

Junior County (Sub Area) Hockey (May 2022)

Purpose of the Update

The purpose of this document is to update about the delivery of Junior County Hockey (Sub Area) for the 2022-23 cycle

There will be further detail released in June 2022, however we hope this update enables counties to plan their programmes for next year.

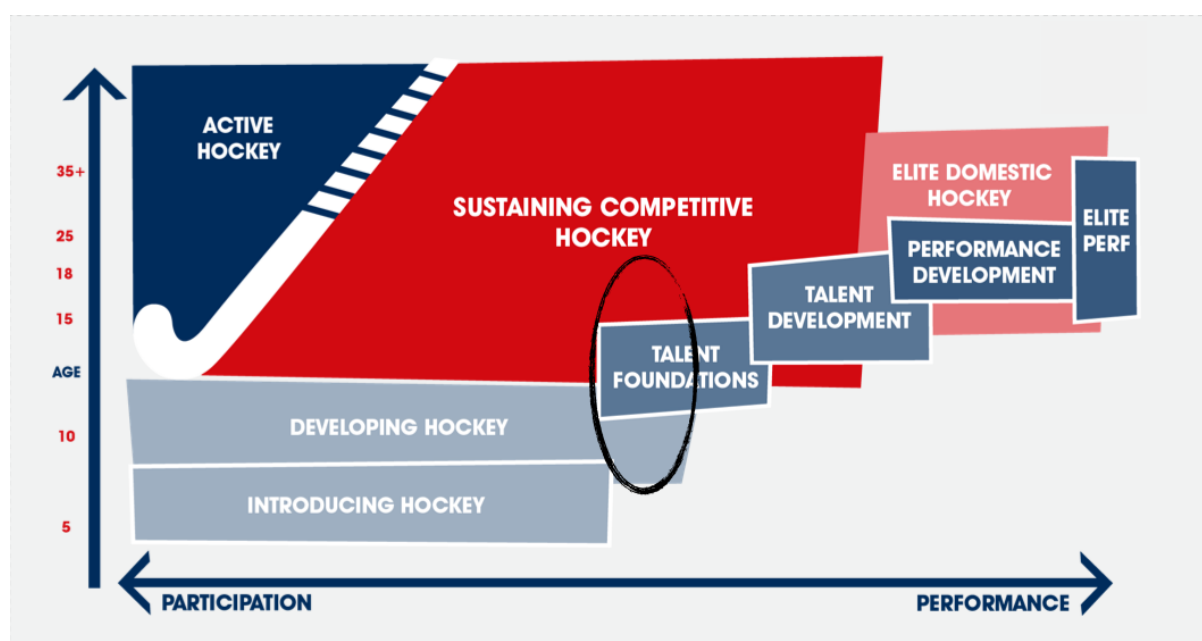
What is County (Sub Area) Hockey?

- Junior County (Sub Area) Hockey is the new name for junior county hockey programmes previously known as Development Centres (DC) and Academy Centres (AC)
- Junior County (Sub Area) Hockey will continue to provide an exciting and aspirational representative opportunity for the U12-U17 age groups that provides a different experience to regular club or school hockey.
- It is a standalone development experience, focused on preparing for and competing in representative teams.
- It is one route to progress to the next stage of the talent system and counties can nominate players for Talent Academy and/or England Age Group trials.
- For some players County (Sub Area) Hockey will be one of several talent development opportunities they take up and it is regarded as steppingstone towards both elite domestic and international performance hockey. For others it will be the pinnacle of their representative hockey and hopefully a steppingstone to life-long enjoyment and involvement in the sport. Both these outcomes are worthy aims and valuable to the long-term development of hockey.
- There is a huge opportunity for counties to access a wider group of young people by targeting more players who are unable to access regular high- quality hockey elsewhere and contribute to developing a more diverse talent pool.
- Junior County (Sub Area) Hockey also has an important role in providing development opportunities for players, coaches, administrators and umpires from different backgrounds.

Where does Junior County (Sub-Area) hockey fit within the sport?

The Player Development model below breaks the hockey playing population into nine segments and shows how players develop within and through the sport. The ages are a guide only, acknowledging players develop at different rates and have different needs.

The black oval illustrates where Junior County (Sub Area) Hockey is positioned in the Player Development Model and the level of player that Junior County (Sub Area) Hockey caters for.



