



# BOYS' COUNTY AGE GROUP CRICKET PROGRAMME REGULATIONS

## INTRODUCTION

These Regulations set out the eligibility criteria, enrolment and player movement provisions relating to Boys' CAG Players. Each FCC and CCB 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 Boys' CAG Programme Regulations ("Regulations"), unless otherwise specified, defined terms shall have the meanings as set out in the FCC Registration Regulations (as defined below).

"Additional CAG Programme" means the additional training and competition programme that certain Counties may run for cricketers in under 10, under 11 and under 12 age categories.

"Boys' CAG Programme" means the training and competition programme at the first stage of the Men's County Talent Pathway Programme, for boys aged under 13 to under 18 years, 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 also include any Additional CAG Programme.

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

"CCB" means a County Cricket Board.

"County 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.

"County Partnership Agreement" means the funding agreement between each FCC and the ECB.

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

"FCC" means First-Class County Cricket Club.



**“FCC Academy Programme”** means the programme of support delivered by FCCs pursuant to the County Partnership Agreement to develop robust foundations of future performance through an intensive and individualised programme of development.

**“FCC Registration Regulations”** means the Regulations Relating to the Qualification and Registration of Cricketers, as amended and/or succeeded and in force from time to time.

**“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.

**“Men’s County Talent Pathway Programme”** means collectively the Boys’ CAG Programme, the County Emerging Player Programme and the FCC Academy Programme. The Men’s County Talent Pathway Programme and any matches played as part of the Men’s County Talent Pathway Programme are open gender.

**“Talent Pathway Lead”** means the person employed by the county to lead and be responsible for the Men’s County Talent Pathway Programme.

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

## **1. ELIGIBILITY**

- 1.1. 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.
- 1.2. Cricketers seeking to participate in the Additional CAG Programme specifically must be aged between 9 and 11 (inclusive) at midnight on the 31 August immediately prior to enrolment.
- 1.3. Cricketers will be enrolled in a particular age category within the Boys’ CAG Programme and must be the relevant age for that age category, i.e. cricketers who are aged 12 as at midnight on the 31 August immediately prior to enrolment will be classed as under 13 players and so on.
- 1.4. 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 County Pathway Leads for both participating Counties in the relevant fixture.

In each case, the cricketer’s participation in the fixture must also be permitted under any applicable competition regulations.

1.5. Subject to the overriding discretion of the ECB, a cricketer shall 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 1.6 apply.

1.6. Where a cricketer does not meet the requirements prescribed by Regulation 1.5(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 1.5, 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 1.5 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.

1.7. The provisions of the ECB Trans Playing Policy will apply to these Regulations and the Boys’ CAG Programme is classified as open gender.

## **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. Where a County runs an Additional CAG Programme, that County may enrol an unlimited number of Boys’ CAG Players in each of



the age categories for their Additional CAG Programme.

- 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 an FCC;
  - 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 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 responsible for the Boys' CAG Competitions.
- 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 should 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 should be 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 shall be entitled to enrol with another County.

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

- 4.1 No County should approach, or otherwise be involved in discussions with, any enrolled Boys' CAG Player (or any person acting on a Boys' CAG Player's behalf) 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 Men's 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 Men's 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 any player it must check the enrolment status of the player with the previous County the player was enrolled with, if known, and ensure that they comply with Regulation 4.1. 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.



## 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.