



**ESSEX**

**EARLY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

**&**

**DISTRICT CRICKET**

**(BOYS)**



# INTRODUCTION

## DISTRICT CRICKET

District Cricket is the first step for players on the talent pathway within the county. Players are nominated through clubs, schools and community organisations. Nominated players are then invited to attend assessments in one of the five regions within the county, from which age group squads will be selected.

The regions are - Central, South, West, North & Metropolitan.

## DISTRICT CRICKET - U10, U11, U12 (EARLY ENGAGEMENT)

District Cricket at U10, U11 & U12 is the Early Engagement Phase.

Early Engagement is a national initiative aimed at creating more opportunities, for more players at the base of the talent pathway. The programme aims to give more players, from a wider range of backgrounds, the chance to access high-quality cricket opportunities locally, whilst increasing the connection between the recreational game and the talent pathway.

The programme also intends to prepare players for County Age Group cricket which begins at U13.

## DISTRICT CRICKET - U13, U14, U15

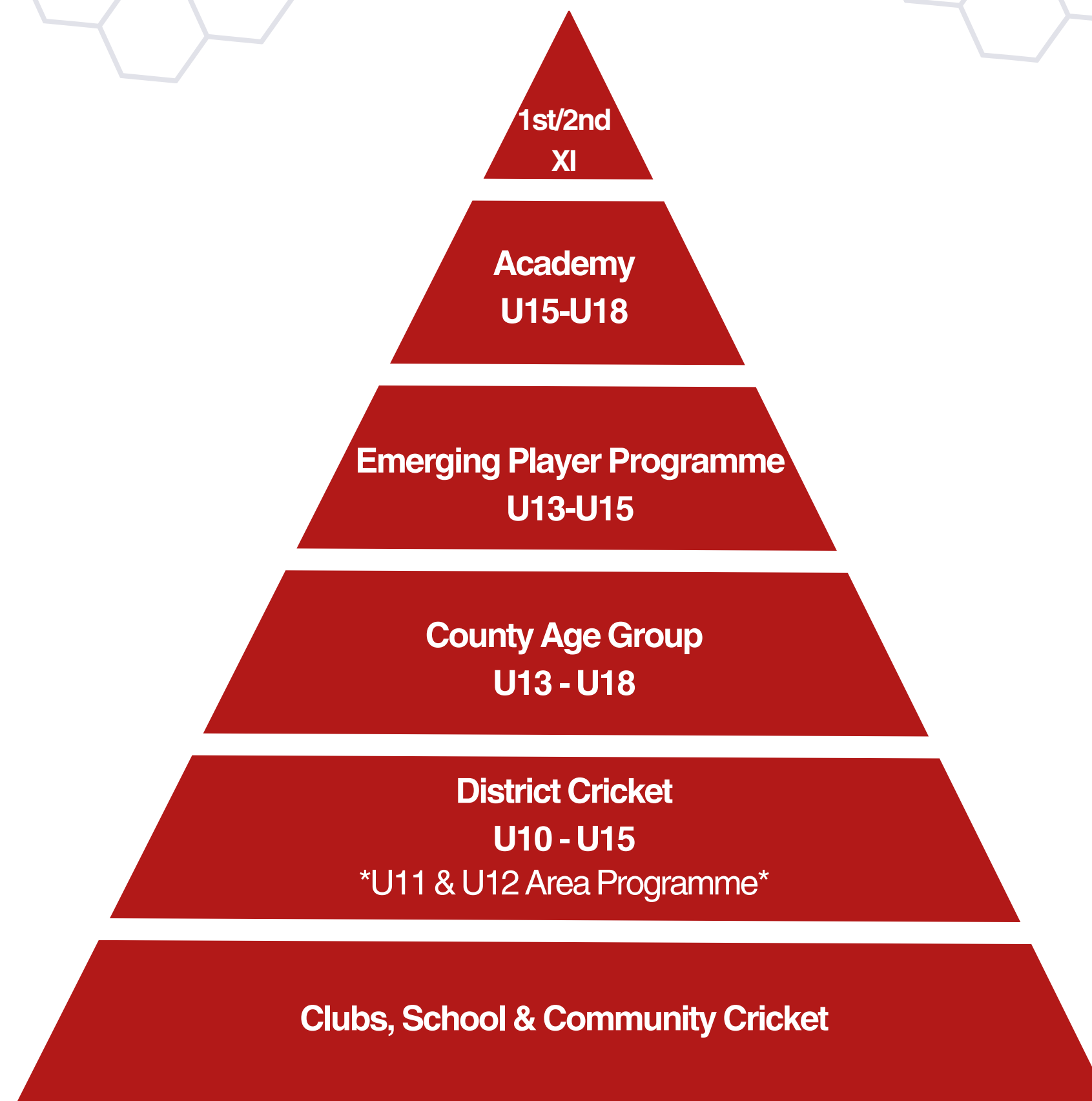
District Cricket at U13, U14 & U15 is positioned in between club/school/community cricket and County Age Group cricket.

