



Cheshire Cricket Board

Our Player Pathway

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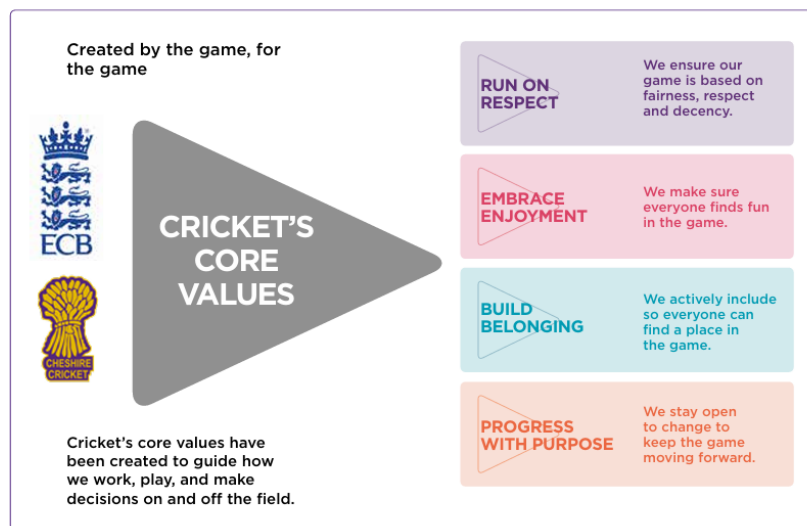
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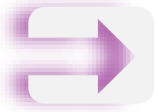
Introduction

Welcome to the Cheshire Cricket Board Player Pathway, an accessible and player-centred development programme that aims to instil a lifelong love of the game and support every child to reach their full cricketing potential.

In this document you will find further information about the opportunities for boys (see separate document for girls) and how our Player Pathway supports the development of recreational cricket throughout the county.

Our staff and volunteers embrace cricket's Core Values (see below) in everything we do. These values are embedded into our Player Pathway and help guide how we work, play and make decisions on and off the field.



