

# **GIRLS' EPP REGISTRATION REGULATIONS**



**England and Wales Cricket Board, Lord's Cricket Ground  
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England**

## INTRODUCTION

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

These Regulations set out the eligibility criteria, registration and player movement provisions relating to EPP Players. Each County has a responsibility to promote, protect and support the individual wellbeing of each player on its Girls' Emerging Player Programme, in accordance with the requirements of the CPA and its duty of care to EPP Players and the collaborative aims of the Talent Pathway Catchment Areas to ensure seamless transitions for players through the talent pathway. This will involve considering each EPP Player's personal and developmental needs. Each County must also ensure that, where an EPP Player is under the age of 18, the EPP Player's parent/carer is provided with appropriate information and gives consent to all necessary decisions and/or documents in respect of the EPP Player's participation in the Girls' Emerging Player Programme. Where any of these Regulations require an EPP Player to take some action (for example, give notice to a County), that action can be performed by the EPP Player's parent/carer on their behalf where the player is under 18 years old. Any approach or notice by a County to an EPP 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 same meanings as defined in the Tier 1 Registration Regulations and as set out below.

**"Academy Player"** means a cricketer who is registered with a Girls' Academy Programme.

**"County"** means a Tier 1 County or Tier 2 County which runs a Girls' Emerging Player Programme.

**"CPA"** means the funding agreement in place between each County and the ECB.

**"Current County"** means the County an EPP Player is currently registered with.

**"ECB Young Player (EPP and Academy) Personal Data Acknowledgements and Consents Form"** means the form of this name published by the ECB as amended from time to time.

**"Effective Date"** means 24 March 2026.

**"EPP Player"** means a cricketer who is registered, or is seeking registration, with a Girls' Emerging Player Programme.

**"Female Only Cricket"** has the meaning given to it in the ECB's Player Gender Eligibility Regulations.

**"Girls' Academy Programme"** means the training and development programme run for young players by Tier 1 Counties and Glamorgan Cricket Club, providing an environment that offers high quality individualised development opportunities and experiences to develop players.

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

**“Head of Talent Pathway”** means the person employed by a County to lead and be responsible for the Girls’ Emerging Player Programme.

**“International Match”** has the meaning given to it in the ICC Player 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 and/or the Tier 1 Competitions and/or the Tier 2 Competitions.

**“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.

**“Registration Regulations”** means the Tier 1 Registration Regulations, the Tier 2 Registration Regulations and the Tier 3 Registration Regulations.

**“Talent Pathway Catchment Area”** means a group of Counties as defined by the ECB from time to time, who are required to work collaboratively with each other to develop the girls’ talent pathway.

**“Tier 1 Competitions”** means any women’s domestic cricket competitions designated by the ECB as being a “Tier 1” competition, which, as at the Effective Date, includes the T20 Blast Women’s Competition and the One Day Cup Women’s Competition.

**“Tier 1 County”** means a Professional County Club that participates in the Tier 1 Competitions.

**“Tier 1 Registration Regulations”** means the regulations governing, amongst other things, registration for the Tier 1 Competitions as in force and amended from time to time.

**“Tier 2 Competitions”** means any women’s domestic cricket competitions designated by the ECB as being a “Tier 2” competition, which, as at the Effective Date, includes the T20 Blast Women’s League 2 and the One Day Cup Women’s League 2.

**“Tier 2 County”** means a Professional County Club that participates in the Tier 2 Competitions.

**“Tier 2 Registration Regulations”** means the regulations governing registration for the Tier 2 Competitions as in force and amended from time to time.

**“Tier 3 Competitions”** means any women’s domestic cricket competitions designated by the ECB as being a “Tier 3” competition, which, as at the Effective Date, includes the T20 Blast Women’s League 3 and the One Day Cup Women’s League 3.

**“Tier 3 County”** means a Recreational Cricket Board which (i) operates in a county without a Professional County Club and (ii) runs a team which participates in the Tier 3 Competitions.

**“Tier 3 Registration Regulations”** means the regulations governing registration for the Tier 3 Competitions as in force and amended from time to time.

## **1 ELIGIBILITY**

- 1.1 In order to be registered as an EPP Player a cricketer must be aged between 13 and 18 at midnight on the 31 August immediately prior to the EPP Player’s registration. If a County wishes to register a cricketer aged 12 or under to its Girls’ Emerging Player Programme it must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the ECB that the cricketer is of an appropriate level of maturity to join its Girls’ Emerging Player Programme, which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. If a County wishes to register a cricketer aged over 18 to its Girls’ Emerging Player Programme it must request permission from the ECB to do so, which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and at the ECB’s sole discretion.
- 1.2 The provisions of the ECB’s Player Gender Eligibility Regulations will apply to these Regulations and the Girls’ Emerging Player Programme is classified as Female Only Cricket.