District Cricket provides players with the opportunity to train, play and further enhance their cricketing skills with players of a similar ability across the county. Players at District level who perform well and show high potential are then identified for County Age Group assessments.





# TALENT PATHWAY STRUCTURE



The image above displays the structure of the talent pathway and provides a visual representation of the journey for players through the talent pathway.



# TALENT PATHWAY TIMELINE



## NOMINATIONS (JUNE - AUGUST)

The window to nominate players is open from June and August. The following are able to submit player nominations:

- Clubs
- Schools
- Community Organisations



## ASSESSMENTS & SELECTION (SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER)

Once the nomination window has closed, players will be invited to attend assessments during this period of the year. Once assessments have concluded, squads at each age group will be selected.

- U10, U11, U12 - Players attend two assessments (softball & hardball)
- U13, U14, U15 - Players attend one assessment (hardball)\*

\*Players who demonstrate high potential at district assessments will be invited to attend county age group assessments in January/February.



## WINTER PROGRAMME (JANUARY - MARCH)

All players have access to a minimum of 10 hours training during this period that aligns to the Essex Cricket Talent Development Framework (TDF). Winter programmes take place locally at a venue within one of the five regions.

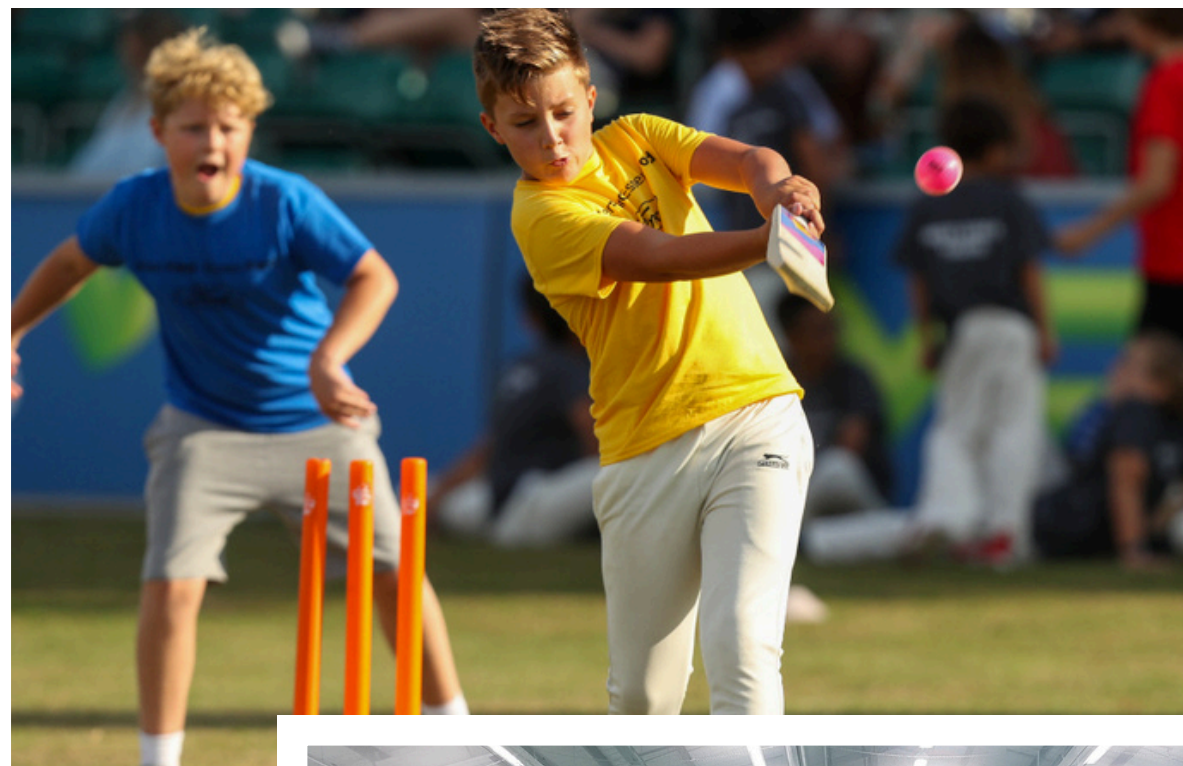


## SUMMER PROGRAMME (APRIL - AUGUST)

The summer programme will consist of a minimum of 5 hours training. The match programme will encompass 8 inter-district match days and include a variety of different match formats.



# WHAT TO EXPECT



## U10

Players will participate in two assessment sessions which will encompass both soft ball and hard ball cricket. If selected, players attend 10 hours of winter training, followed by 5 hours of summer training. During the season there will be 8 inter-district match days, which will include a variety of shorter and longer format games.