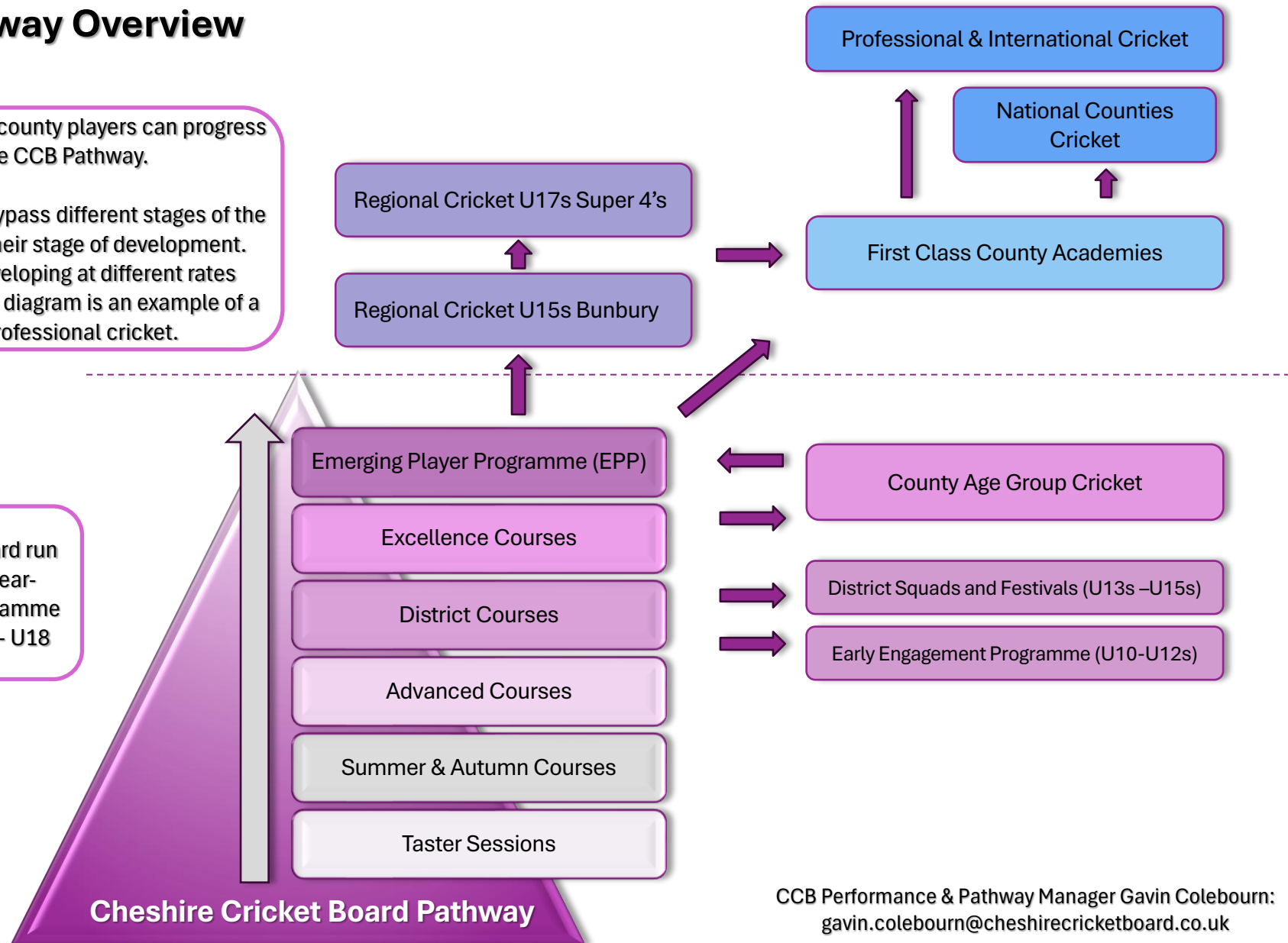


Pathway Overview

The highest achieving county players can progress beyond the CCB Pathway.

Children may join or bypass different stages of the pathway based on their stage of development. Due to children developing at different rates during maturation the diagram is an example of a pathway to professional cricket.

Cheshire Cricket Board run a comprehensive year-round coaching programme for children aged U9- U18



CCB Performance & Pathway Manager Gavin Colebourn:
gavin.colebourn@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk





Pathway by Age Group

Early Engagement Programme

Club, School & Community Cricket (Recreational)

Cheshire Cricket Board Pathway (Performance)

16 -18+

- Senior Club Cricket
- U16-U18 Club Cricket
- U19s Club T20

- Advanced Courses
- U16 & U18 Excellence Courses

- County Squads
- Emerging Player Programme

- First Class Academies
- National Counties

13-15 year olds

- Senior Club Cricket
- U13-U15 Club Cricket
- Chance to Shine Street & School Coaching
- Knight-Stokes Cup
- MCC Hubs

- Hardball Summer Courses
- Advanced Courses
- U13 & U15 District Courses
- U13, U14, U15 Excellence Courses

- U13 & U15 District Festivals
- County Squads (U13,U14,U15) & Fixtures

11-13 year olds

- U11-U13 Club Cricket
- Chance to Shine
- MCC Hubs

- Summer & Autumn Courses
- Advanced Courses
- U11 & U13 District Courses
- Free Taster Sessions

- U11, U12 & U13 District Festivals
- U13 Excellence Course
- County squad (U13)

8-11 year olds

- Dynamos Cricket
- Chance to Shine
- U9-U11 Club Cricket

- Summer & Autumn Courses
- Advanced Courses
- District Courses
- Free Taster Sessions

- U11s District Festival
- 'Best of District' Fixtures

5-8 year olds

- All Stars Cricket
- Chance to Shine
- 'Minis' Coaching

- Summer & Autumn Courses (8+)
- Free Taster Sessions (8+)

Entry Level

Pathway

Representative Cricket





Entry Level Cricket



Allstars Cricket

Entry level programme for 5-8 year olds. Find your local centre here:



Dynamos Cricket

For those leaving Allstars or new to the game. 8-11 year olds. Find your local centre here:



CCB National Programmes Manager Owen Williamson:
owen.williamson@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk



MCC Foundation

More information about MCC Hubs and local centres:



Chance to Shine

For more information about Chance to shine and Chance to Shine Street:



CCB Communities Manager Rehaan Rather:
rehaan.rather@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk

CCB Schools Manager Mark Greaves :
mark.greaves@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk



Free Taster Sessions

For children 8 + who are new to the CCB Pathway. Find a session here:



Junior Club Cricket

More information on junior club cricket and leagues can be found here:



CCB Clubs Manager Gareth Moorhouse:
gareth.moorhouse@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk





Early Engagement Programme (EEP)

Boys & Girls Ages 9-12



The ECB Early Engagement Programme is a nationwide initiative designed to introduce young cricketers aged U10–U12 to structured development opportunities, broadening access to the Talent Pathway and promoting inclusivity in cricket.

