



ESSEX

**EARLY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME
(BOYS)**



INTRODUCTION

EARLY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EEP) - U10, U11, U12

The Early Engagement Programme is the first step for U10, U11 & U12 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, from which age group squads will be selected.

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.

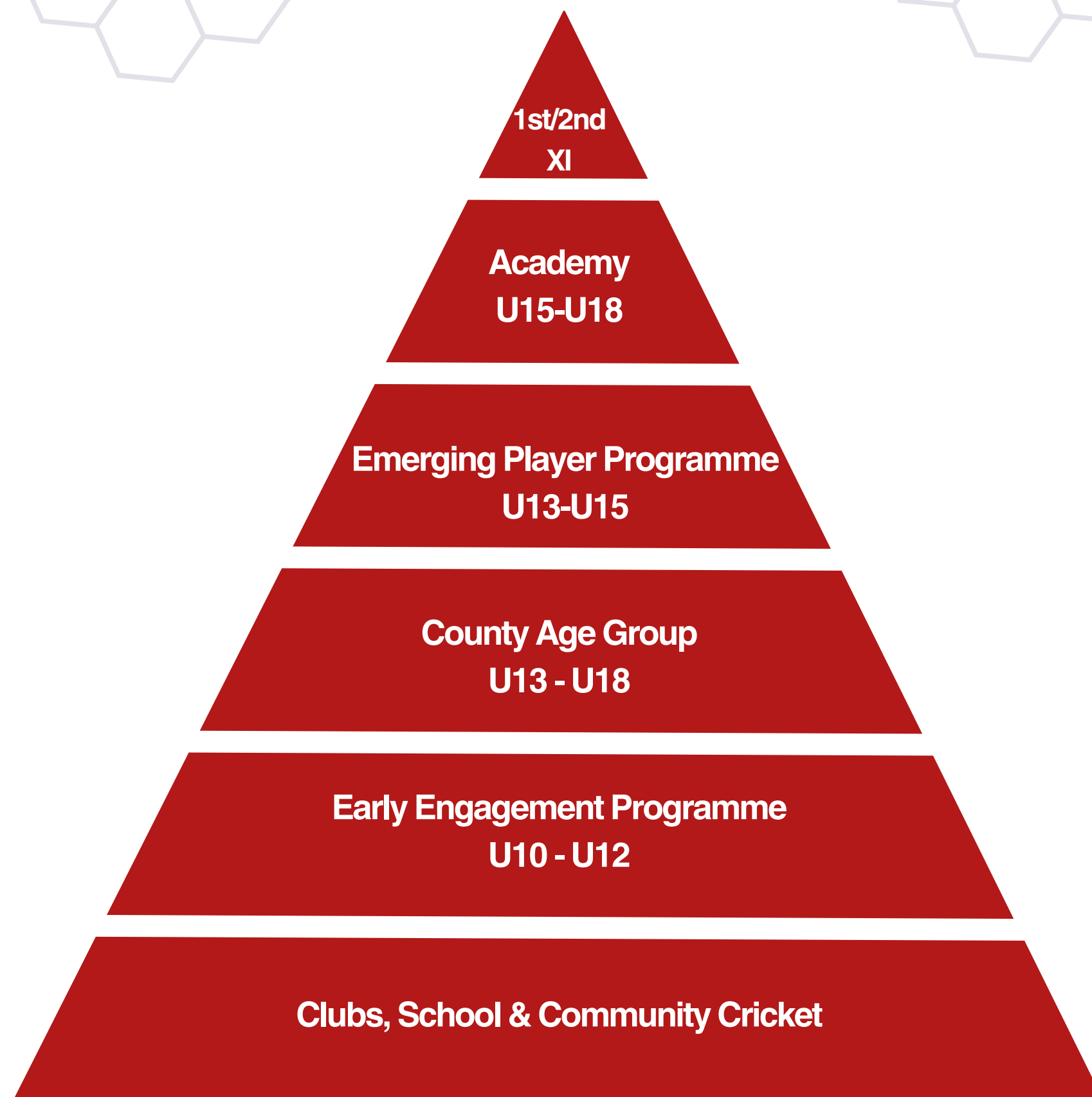
The programme provides players with the opportunity to train, play and further enhance their cricketing skills with players of a similar ability across the county.

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





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 (SUMMER)

The window to nominate players opens during the summer. The following are able to submit player nominations:

- Clubs within the county
- Schools within the county
- Community Organisations within the county



ASSESSMENTS & SELECTION (WINTER)

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



WINTER PROGRAMME (WINTER)

All players have access to a winter training programme during this period that aligns to the Essex Cricket Talent Development Framework (TDF). Winter programmes take place at venue across the county.