## U11

The U11 programme will mirror that of the U10s, with players being able to access the same number of training sessions and match days throughout the year. Once the U11 inter district fixtures have taken place, high potential players will be identified for the U11 area programme in August, which will include a series of training sessions and internal match days.

## U12

The U12 programme will closely resemble that of the U11s, with players being able to access the same number of training sessions and match days throughout the year. Once the U12 inter district fixtures have taken place, high potential players will be identified for the U12 area programme in August, which will include a series of training sessions and internal match days.

## U13+

County Age Group (CAG) Cricket begins at U13. The highest potential/top performing players from District Cricket will be identified for CAG Assessments. At this point, players will be selected for County Age Group Cricket or continue with District Cricket. Entry points will still exist for players from club, school and community cricket into District Cricket.



# FAQ'S

## WHAT IS DISTRICT CRICKET?

District Cricket is the first step on the talent pathway for players within the county.

## HOW IS DISTRICT CRICKET STRUCTURED?

District Cricket is structured into five regions. These regional programmes are designed to reduce travel requirements and make the programme more accessible for players across the county. The five regions are - Central, North, South, West & Metropolitan.

## WHAT ARE THE AGE GROUPS?

The age groups for the programme are as follows:

- U10, U11, U12 (Early Engagement)
- U13, U14, U15

## WHAT IS DISTRICT CRICKET U10-U12 (EARLY ENGAGEMENT)?

Early Engagement focuses on creating structured and localised programmes to nurture young players, before the start of County Age Group (CAG) cricket at U13. The programme aims to broaden the opportunity for players at the base of the talent pathway and aligns with the Essex Cricket Talent Development Framework.

## WHAT IS DISTRICT CRICKET U13 - U15?

District Cricket at these ages groups is positioned in between club/school/community cricket and County Age Group cricket. District Cricket provides players with the opportunity to train, play and further enhance their cricketing skills with players of a similar ability across the county. Players at District level who perform well and show high potential are then identified for County Age Group assessments.