Who is the EEP Programme for?

- Children aged 9–12.
- Any child can enter the CCB pathway through free Observation sessions or by joining a Summer, Autumn or Advanced Course.

Aims & Purpose of the Programme?

- Introduce boys and girls aged 9–12 to representative cricket in a fun, inclusive environment.
- To broaden the routes into the pathway by providing multiple and varied entry points, making access easier for more children.
- Increase the talent base and inclusivity across the pathway.
- Inspire lifelong enjoyment and involvement in cricket.
- Build strong foundations for progression into District, CAG and senior cricket.

How does this work in Cheshire?

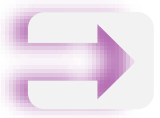
- Open to all children, with multiple entry points into the pathway.
- Children are nominated by CCB coaching staff for District which forms the final stage of the winter Early Engagement Programme.
- 10–12-week District coaching Courses (Jan–Apr) with weekly 2-hour indoor sessions which includes ongoing assessment.
- Online induction for children and parents before the programme starts.
- Following the conclusion of the District Courses, squads at U11 & U12 are invited to a free summer programme which includes multiple playing and training opportunities.
- The programme is reviewed annually, and children may be considered again the following year.

Access the Pathway here:

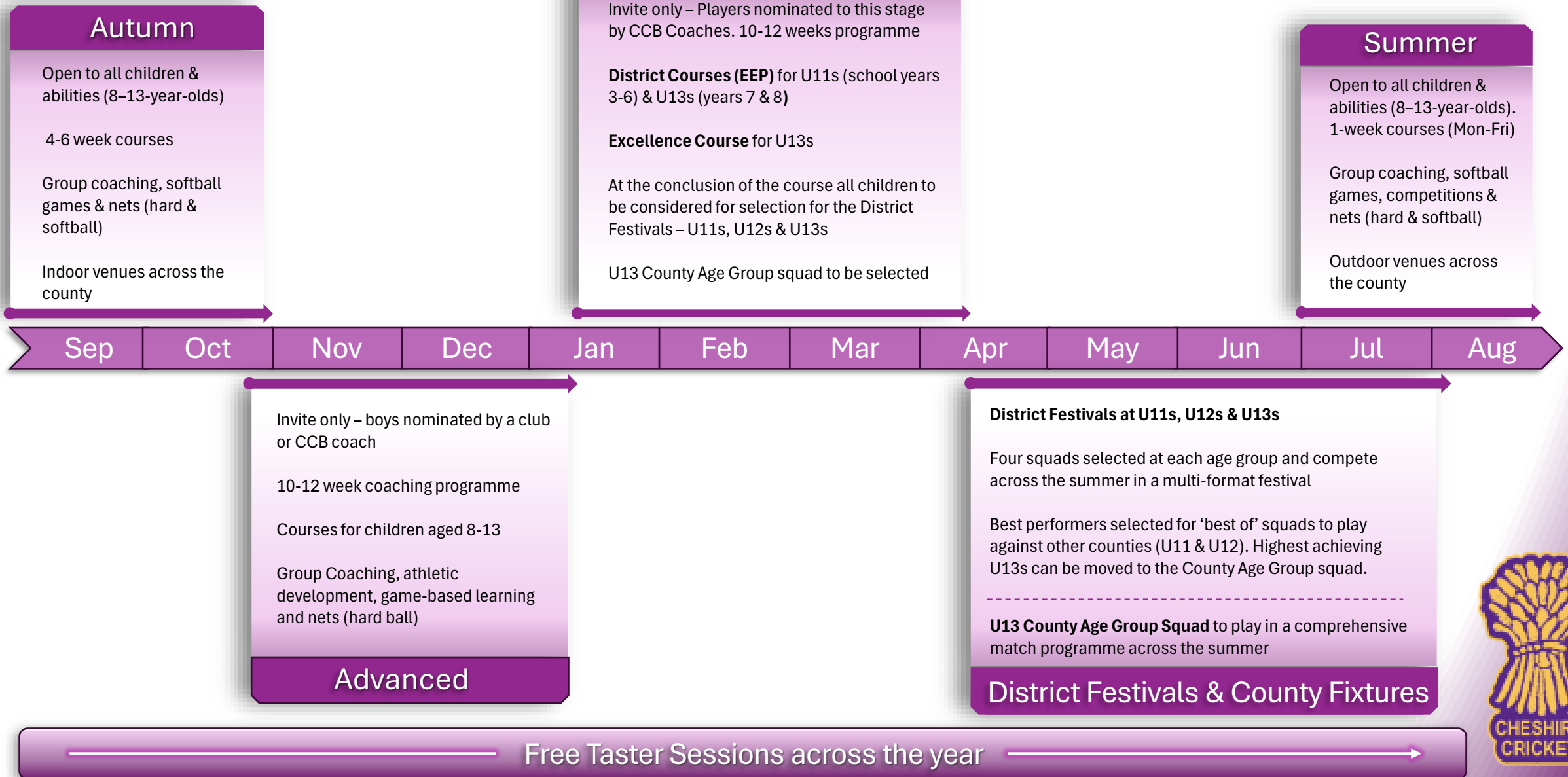
[Observation Sessions](#)
[Children's Courses](#)