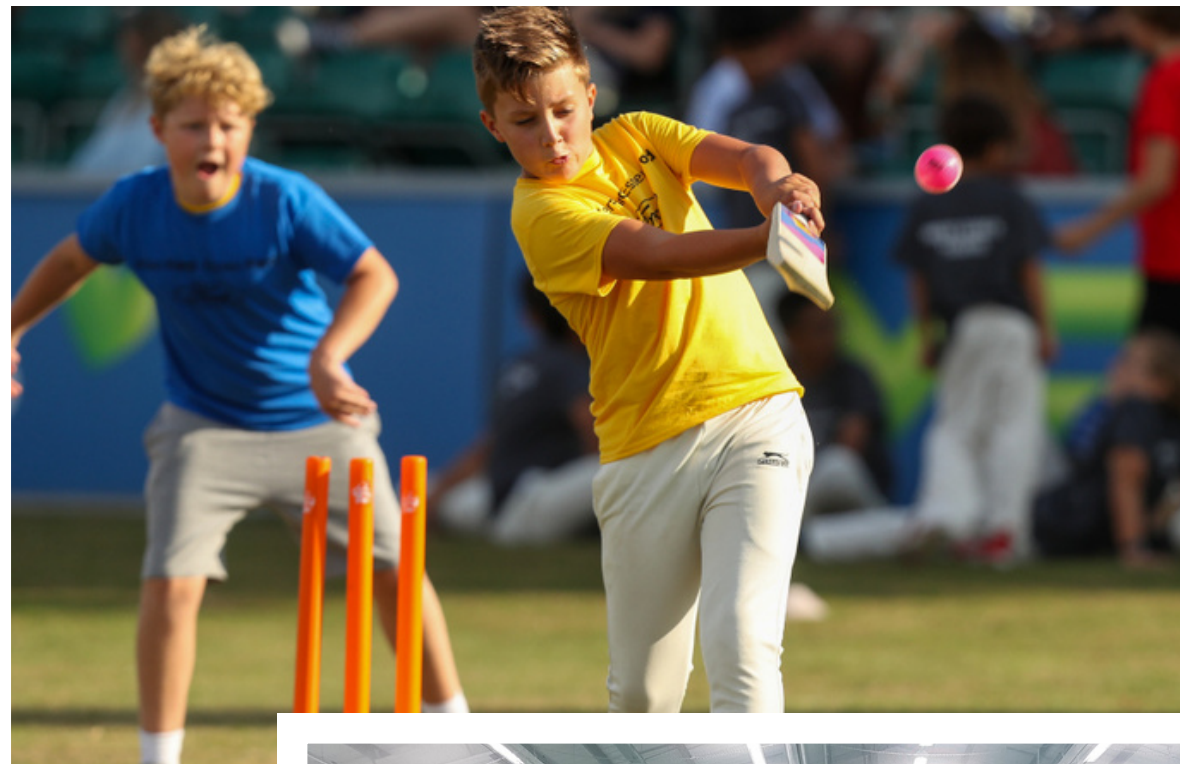


SUMMER PROGRAMME (SUMMER)

The summer programme consists of a training and match play programme. The match play programme includes a variety of different match formats.



WHAT TO EXPECT



U10

Players will participate in assessments sessions that include soft and hard ball cricket activities.

U11

If selected, players are then invited to attend a winter training programme, followed by a summer training and match play programme. The match play programme will consist of a variety of shorter and longer format games.

U12

U13+

County Age Group (CAG) Cricket begins at U13. The highest potential/top performing players from EEP will be identified for CAG Assessments. At this point, players will be selected for County Age Group Cricket. Entry points will still exist for players from club, school and community cricket into the counties talent pathway each year.



FAQ'S

WHAT IS THE EARLY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME?

The early engagement programme is the first step on the talent pathway for players within the county.

HOW IS THE EARLY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME STRUCTURED?

The Early Engagement Programme is a regionalised programme designed to reduce travel requirements and make the programme more accessible for players across the county.

WHAT ARE THE AGE GROUPS?

The age groups for the programme are as follows:

- U10 - School Year 5
- U11 - School Year 6
- U12 - School Year 7

Please note, players younger than school year 5 are not eligible.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE EARLY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME?

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 THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE TALENT PATHWAY?

To be eligible for the player pathway, players must:

- Play for a club within the county
- Go to school within the county
- Live within the county

HOW CAN A PLAYER BE ASSESSED FOR THE TALENT PATHWAY?

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

HOW DO PLAYERS GET SELECTED FOR EEP 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 EEP.

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.

WHAT IS THE SELECTION CRITERIA/PROCESS?

Essex Cricket uses it's 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 player who is nominated but 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 one of the regional programmes.

WHAT DOES THE TRAINING AND MATCH PROGRAMME CONSIST OF?

Players attend winter training and summer training, with sessions aligned to the Essex Talent Development Framework. The match programme consists of inter-regional match days, and includes a variety of both shorter and longer format games.

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 at the appropriate stage.

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.