## **2. REGISTRATION PROCESS**

- 2.1 Each County may register an unlimited number of EPP Players for the period from 1 November to 31 October in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.
- 2.2. By 1 November in each year (or an alternative date specified by the ECB), Counties must complete the registration process as prescribed by the ECB.
- 2.3 Where a County seeks to register an EPP Player who has not previously been registered for its Girls’ Emerging Player Programme, the County must provide:
  - 2.3.1 where requested by the ECB, evidence that the EPP Player meets the requirements of Regulation 1; and
  - 2.3.2 a copy of the cricketer’s completed and signed ECB Young Player (EPP and Academy) Personal Data Acknowledgements and Consent Form.
- 2.4 Where a County seeks to register an EPP Player who has previously been registered for its Girls’ Emerging Player Programme, the County must provide such information as required by the ECB from time to time to evidence that the EPP Player still satisfies the requirements in Regulation 2.3.
- 2.5 For the avoidance of doubt, registration as an EPP Player does not permit the EPP Player to play in the Tier 1 Competitions, Tier 2 Competitions or Tier 3 Competitions. An EPP Player must be registered for the Tier 1 County, Tier 2 County or Tier 3 County in accordance with the relevant Registration

Regulations.

2.6 The ECB has overriding discretion with respect to all registrations pursuant to these Regulations. Notwithstanding such discretion, the ECB will ordinarily refuse to grant an EPP Player's registration where:

2.6.1 a County is subject to any applicable player registration sanctions under any ECB Regulations; and/or

2.6.2 the cricketer in question is subject to any suspension or period of ineligibility under any ECB Regulations, ICC Regulations or the regulations of another ICC Member Country; and/or

2.6.3 having given the relevant County and cricketer a reasonable opportunity to make representations, the ECB considers in its absolute discretion that to grant such registration as an EPP Player will adversely affect (or is likely to adversely affect) the best interests, image or reputation of the Girls' Emerging Player Programme, the ECB or cricket generally, including but not limited to where the cricketer in question is the subject of any allegations, investigations or charges by the ECB, Cricket Regulator, ICC, another ICC Member Country, police or other law enforcement body relating to any doping, corruption, other criminal offence or any other serious misconduct.

### **3. TERMINATION OF REGISTRATION**

3.1 The registration of an EPP Player pursuant to these Regulations may be terminated as follows:

3.1.1 At any time, by the EPP Player providing written notice to their County. In such circumstances, the EPP Player's registration with their County will terminate immediately after 28 days (unless an earlier date is agreed between the EPP Player and the County). The County must notify the ECB when the EPP Player's registration has been terminated.

3.1.2 At any time, by the County providing written notice to the EPP Player and to the ECB. In such circumstances, the EPP Player's registration with their County will terminate immediately (or on an alternative later date agreed between the County and the EPP Player).

3.1.3 By the ECB if:

(a) the ECB is satisfied, in its sole discretion, that the EPP Player does not meet the eligibility criteria in Regulation 1; and/or

(b) the ECB considers, in its absolute discretion and having given the relevant County and EPP Player a reasonable opportunity to make representations, that such termination would be in the best interests of the Girls' Emerging Player Programme, the ECB or cricket generally including but not limited to where the EPP Player in question is the

subject of any allegations, investigations or charges by the ECB, Cricket Regulator, ICC, another ICC Member Country, police or other law enforcement body relating to any doping, corruption or criminal offence or any other serious misconduct; and/or

- (c) it is necessary to give effect to a decision of the Cricket Discipline Panel or any other tribunal or panel appointed under any ECB Regulations, ICC Regulations or the regulations of another ICC Member Country (as applicable).

In such circumstances, the EPP Player's registration with their Current County will terminate immediately (unless the ECB agrees a later date with the EPP Player and Current County).

3.1.4 They become registered as an Academy Player, in which case their registration as an EPP Player with their Current County will terminate immediately.

3.2 If the County and EPP Player reach an agreement within the 28-day period (or less, as applicable) referred to in Regulation 3.1.1 that the EPP Player will stay at the Current County, the EPP Player will be deemed to have withdrawn the termination notice issued in accordance with Regulation 3.1.1.

3.3 An EPP Player's registration with a County pursuant to these Regulations will expire on 31 October unless it is terminated earlier in accordance with Regulation 3.1.

3.4 Once an EPP Player's registration with a County has been terminated in accordance with this Regulation 3, that EPP Player will be entitled to register with the Girls' Emerging Player Programme of another County.

#### **4 PLAYER MOVEMENT AND APPROACHES**

4.1 An EPP Player can only be registered with one County pursuant to these Regulations at any one time. However, where required, an EPP Player may play in matches for the Tier 1 Academy team within their Talent Pathway Catchment Area, without becoming registered as an Academy Player and cancelling their registration as an EPP Player.

4.2 A County must not approach, enter into or otherwise be involved in discussions with, any EPP Player (or any person acting on an EPP Player's behalf), who is registered with another County, with a view to offering them a trial, registering them, or employing or engaging them in any capacity save as permitted by Regulation 4.3.

