

## **BOYS' ACADEMY REGISTRATION REGULATIONS**



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## INTRODUCTION

These Boys' Academy 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 Academy Players. Each Professional County Club ("**PCC**") has a responsibility to promote, protect and support the individual wellbeing of each Academy Player, in accordance with the requirements of the County Partnership Agreement and its duty of care to Academy Players. This will involve considering each Academy Player's personal and developmental needs. Each PCC must also ensure that, where an Academy Player is under the age of 18, the Academy Player's parent/carer is provided with appropriate information and gives consent to all necessary decisions and/or documents in respect of the Academy Player's participation in the Boys' Academy Programme. Where any of these Regulations require an Academy Player to take some action (for example, give notice to a PCC), that action can be performed by the Academy Player's parent/carer on their behalf where the player is under 18 years old. Any approach or notice by a PCC to an Academy Player that is under the age of 18 must be made or given (as appropriate) to the parent/carer of the Academy Player.

## DEFINITIONS

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

**Academy Player** means a cricketer who is registered, or is seeking registration, on a Boys' Academy Programme.

**Approved Playing Contract** means an ECB and PCA-approved standard form of contract, which includes the "Standard Senior Contract" and "Standard Rookie Contract", between a PCC and Academy Player, which complies with any minimum salary and minimum term stipulated in the Player Contract Engagement Guide.

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

**Boys' Emerging Player Programme** means the programme of support to players in the under 13 to under 18 age categories to develop basic foundations of future performance through an individualised programme of development.

**Competitive County Cricket** has the meaning given to it in the Competitive County Cricket Registration Regulations.

**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 PCC and the ECB.

**Current PCC** means the PCC that an Academy Player is currently registered with.

**ECB Cardiac Screening Pre-Registration Requirements** means the cardiac screening programme that Academy Players are required to undertake.

**ECB Regulations** means the ECB's rules, regulations, playing conditions and codes as in force and amended from time to time.

**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 1 November 2025.

**International Match** has the meaning given to it in the ICC's Player Eligibility Regulations, as in force and amended from time to time.

**National County** means any Recreational Cricket Board which operates in a county without a PCC.

**National County Pathway Lead** means the person employed by a National County to lead and be responsible for its Boys' Emerging Player Programme.

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

**PCA** means the Professional Cricketers' Association.

**Player Contract Engagement Guide** means the guidance regarding player contracts which has been agreed between the ECB, PCCs and the PCA.

**Player Spreadsheet** means the player data spreadsheet in the standard form specified by the ECB as amended from time to time.

**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.

**Professional Cricket** means all competitive cricket played by teams of a professional standard or in which the Cricketer is being paid to participate as a professional player, in each case whether or not recognised as Official Cricket by the ICC and includes all First-Class Cricket and Approved Cricket.

**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.

**U19 Academy Player** means an Academy Player who is aged 18 at midnight on the 31 August immediately prior to their registration with a PCC on a Boys' Academy Programme.

## **1 ELIGIBILITY**

- 1.1 In order to be registered as an Academy Player a cricketer must be aged between 14 and 18 (inclusive) at midnight on the 31 August immediately prior to the Academy Player's registration.
- 1.2 The provisions of the ECB's Player Gender Eligibility Regulations will apply to these Regulations and the Boys' Academy Programme is classified as Open Cricket.

## **2 REGISTRATION PROCESS**

- 2.1 Each PCC may register an unlimited number of Academy Players for the period from 1 November to 31 October in accordance with these Regulations.
- 2.2 By 1 November in each year (or an alternative date specified by the ECB), PCCs must submit to the ECB a fully completed Player Spreadsheet. If a PCC wishes to register any additional Academy Players after 1 November, it must submit an updated Player Spreadsheet.
- 2.3 Where a PCC seeks to register an Academy Player who has not previously been registered for their Boys' Academy Programme, the PCC must provide:
  - 2.3.1 where requested by the ECB, evidence that the Academy Player meets the requirements of Regulation 1;

- 2.3.2 confirmation that the Academy Player has completed (or will complete within two weeks of registration) the ECB Cardiac Screening Pre-Registration Requirements; and
  - 2.3.3 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 PCC seeks to register an Academy Player who has previously been registered for their Boys' Academy Programme, the PCC must provide such information as required by the ECB from time to time to evidence that the Academy Player still satisfies the requirements in Regulation 2.3.
- 2.5 For the avoidance of doubt, registration as an Academy Player does not permit the Academy Player to play in Competitive County Cricket for the PCC. An Academy Player must be registered for the PCC in accordance with the Competitive County Cricket Registration Regulations in order to play Competitive County Cricket.
- 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 Academy Player's registration where:
  - 2.6.1 a PCC 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 or regulations of the ICC or another ICC Member Country; and/or
  - 2.6.3 having given the relevant PCC and cricketer a reasonable opportunity to make representations, the ECB considers in its sole discretion that to grant such registration as an Academy Player will adversely affect (or is likely to adversely affect) the best interests, image or reputation of the Boys' Academy 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 Academy Player pursuant to these Regulations may be terminated as follows:

3.1.1      At any time, by the Academy Player providing written notice to the PCC. In such circumstances:

- (a)      subject to Regulation 3.1.1(b), the Academy Player's registration with their Current PCC will terminate immediately after 28 days (unless an earlier date is agreed between the Academy Player and their Current PCC); and
- (b)      in the case of an U19 Academy Player that has been offered an Approved Playing Contract with another PCC, and the Current PCC does not offer an Approved Playing Contract within the 72-hour period in accordance with Regulation 4.9.2, the U19 Academy Player's registration with their Current PCC will terminate immediately after the 72-hour period (unless an earlier date is agreed between the Academy Player and the Current PCC),,

and in either case a PCC must notify the ECB when the Academy Player's registration with them has been terminated.

