

GIRLS' ACADEMY REGISTRATION REGULATIONS



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INTRODUCTION

These Girls' 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 County has a responsibility to promote, protect and support the individual wellbeing of each Academy Player, in accordance with the requirements of the CPA and its duty of care to Academy 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 Academy Player's personal and developmental needs. Each County 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 the Academy Player's participation in the Girls' Academy Programme. Where any of these Regulations require an Academy Player to take some action (for example, give notice to a County), 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 County to an Academy 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, or is seeking registration, on a Girls' 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 County and Academy Player, which complies with any minimum salary and minimum term stipulated in the Player Contract Engagement Guide.

County means a Tier 1 County or Glamorgan County Cricket Club which runs a Girls' Academy Programme.

CPA means the County Partnership Agreement in place between a County and the ECB.

Current County means the County 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 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 16 July 2026.

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 players by Counties, 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' Academy Programme.

International Match has the meaning given to it in the ICC Player 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.

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.

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.

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 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.

U19 Academy Player means an Academy Player who is aged 18 or above at midnight on the 31 August immediately prior to their registration with a County on a Girls' Academy Programme.

1 ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1 No age restrictions apply to the registration of a cricketer as an Academy Player. However, if a County wishes to register a cricketer aged 13 or under to its Girls' Academy Programme it must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the ECB that the cricketer is of an appropriate level of maturity to join the Girls' Academy Programme, which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- 1.2 The provisions of the ECB's Player Gender Eligibility Regulations will apply to these Regulations and the Girls' Academy Programme is classified as Female Only Cricket.

2 REGISTRATION PROCESS

- 2.1 Unless otherwise agreed in writing with the ECB, each County must register a minimum of 12 players and up to an unlimited maximum number of Academy 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 Academy Player who has not previously been registered for their Girls' Academy Programme, the County 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 County seeks to register an Academy Player who has previously been registered for their Girls' Academy Programme, the County 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 the Tier 1 Competitions, Tier 2 Competitions or Tier 3 Competitions. An Academy 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 Academy 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 Academy Player will adversely affect (or is likely to adversely affect) the best interests, image or reputation of the Girls' 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 their Current County. In such circumstances:

- (a) subject to Regulation 3.1.1(b) the Academy Player's registration with their Current County will terminate immediately after 28 days (unless an earlier date is agreed between the Academy Player and the Current County); and
- (b) in the case of an U19 Academy Player that has been offered an Approved Playing Contract with another County and the Current County 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 County will terminate immediately after the 72-hour period (unless an earlier date is agreed between the Academy Player and the Current County),

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

- 3.1.2 At any time, by the Current County providing written notice to the Academy Player and to the ECB. In such circumstances, the Academy Player's registration with their Current County will terminate immediately (or on an alternative later date agreed between the Current County 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 absolute discretion and having given the relevant Current County and Academy Player a reasonable opportunity to make representations, that such termination would be in the best interests of the Girls' 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, ICC Regulations or the regulations of another ICC Member Country (as applicable).

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

3.2 If the Current County 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 County, 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 Current 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 Academy Player's registration with a Current County has been terminated in accordance with this Regulation 3, that Academy Player will be entitled to register with the Girls' Academy Programme of another County.

4 PLAYER MOVEMENT AND APPROACHES

4.1 An Academy Player can only be registered with one County's Academy Programme pursuant to these Regulations at any one time.

- 4.2 A County or Tier 2 County 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), registered as an Academy Player with a different County, 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 Regulations 4.3, 4.8 and 4.9.
- 4.3 An Academy Player (or any person acting on an Academy Player's behalf) who is registered as an Academy Player with a County may approach, enter into or otherwise be involved in discussions with another County or Tier 2 County with a view to that County or Tier 2 County 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) only where:
- 4.3.1 the Academy Player has first notified their Current County of their intention to approach another County or Tier 2 County. In this circumstance the Academy Player may make an approach to another County or Tier 2 County and that County or Tier 2 County may enter into discussions, but must not make the initial approach;
 - 4.3.2 the Academy 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 Academy has provided notice in accordance with Regulation 4.6.
- 4.4 If a County or Tier 2 County wishes to approach a player it must check the registration status of the player with the ECB (and previous County the player was registered with on their Academy Programme, if known) and ensure that it complies with Regulation 4.2. If that player is still registered, the County or Tier 2 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 Academy Player by 15 October (or an alternative date specified by the ECB) if it does not wish to renew that Academy Player's registration for their Girls' Academy Programme for the following season.
- 4.7 An Academy Player from one County may be loaned to the Team of a different County, Tier 2 County or Tier 3 County in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Tier 1 Registration

Regulations, Regulation 10 of the Tier 2 Registration Regulations, the equivalent provision in the Tier 3 Registration Regulations or the Girls' Academy Programme of a different County in accordance with Regulation 4.8.