CCB Early Engagement Lead (Boys) – Ben.Tomlinson@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk
CCB Early Engagement Lead (Girls) – Amy.Jones@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk



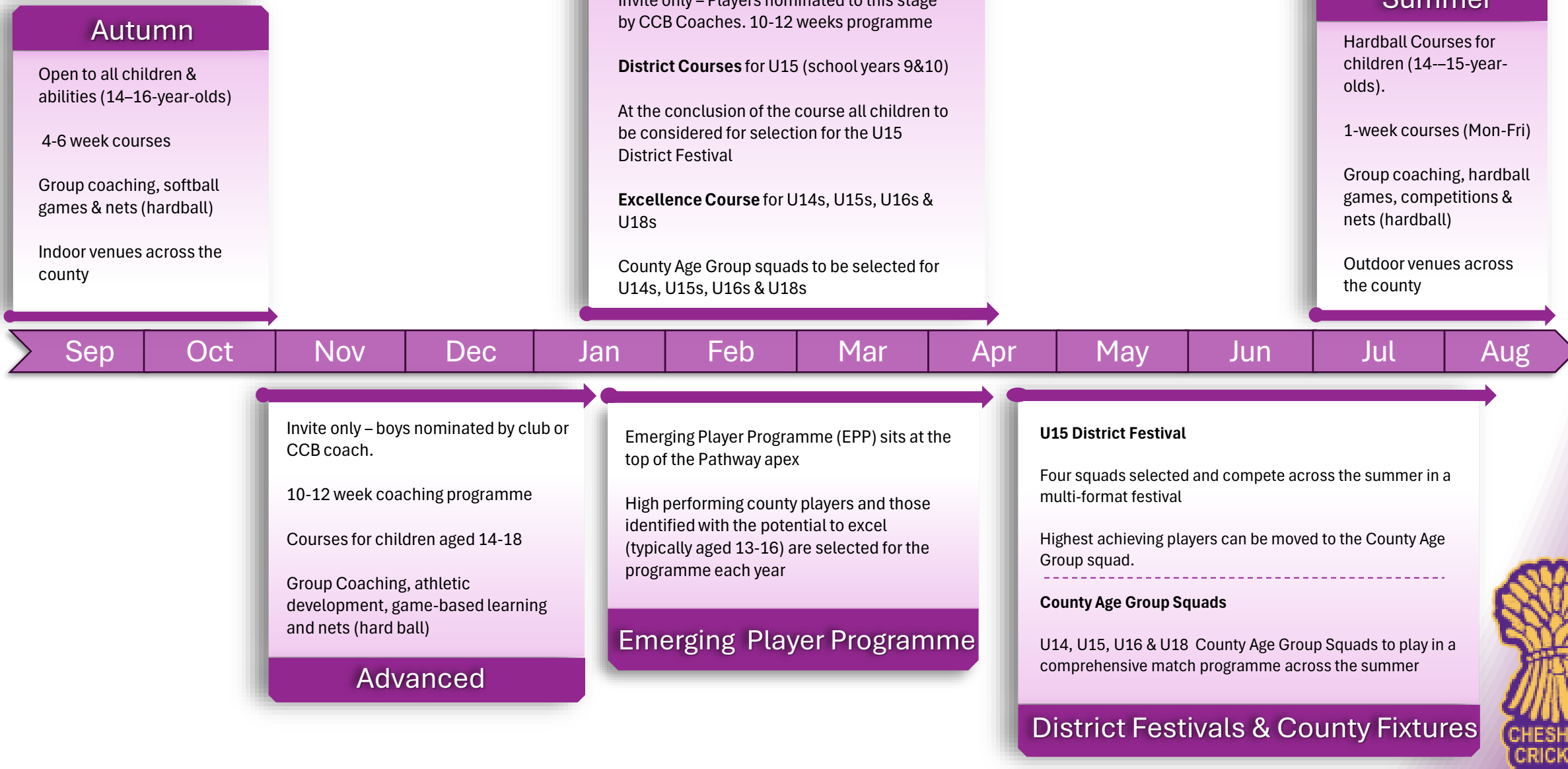


Pathway Schedule (8-13 year olds)





Pathway Schedule (14-18 year olds)





Pathway Frameworks

ENJOYMENT

CREATIVITY

SKILFUL

RESILIENCE

ADAPTABLE

RESPECT

DETERMINATION

ACCOUNTABLE

EMBRACE & BUILD

Embracing fun &
excitement in the
game



U8 - U13

PROGRESS

Understanding your
game



U14 - U18
EPP & Academies

KNOW

Know your game



National County &
Professional Cricket

An accessible and player-centred Talent Pathway that enables every child in Cheshire to play to their full potential and develop a lifelong love of the game





EMBRACE & BUILD FRAMEWORK (U8 –U13)

	TECHNICAL	TACTICAL	MENTAL	PHYSICAL
BATTING	- BALANCED SET UP - ATTACK & DEFEND - EXECUTE SHOTS WITH VERTICAL & HORIZONTAL BAT	- WHEN TO ATTACK & DEFEND - SCORING OPTIONS, HITTING GAPS & BOUNDARY HITTING	- MANAGING FOCUS - DECISION MAKING - RESILIENCE	- AWARENESS OF S&C TO IMPROVE BATTING - EFFECTIVE RUNNING BETWEEN THE WICKETS
