counties have agreed how the player's participation in both Boys' CAG Programmes will be managed through the season; and
 - e) the ECB has been notified of the agreement via submission of the Guest Participation Form to the ECB Competitions Manager.

- 2.4. A Boys' CAG Player's enrolment on a Boys' CAG Programme will last for one season only and will therefore expire on 31 October unless it is terminated earlier in accordance with Regulation 3.

3. TERMINATION OF ENROLMENT

- 3.1. The enrolment of a Boys' CAG Player pursuant to these Regulations may be terminated as follows:

- 3.1.1 At any time, by the Boys' CAG Player providing written notice to the County's Talent Pathway Lead that the Boys' CAG Player will no longer be participating in that County's Boys' CAG Programme. Where termination is being requested during the "competition phase" (April to September), the Boys' CAG Player must take all reasonable steps to notify the County 14 days in advance of the Boys' CAG Player ceasing to train with and/or play for their Current County. The County must notify the ECB when the Boys' CAG Player's enrolment has terminated.

- 3.1.2 At any time, by the County providing written notice to the Boys' CAG Player and notifying the ECB of the termination. In such circumstances, the Boys' CAG Player's enrolment with their Current County will terminate immediately (or an alternative later date agreed between the County and the Boys' CAG Player).

- 3.2. In all instances, the Boys' CAG Player and their parent/carer are encouraged to have discussions with the Current County to discuss why the enrolment is being terminated and/or the Boys' CAG Player's participation in the Boys' CAG Programme has ended.

- 3.3. Once a Boys' CAG Player's enrolment with a County has been terminated in accordance with this Regulation 3, that Boys' CAG Player is entitled to enrol with the Boys' CAG Programme of another County.

4. PLAYER MOVEMENT AND APPROACHES

- 4.1 A County must not approach, or otherwise be involved in discussions with, any Boys' CAG Player (or any person acting on a Boys' CAG Player's behalf) that is enrolled with another County with a view to offering that Boys' CAG Player a trial, enrolling them in their Boys' CAG Programme or registering or engaging them in any capacity on any part of their Boys' County Talent Pathway Programme save in relation to any agreement reached in accordance with

Regulation 2.3 or as otherwise permitted by Regulation 4.2.

4.2 A Boys' CAG Player (or any person acting on a Boys' CAG Player's behalf) may approach, or engage in discussions with, a County they are not currently enrolled with about that other County offering the Boys' CAG Player a trial, enrolling them in their Boys' CAG Programme, or registering or engaging them in any capacity (including on any part of their Boys' County Talent Pathway Programme) only where:

4.2.1 the Boys' CAG Player has first notified their Current County of their intention to approach another County. In such circumstance the Boys' CAG Player may make an approach to another County and that County may enter into discussions, but must not make the initial approach; or

4.2.2 the Boys' CAG Player or their Current County has provided a termination notice in accordance with Regulations 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 (as applicable).

4.3 If a County wishes to approach a Boys' CAG Player it must check the enrolment status of the player with the previous County the player was enrolled with, if known, and ensure that it complies with Regulation 4.1. Any approach to a player under the age of 18 permitted under this Regulation 4 must be made to the parent/carer of the player.

5. **DISPUTES**

Any unresolved dispute concerning player eligibility and/or enrolment will be referred to a panel of three members of the ECB's Performance Cricket Committee ("**PCC**"), or those persons to whom the PCC has delegated responsibility for the purposes of this Regulation 5, whose decision will be final and binding on the parties to the dispute (the "**Panel**"). The Panel may follow such procedure as it considers appropriate and will not be bound by rules governing the admissibility of evidence in judicial or other proceedings. The ECB's National Talent Managers will not sit on the Panel.