4.8 An Academy Player registered with one County may be loaned to the Girls' Academy Programme of a different County in accordance with the following process:

4.8.1 an Academy Player who is interested in being loaned to a different Girls' Academy Programme (or her coach on her behalf) must seek the permission of their Current County's Head of Talent Pathway (or equivalent role) and/or Director of Women's Cricket (or equivalent role) before approaching, entering into or otherwise being involved in discussions with another County with a view to securing a loan;

4.8.2 if permission is secured in accordance with Regulation 4.8.1, agreement in respect of the loan must be reached between (i) the Current County; (ii) the new County; and (iii) the Academy Player (and her parent/carer where she is under the age of 18);

4.8.3 if agreement is reached in accordance with Regulation 4.8.2, the ECB must be informed in writing (which may include email) and approve the loan of the Academy Player prior to the commencement of the loan period. The ECB will consider whether to approve the loan and what documentation must be submitted by the Current County, the new County and/or the Academy Player in respect of the loan;

4.8.4 if the loan is approved by the ECB in accordance with Regulation 4.8.3, the Academy Player's new County must submit to the ECB any documents required pursuant to Regulation 4.8.3 and the ECB will issue confirmation that the loan has been accepted;

4.8.5 the registration of the Academy Player will remain with her Current County throughout the loan period;

4.8.6 the Academy Player's Current County will remain responsible for any costs and/or documentation associated with the Academy Player (including the costs of any cardiac screening required pursuant to Regulation 2.3.2); and

4.8.7 the Academy Player will only be permitted to play in matches for the new Girls' Academy Programme if agreed between the Current County and the new County in advance of the relevant match.

4.9 A County or Tier 2 County may approach any U19 Academy Player (or any person acting on an U19 Academy Player's behalf) registered as an U19 Academy Player with a County, with a view to offering them an Approved Playing Contract, in such cases the following conditions must be satisfied:

4.9.1 the County or Tier 2 County must notify the Current County in writing of their intention to approach the U19 Academy Player at the same time as the County or Tier 2 County approaches the U19 Academy Player;

4.9.2 the Current County shall have a 72-hour period from being notified of the approach to offer the U19 Academy Player an Approved Playing Contract; and

4.9.3 the U19 Academy Player and the approaching County or Tier 2 County shall not sign an Approved Playing Contract until the end of the 72-hour period as set out in Regulation 4.9.2.

5 PARTICIPATION IN MATCHES

5.1 The following players can participate in matches in the Girls' Academy Programme:

5.1.1 Academy Players who are registered with or loaned to that Girls' Academy Programme in accordance with these Regulations, including Regulation 4.8.7;

5.1.2 players who are registered with the Girls' Emerging Player Programme the Girls' Academy Programme is associated with, provided that the ECB's Women's Cricket Pathway Leadership Team has granted permission in advance of the match (which will be considered on a case-by-case basis); and

5.1.3 players who are registered with the senior Women's team of the County the Girls' Academy Programme is associated with, provided that the ECB's Women's Cricket Pathway Leadership Team has granted permission in advance of the match (which will be considered on a case-by-case basis).

6 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 8, will be final and binding on the parties to the dispute.

7 NOTICES

- 7.1 Any notice given to a County by or on behalf of an Academy 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.
- 7.2 Any notice given to an Academy Player by a County 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 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.

8 APPEALS

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 Any party directly affected by a decision who wishes to appeal that decision must ensure a written notice of appeal complying with Regulation 8.4 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 8.4 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.
- 8.4 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.

- 8.5 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).
- 8.6 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.
- 8.7 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.
- 8.8 Decisions of the Appeal Panel will be by majority vote and where necessary the chair of the Appeal Panel will have a casting vote.
- 8.9 Decisions of the Appeal Panel will be communicated in writing to the parties as soon as possible after the hearing.
- 8.10 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.
- 8.11 Any decisions made pursuant to these Regulations will stand and be enforceable by the ECB pending determination of any appeal pursuant to this Regulation.
- 8.12 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.