SEAM BOWLING	- GRIP & WRIST POSITION - SAFE & REPEATABLE ACTION - HEAD REMAINS LEVEL THROUGH ACTION	- FIELD SETTING - AWARENESS OF BATTERS STENGTHS & WEAKNESSES - SEAM AND SWING	- GOOD DECISION MAKING - RESILIENCE - POSITIVE MINDSET	- ABILITY TO JUMP AND LAND - BASIC RUNNING TECHNIQUE - CORE STRENGTH
SPIN BOWLING	- GENERATE SPIN - SAFE & REPEATABLE ACTION - STABLE BASE	- FIELD SETTING - AWARENESS OF BATTERS STENGTHS & WEAKNESSES - TYPES OF SPIN	- BOWL TO A PLAN - GOOD DECISIONS - RESILIENCE - POSITIVE MINDSET	- CORE STRENGTH - AWARENESS OF S&C TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE
FIELDING	- STABLE BASE & COORDINATED HANDS (CATCH) - ATTACK, INTERCEPT & THROW	- READ & ANTICIPATE BATTERS - ATTACK THE BALL & APPLY PRESSURE	- COMMITMENT - MANAGING FOCUS - WANT TO TAKE WICKETS	- SPEED - AGILITY - RUNNING, CHANGE OF DIRECTION, DIVING
WICKETKEEPING	- BIG CATCHING AREA - POSTURE IN SET UP - HANDS & FEET WORK TOGETHER	- STARTING POSITIONS STOOD UP & BACK - SUPPORTS CAPTAIN & BOWLER - ENERGY/ENTHUSIASM	- RESILIENCE - MANAGING FOCUS - RECOVER FROM MISTAKES	- STRENGTH, FLEXIBILITY - FOOTWORK PATTERNS - AWARENESS OF S&C.