- **U12-U15 Development Centre** activity is positioned at the Developing Hockey stage. The focus at this stage is on providing fun, safe, and inspiring environments that develop a wide range of hockey skills and knowledge.
- **U12-U15 County (Sub Area) representative teams** offer another opportunity in addition to club and school hockey at Talent Foundations level. Its aim is to provide high-quality training and competition which develops exceptional hockey basics.
- **U16-U17 Development Centre and County (Sub Area) representative teams** typically sits within the Sustaining Competitive Hockey stage. This is aimed at maintaining fitness/skill development, health promotion, self-satisfaction, social interaction, and relaxation, particularly during the later teenage years and into adulthood.



It is unlikely that this activity will be suitable for the highest potential 16-17 aged players in most cases we do not expect England Age Group or Talent Academy players to attend.

Calendar dates

Junior County (Sub Area) Hockey dates will be set in the England Hockey Centralised Calendar. The proposed dates for 2022-3 are as follows:

2022	Age Groups	2023	Age Groups
11 th September	All	8 th January	All
2 nd October	All	12 th February	All
13 th November	All	12 th March	All
4 th December	U15/16/17	16 th April	All
11 th December	U13/14	30 th April	All
		7 th May	All

Age groups

England Hockey supported the move to age groupings based on school years in the 2021/22 cycle and this will continue for 2022-3 and beyond.

Junior County Hockey (Sub Area) age bands for 2022/23 season are below:

	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
Sep-22	01 Sep 2009 – 31 Aug 2010	01 Sep 2008 – 31 Aug 2009	01 Sep 2007 – 31 Aug 2008	01 Sept 2006 – 31 Aug 2007	01 Sept 2005 – 31 Aug 2006
School Year	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12

Finance

Individual county associations will determine player fees for the activity delivered.

All financial matters relating to Junior County (Sub Area) Hockey activities will be governed by the relevant county (or sub area)



Player Pathway System

The Player Pathway system (PPS) will continue to be the player management system for all Junior County Hockey (Sub Area) squads. This is the preferred system and the one that England Hockey will continue to support.

England Hockey are currently reviewing the system with a view to making it more user friendly. More information will be available in due course.

More information about the system including the users manuals for administrators and players/parents is available on the England Hockey website.

<https://www.englishockey.co.uk/play/the-player-pathway/player-pathway-system>

Talent System Framework

Counties are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Talent System Framework (TSF) and the player profile to guide player selection.

The Talent System Framework is an evolution of the Talent Development Framework, providing greater clarity of the ideal experiences and environments that will support a player's journey through the Talent System.

The purpose hasn't changed – the framework has evolved to offer a more detailed reference and support system for all those operating in the Talent System.

A weblink to the Talent System Framework can be found [Here](#)

The Talent System Framework identifies the player qualities which England Hockey recommend as those that should be focussed on in player identification and development. A player profile tool has been built to capture these and is fully explained in the Talent system Framework.

Competition

Junior County (Sub Area) Hockey competition for each gender/age group combination will be determined by each England Hockey Area organisation.

Where Areas only have a small number of County (Sub Area) teams, or entries, then joint Area competitions can take place, if travel can be managed effectively to minimise journey times and costs.

There will be no national competitions for Junior County (Sub Area) Hockey.

National competition has been considered, however this will not be progressed at this stage. The combination of logistics and the primary focus of counties programmes to focus on player development at Talent Foundations level do not align with a national competition programme.



Talent System and future communications

The Year 1 Talent Academy host clubs will be confirmed on the 6th May alongside the locations for interim England Hockey led activity to fill significant geographical gaps.

This will be followed by more details of the player nomination and selection process.

Junior County (Sub Area) Hockey Working Group

A working group had been established comprising a mix of representatives from counties and England Hockey to support the development of Junior County (Sub Area) Hockey.

Counties were asked to nominate members to create a working group which reflects geographical differences across the country (county size / demographic), differences in the number of players in the county, Development Centre and representative delivery and coach and administrator perspectives.

The current members are

James Doughty	Gloucestershire	West
Alistair Younger	Suffolk Hockey	East
John Beckett	Shropshire	Midlands
Rosemary Tyson	Somerset	West
Marcus Liddell	Berkshire	South Central
Karl Mac Gregor	Northamptonshire	Midlands
Judith Jones	London	London
Dave Brereton	Yorkshire	YNE
Tony Perrin	Lincolnshire	YNE