## WHAT IS THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE TALENT PATHWAY?

To be eligible for the player pathway, players must:

- Play for an affiliated club within the county
- Go to school within the county
- Live within the county

## HOW CAN A PLAYER BE ASSESSED FOR DISTRICT CRICKET?

Players must be nominated by a club, school or community organisation.

## HOW CAN A PLAYER BE ASSESSED FOR COUNTY AGE GROUP CRICKET?

The highest potential/top performing players at District Level will be identified for County Age Group Assessments.

## HOW DO PLAYERS GET SELECTED FOR DISTRICT AND COUNTY AGE GROUP CRICKET?

Nominated players are invited to attend assessments. After the assessments have concluded, squads at each age group are then selected for District Cricket. After the District programme has completed, U11 & U12 players will have the opportunity to be selected for the area programmes in August.

The highest potential/top performing cricketers aged 13+ will be invited to attend assessments for County Age Group Cricket. After the assessments have concluded, squads at each age group (u13 - U18) are then selected for County Age Group Cricket.



# FAQ'S

## WHAT DOES THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS CONSIST OF?

U10-U12 (Early Engagement) Age Groups - There are two phases of assessment. Phase one will include a variety of softball cricket activities across batting, bowling, fielding and match play. Phase two will include a variety of hardball cricket activities across the three main disciplines - batting, bowling and fielding.

U13-U15 Age Groups will have one phase of assessment, which includes a variety of hardball cricket activities across the three main disciplines - batting, bowling & fielding.

## WHAT IS THE SELECTION CRITERIA/PROCESS?

Essex Cricket uses its Talent Development Framework (TDF) as the basis to identify and assess talent. Each player across the county will be assessed in the same way to ensure consistency.

## IS THERE A COST TO PLAYERS FOR ASSESSMENTS?

There is no cost to players for assessments.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF A PLAYER MISSES THE ASSESSMENTS?

Any players who are nominated for District Cricket, but were unable to attend an assessment should contact a member of the performance team.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO PLAYERS WHO GET SELECTED?

Players who are selected are invited to join the respective age group programme in their region.

## HOW MANY PLAYERS ARE SELECTED FOR DISTRICT CRICKET?

A maximum of 16 players are selected in each age group squad, in each region.

## WHAT DOES THE DISTRICT TRAINING AND MATCH PROGRAMME CONSIST OF?

Players attend 10 hours of winter training and 5 hours of summer training, aligned to the Essex Talent Development Framework. The match programme consists of 8 inter-district match days, which incorporates a mixture of both shorter and longer format games - 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 & 40 Over matches dependent upon the age group,

## IS THERE A COST TO PLAYERS FOR THE TRAINING AND MATCH PROGRAMME?

There is a cost for players for the programme. All programmes will be run on a not for profit basis in line with ECB guidance.

## IS THERE ANY FINANCIAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR PLAYERS AND PARENTS?

Yes. There will be financial support available for players to support with things such as transport costs, kit, equipment and programme contributions, from the assessment stage onwards. Information on what is available, who can access the support and how, will be shared with players/parents in advance of the assessment stage.

## WHAT IS THE AREA PROGRAMME FOR U11 AND U12 PLAYERS?

The area programmes at U11 & U12 offer the highest potential players in those age groups an additional, condensed training and match play programme, in preparation for County Age Group Cricket at U13.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO PLAYERS WHO DON'T GET SELECTED?

The talent pathway is very competitive and it is not possible to select every player. Players develop at different ages and if a player isn't selected, they will have the opportunity to be assessed the following year. In certain circumstances, if deemed appropriate, players may be fast tracked by the performance team at any stage throughout the year.

Players who aren't selected will be provided with feedback on areas of their game to work on. The level of detail in the feedback will vary depending on the age group.

# MEET THE TEAM



***Insert Name***

*Insert Position*



***Insert Name***

*Insert Position*



***Insert Name***

*Insert Position*



***Insert Name***

*Insert Position*