

GIRLS' COUNTY AGE GROUP CRICKET PROGRAMME REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION

These Regulations set out the eligibility criteria, enrolment and player movement provisions relating to Girls' CAG Players. Each County responsible for delivering a Girls' CAG Programme has an obligation to promote, protect and support the individual wellbeing of each player on its Girls' CAG Programme and the collaborative aims of the Talent Pathway Catchment Areas to ensure seamless transitions for players through the talent pathway. Where any Girls' CAG Player is under the age of 18, each County must ensure that the Girls' CAG Player's parent/carer is provided with appropriate information and gives their consent to the Girls' CAG Player's participation in the relevant Girls' CAG Programme. Where any of these Regulations require a Girls' CAG Player to take some action (for example, give notice to a County), that action can be performed by the Girls' 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 Girls' 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 Girls' CAG Programme Regulations (the "**Regulations**"), unless otherwise specified, defined terms shall have the meanings as set out in the Tier 1 Registration Regulations (as defined below).

"County" means a Tier 1 County, Tier 2 County or Tier 3 County which runs a Girls' CAG Programme.

"Current County" means the County a Girls' CAG Player is currently enrolled with.

"FCC" means First-Class County Cricket Club.

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

"Girls' CAG Player" means a cricketer enrolled in a Girls' CAG Programme.

"Girls' CAG Programme" means the training and match play programme for girls aged 12 to 18 years, to provide learning and development opportunities. For the purposes of these Regulations, unless otherwise specified in a particular Regulation, any reference to a Girls' CAG Programme will include any participants aged under 12 or over 18 where their participation has been permitted in

accordance with the requirements of Regulation 1.1.

“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 the County to lead and be responsible for the Girls’ CAG Programme.

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

“National County” means a member of the National Counties Cricket Association.

“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.

“Team” means any senior team of a Tier 1 County, Tier 2 County or Tier 3 County, or any team formed as part of a Girls’ Academy Programme, Girls’ Emerging Player Programme or Girls’ CAG Programme.

“Tier 1” means the top level of women’s domestic cricket.

“Tier 1 Competitions” means the women’s 50-over tournament and the 20-over tournament in Tier 1.

“Tier 1 County” means a First-Class County playing in the Tier 1 Competitions.

“Tier 1 Registration Regulations” means the Regulations Relating to the Qualification and Registration of Cricketers for the Tier 1 Competitions, as amended and/or succeeded and in force from time to time.

“Tier 2” means the second level of women’s domestic cricket.

“Tier 2 Competitions” means the women’s 50-over tournament and the 20-over tournament in Tier 2.

“Tier 2 County” means a First-Class County playing in the Tier 2 Competitions.

“Tier 3” means the third level of women’s domestic cricket.

“Tier 3 Competitions” means the women’s 50-over tournament and the 20-over tournament in Tier 3.

“Tier 3 County” means a National County playing in Tier 3.

1. ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1. Subject to the annually agreed exemption for overaged players, which is agreed in the ECB's sole discretion, cricketers seeking to participate in the Girls' CAG Programme must be aged between 12 and 17 (inclusive) at midnight on the 31 August immediately prior to enrolment. If a cricketer aged (i) 11 or under or (ii) 18 or over wishes to enrol in a Girls' 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 Girls' CAG Programme.
- 1.3. If a cricketer wishes to participate in fixtures in a different age category, the following rules shall 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 Head of Talent Pathway for both participating Counties in the relevant fixture.In each case, the cricketer's participation in the fixture must be permitted under any applicable competition regulations.
- 1.4. Subject to the overriding discretion of the ECB, a cricketer shall be eligible to participate in training and match play as part of a Girls' CAG Programme if:
 - a) the cricketer is resident within the County of the Girls' 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 Girls' CAG Programme in which they seek to participate for at least one prior full season; or
 - e) the cricketer has participated in that Girls' 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 Girls' CAG Programme other than one

they are eligible for under Regulation 1.4(a) to (e), 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 Girls' 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 Girls' CAG Programme that the cricketer is seeking to enrol in. 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 Trans Playing Policy will apply to these Regulations and the Girls' CAG Programme is classified as female-only.

2. ENROLMENT PROCESS

- 2.1. Each County may enrol an unlimited number of CAG Players on their Girls' CAG Programme in each age group from under 13 to under 18, including any CAG Players aged 9 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 Girls' CAG Player may only be enrolled in one County's Girls' CAG Programme at any given time and must not play for any Girls' CAG Team other than the Girls' CAG Team of their Current County unless the requirements of Regulation 2.3 are met.
- 2.3. Agreement may be reached for a Girls' CAG Player to play for another Girls' CAG Team in addition to the Girls' CAG Team of their Current County during the term of their enrolment provided that:
 - a) the two relevant Counties participate in different divisions of the player's age category, or the CAG Player is seeking to play in a different age category available with another County;
 - b) the CAG Player's Current County gives permission, which must not be unreasonably withheld;
 - c) the ECB, the two relevant Counties, the CAG Player and the CAG Player's parent/carer are all satisfied that it would be in the CAG Player's best interests;
 - d) the two relevant Counties have agreed how the player's participation in both Girls' 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 Officer responsible for the Girls' CAG Competitions.

- 2.4. A Girls' CAG Player's enrolment on a Girls' 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 Girls' CAG Player pursuant to these Regulations may be terminated as follows:

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

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

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

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

4. PLAYER MOVEMENT AND APPROACHES

- 4.1 No County (except the Current County) should approach, or otherwise be involved in discussions with, any enrolled Girls' CAG Player (or any person acting on a Girls' CAG Player's behalf) with a view to offering that Girls' CAG Player a trial or registering, enrolling or engaging them in any

capacity, on their Girls' CAG Programme, Girls' Emerging Player Programme or Girls' Academy 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 Girls' CAG Player (or any person acting on a Girls' 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 Girls' CAG Player a trial or registering, enrolling or engaging them in any capacity, on their Girls' CAG Programme, Girls' Emerging Player Programme or Girls' Academy Programme only where:

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

4.2.2 the Girls' 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 any player it must check the enrolment status of the player with the previous County the player was enrolled with, if known, and should only approach the relevant Head of Talent Pathway in the first instance rather than approaching the player (or any other person acting on the player's behalf). For the avoidance of doubt, 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.

4.4 Subject to Regulation 4.5, a player shall not be eligible to be enrolled or registered with more than one County across the County Girls' CAG Programme, Girls' Emerging Player Programme or Girls' Academy Programme.

4.5 Where a player is enrolled in the Girls' CAG Programme for a Tier 2 County or Tier 3 County, that player shall still be eligible to be registered for the Girls' Emerging Player Programme or Girls' Academy Programme for a different Tier 1 County or different Tier 2 County (as applicable).

5. DISPUTES

Any unresolved dispute concerning player eligibility and/or enrolment shall 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 shall be final and binding on the parties to the dispute (the “**Panel**”). The Panel may follow such procedure as it considers appropriate and shall not be bound by rules governing the admissibility of evidence in judicial or other proceedings. The National Talent Managers shall not sit on the Panel.