4.3 An EPP Player (or any person acting on an EPP Player's behalf) who is registered with a County may approach, enter into or otherwise be involved in discussions with another County with a view to that County offering them a trial, registering them, or engaging them in any capacity only where:

- 4.3.1 the EPP Player has first notified their Current County of their intention to approach another County. In this circumstance the EPP Player may make an approach to another County and

that County may enter into discussions, but must not make the initial approach;

4.3.2 the EPP Player or their Current County has provided a termination notice in accordance with Regulations 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 (as applicable); or

4.3.3 the Current County has provided notice in accordance with Regulation 4.6.

4.4 If a County wishes to approach an EPP Player it must check the registration status of the player with the ECB (and previous County the player was registered with, if known) and ensure that it complies with Regulation 4.2. If that player is still registered the County must only approach the player's Current County's Head of Talent Pathway (or equivalent role) in the first instance rather than approaching the player (or any other person acting on the player's behalf).

4.5 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.

4.6 A County must give notice to an EPP Player if it does not wish to renew that EPP Player's registration for their Girls' Emerging Player Programme for the following season. Such notification must be given by 15 October (or an alternative date specified by the ECB).

## **5. DISPUTES**

Any unresolved dispute as to the interpretation or implementation of these Regulations will be referred to the ECB for a decision. Such decision, subject to Regulation 7, will be final and binding on the parties to the dispute.

## **6. NOTICES**

6.1 Any notice given to a County by or on behalf of an EPP Player or by the ECB under these Regulations must be sent by email to the address of Head of Talent Pathway (or equivalent role) and/or Director of Women's Cricket (or equivalent role). Any notice sent by email will be deemed to be properly served on the day the email is sent, provided it is sent before 4:30pm, or the next day if it was sent after 4.30pm.

6.2 Any notice given to an EPP Player by a County under these Regulations must be sent by post to the last known address of the EPP Player (and their parent/carer if they are under the age of 18) or by email to the last known email address of the EPP Player (and their parent/carer if they are under the age of 18). Any notice sent by post will be deemed to be properly served 2 days after the date the notice was posted and any notice sent by email will be deemed properly served on the day the email is sent, provided it is sent before 4:30pm, or the next day if it was sent after 4.30pm.

## **7. APPEALS**

- 7.1 Appeals from parties directly affected by decisions of the ECB under these Regulations will be made to an independent panel appointed to consider the appeal (the “**Appeal Panel**”). Any dispute as to whether a party is directly affected by a relevant decision of the ECB will also be resolved by the Appeal Panel.
- 7.2 The Appeal Panel will determine appeals in accordance with these Regulations and, where appropriate, the laws of England and Wales. However, the Appeal Panel will also pay due regard, to the extent permitted by law, to the fact that certain decisions are made in the exercise of the sole discretion of the ECB and that the ECB is the guardian of the game of cricket in England and Wales and is in a unique position to assess the best interests of the game.
- 7.3 Any party directly affected by a decision who wishes to appeal that decision must ensure a written notice of appeal complying with Regulation 7.4 below (a “**Notice of Appeal**”) is received by the ECB’s Women’s National Talent Manager within 14 days of the appealing party receiving the relevant decision. Failure to lodge a written Notice of Appeal complying with the requirements of Regulation 7.4 below will mean that the appeal is out of time and it will not be entertained by the Appeal Panel, unless the appellant can demonstrate to the Appeal Panel that there were exceptional reasons justifying such failure.
- 7.4 The Notice of Appeal must state: (i) the decision or part of the decision against which the appeal is made; (ii) the grounds and basis of the appeal; and (iii) the nature of the remedy sought. The Notice of Appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of £100 which may be used to contribute towards any costs awarded against the appellant or returned to them in whole or in part after the appeal hearing at the discretion of the Appeal Panel.
- 7.5 As soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the Notice of Appeal, the ECB will inform Sport Resolutions (UK) who will appoint an Appeal Panel comprising three members (including a chair).
- 7.6 The chair of the Appeal Panel will fix a date for the appeal hearing which will normally be within 28 days of the lodging of the Notice of Appeal.
- 7.7 The Appeal Panel will determine its own procedure, provided that this must include the opportunity for each party to present their/its case. The ECB will normally be represented as a party to any appeal against a decision of the ECB.
- 7.8 Decisions of the Appeal Panel will be by majority vote and where necessary the chair of the Appeal Panel will have a casting vote.
- 7.9 Decisions of the Appeal Panel will be communicated in writing to the parties as soon as possible after the hearing.
- 7.10 The Appeal Panel will have unlimited power to award costs against either party. For the avoidance

of any doubt, the payment of the £100 deposit should in no way be construed as a cap on the costs liability of any party which submits an appeal.

- 7.11 Any decisions made pursuant to these Regulations will stand and be enforceable by the ECB pending determination of any appeal pursuant to this Regulation.
- 7.12 The decision of the Appeal Panel will be final and binding on all parties to the appeal and there will be no right of appeal of any kind by any party to any body whatsoever on any ground whatsoever, and/or the parties will be deemed to have waived irrevocably any right to appeal, review or recourse to a court of law, arbitral body or any other body of any nature.