

GHA Player Pathway Report

2021 - 2022 season

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Terminology

DC - Development Centre - introduction to county environment and the lowest tier of hockey in the Player Pathway. For the first time, we ran a DC in parallel with the AC programme. We will continue to do this and we will not be running DCs in the summer.

AC - Academy Centre - this will become known as **Junior County Hockey** in Gloucestershire from September 2022. This is to avoid confusion with the new Talent Academies which will become the regional tier for hockey

PC - Performance Centre - regional hockey - for Gloucestershire players, this is currently based in Bristol. It will be replaced by a Talent Academy next season. The exact timing and process for nomination is still under discussion with England Hockey.

Talent Centre - newly created coaching standard for clubs - implementation is in progress.

Talent School - these are still under discussion with England Hockey

Talent Academy - a newly created coaching environment at regional level to replace PC. England Hockey announced 17 Talent Academies on 6th May - the ones within range of Gloucestershire (@ < 1 hour) are Team Bath Buccaneers HC, Stourport HC and Oxford Hawks HC. The nomination process has yet to be announced.

Players

- The county age bands changed at the beginning of the season and are now based on school year
- The season for AC ended on the 13th March at the final county matches. The AC squads played 20 matches (won 13, drew 6 and lost 1). We also arranged DC v AC matches which were a great success.
- We had over 300 nominations across 5 age bands
- 61 players were selected into the DC Programme (lowest tier and only for U13/14s)
- 149 players were selected into the AC Programme (county tier)
- 27 Gloucestershire based players at playing PC level or higher

Over 45% of DC and AC players attend state schools

Coaching

- GoCrea8 run the DC Programme - we are negotiating a 3 year deal to ensure this continues to develop
- We currently have 5 Lead Coaches and 11 Assistant Coaches running the AC Programme
- We are investigating whether we can include specialist strength and conditioning coaching from September 2022 to all DC and AC sessions.

Facilities

- We moved to Oxstalls in the 2019 - 2020 season and this has been a partial success. For the 2022 - 2023 season we will be moving exclusively to King's School Gloucester and this will include running an indoor programme.

Kit

- We will be rebranding all of our playing shirts next season and will provide a small subsidy to all players that make the transition - this is advised by England Hockey in order to avoid confusion between the newly created Talent Academies and the (county) Academy Centres.
- We will not be managing the procurement of player kit for the 2022 - 2023 season - players will need to order and pay for their kit directly with the supplier.

Finances

- The Player Pathway Programme made a loss of @ £6k over the 2021 - 2022 season.
 - This was forecast and was partly as a result of uncertainties due to COVID and increased coaching costs
 - As a result of the pitch deal with King's School, we will reduce our pitch hire costs by @50%
 - For the 2022 - 2023 season, we aim to break even.

The England Hockey Talent Strategy

- County Hockey will continue to have an important role to play and we are involved with the England Hockey Junior County Hockey Working Group to provide input to the changes being proposed.
- We do not know what the full impact of the new Talent Strategy will be yet - it is likely that some players will come back to AC - there are over 25 Gloucestershire nominated players at PC or beyond.

GHA Youth Coordinators
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