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

3.1.3      By the ECB if:

- (a)      the ECB is satisfied, in its sole discretion, that the Academy Player does not meet the eligibility criteria in Regulation 1; and/or
- (b)      the ECB considers, in its sole discretion and having given the relevant PCC and Academy Player a reasonable opportunity to make representations, that such termination would be in the best interests of the Boys' Academy Programme, the ECB or cricket generally including but not limited to where the Academy 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 or regulations of the ICC or another ICC Member Country (as applicable).

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

- 3.2 If the PCC and Academy Player reach an agreement within the 28-day or 72-hour period (in each case, or less, as agreed), as applicable, referred to in Regulation 3.1.1 that the Academy Player will stay with their Current PCC, the Academy Player will be deemed to have withdrawn the termination notice issued in accordance with Regulation 3.1.1.
- 3.3 An Academy Player's registration with a PCC pursuant to these Regulations will expire on 31 October unless it is terminated earlier in accordance with Regulation 3.1.
- 3.4 Once an Academy Player's registration with a PCC has been terminated in accordance with this Regulation 3, that Academy Player will be entitled to register with the Boys' Academy Programme of another PCC.

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

- 4.1 An Academy Player can only be registered with one PCC's Academy Programme pursuant to these Regulations at any one time.
- 4.2 A PCC must not approach, enter into or otherwise be involved in discussions with, any Academy Player (or any person acting on an Academy Player's behalf), who is registered with another PCC with a view to offering them a trial, registering them, or employing or engaging them in any capacity (including for the purpose of registering them as an Academy Player or for participation in Professional Cricket) save as permitted by Regulation 4.3 and 4.7.
- 4.3 An Academy Player (or any person acting on an Academy Player's behalf) who is registered with a PCC may only approach, enter into or otherwise be involved in discussions with another PCC with a view to that PCC offering them a trial, registering them, or employing or engaging them in any capacity (including for the purpose of registering them as an Academy Player or for participation in Professional Cricket) where:

- 4.3.1 the Academy Player has first notified their Current PCC of their intention to approach another PCC. In this circumstance the Academy Player may make an approach to another PCC and that PCC may enter into discussions, but must not make the initial approach;
  - 4.3.2 the Academy Player or their Current PCC has provided a termination notice in accordance with Regulations 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 (as applicable); or
  - 4.3.3 the Current PCC has provided notice in accordance with Regulation 4.5.
- 4.4 If a PCC wishes to approach an Academy Player it must check the registration status of the player with the ECB (and previous PCC the player was registered with, if known) and ensure that it complies with Regulation 4.2. Any approach to a player under the age of 18 permitted by this Regulation 4 must be made to the parent/carer of the player.
- 4.5 A PCC must give notice to an Academy Player by 15 October (or an alternative date specified by the ECB) if it does not wish to:
  - 4.5.1 renew their Boys' Academy Programme registration for the following season; or
  - 4.5.2 offer them an Approved Playing Contract for the following season.
- 4.6 If a PCC wishes to approach any player who is participating in a National County Emerging Player Programme with a view to offering them a trial, registering them, or employing or engaging them in any capacity, it must approach the relevant National County Pathway Lead in the first instance rather than approaching the player (or any other person acting on the player's behalf) directly.
- 4.7 A PCC may approach any U19 Academy Player (or any person acting on an U19 Academy Player's behalf) registered as an U19 Academy Player with another PCC, with a view to offering them an Approved Playing Contract, in such cases the following conditions must be satisfied:
  - 4.7.1 the PCC must notify the Current PCC in writing of their intention to approach the U19 Academy Player at the same time as the PCC approaches the U19 Academy Player;
  - 4.7.2 the Current PCC shall have a 72-hour period from being notified of the approach to offer the U19 Academy Player an Approved Playing Contract; and
  - 4.7.3 the U19 Academy Player and the approaching PCC shall not sign an Approved Playing Contract until the end of the 72-hour period as set out in Regulation 4.7.2.

## **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 PCC by or on behalf of an Academy Player or by the ECB under these Regulations must be sent by post to the registered address of the PCC, addressed to the Head of Talent Pathway and/or Talent Pathway Lead of the PCC, or by email to the email address of the Head of Talent Pathway and/or Talent Pathway Lead of the PCC. Any notice sent by post will be deemed to be properly served two days after the date the notice was posted and 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 Academy Player by a PCC under these Regulations must be sent by post to the last known address of the Academy Player (and their parent/carer if they are under the age of 18) or by email to the last known email address of the Academy 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 from the date two days after posting the notice 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 Men’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 shall 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.