Access CCB's detailed framework here:



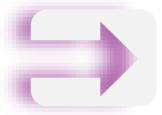


PROGRESS FRAMEWORK (U14-U18, EPP & ACADEMY)

	TECHNICAL	TACTICAL	MENTAL	PHYSICAL
BATTING	• HEAD IN OPTIMAL POSITION • CONTROL BATPATH • BALANCE IN ATTACKING SHOTS • SCORE AGAINST SPIN – SWEEP &/OR USE FEET • DEFEND SHORT BALL	• TEMPO OF INNINGS • CAN CREATE ANGLES AND USE CREASE • UNDERSTAND BOWLER WEAKNESSES • MANIPULATE THE FIELD	• MANAGING FOCUS • RESILIENCE • SURVIVE AND THRIVE VS SHORT BOWLING • GOOD DECISION MAKING • POSITIVE MINDSET	• ENDURANCE • STRENGTH • SPEED • AWARENESS OF S&C
SEAM BOWLING	• STRONG BASE & CORE TO SUPPORT TALL ACTION • CONTROL STOCK BALL & VARIATIONS • DEVELOPED SEAM POSITION	• FIELD CHANGES • ABILITY TO ASSESS CONDITIONS & SURFACES • UNDERSTAND BATTERS STRENGTH & WEAKNESS	• BODY LANGUAGE • RESILIENCE • GOOD DECISION MAKING	• STRENGTH/ POWER • SPEED • ENDURANCE • AWARENESS OF S&C
SPIN BOWLING	• GRIPS & PRESENTS GOOD SEAM • BODY PARTS ALIGNED TO TARGET	• FIELD CHANGES • KNOWLEDGE OF PACE & DIFFERENT PITCHES/CONDITIONS • BATTERS STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES	• BODY LANGUAGE • RESILIENCE • GOOD DECISION MAKING	• STRENGTH/FLEXIBILITY • ENDURANCE • REPEATABILITY • AWARENESS OF S&C
FIELDING	• GOOD POSTURE & DYNAMIC BALANCE FOR CATCHING • POWER & WEIGHT TRANSFER WHEN THROWING • DIVING & STOPPING	• ABILITY TO READ THE GAME • CAN IMPACT THE GAME POSITIVELY BY SUPPORTING CAPTAIN & BOWLER	• MANAGING FOCUS FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME • 'WANT THE BALL' ATTITUDE • RECOVER FROM MISTAKES • COMMITMENT • LEADERSHIP	• POWER • DIVING & THROWING RANGE • SPEED • MAINTAIN PERFORMANCE UNDER FATIGUE
WICKETKEEPING	• GOOD POSTURE IN SET UP & MAINTAINED THROUGH CATCH • SAFE CATCHING • DYNAMIC MOVEMENTS	• PREFERRED STARTING POSITIONS FOR BOWLER/ SURFACE/BATTER. • ANTICIPATION	• MANAGING FOCUS FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME • PRE DELIVERY ROUTINE • RESILIENCE	• QUICK FEET & GOOD LATERAL MOEVEMENTS • FAST HANDS • ENDURANCE

Access CCB's detailed framework here:





Talent Identification

Cheshire Cricket has an excellent record of developing talented individuals and teams, nurturing players who have gone on to achieve success at every level of the game. We're proud of our accessible pathway, ensuring every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential regardless of any barriers they may find in their way. With a wide talent pool and multiple entry points into the pathway, we provide opportunities for players of all abilities to develop and progress within a supportive and inclusive environment.

Development Framework

Children are assessed against our Development Framework by our team of experienced coaches. We take a holistic approach to coaching each child, observing their technical, tactical, mental and physical attributes.

Relative Age Effect & Physical Attributes

Coaches are aware of the relative age effect and will acknowledge which quarter of the year a child was born. We take this into consideration with all selections and make decisions based on future potential at that point in time. We also observe a child's physical data and general movement patterns. Players are monitored by CCB's Strength & Conditioning lead periodically.

Many Eyes – Many Times

Cheshire Cricket run a 30-week coaching programme staffed by experienced full-time level 2,3 & 4 coaches. We value each others' views and feedback on children we coach and decisions are made from observations made over a long period of time rather than a one-off viewing.

Work Ethic & Attitude

We are looking for children with a growth mindset and a willingness to learn and improve. We also take into consideration a child's attitude towards their own game, peers and coaches.

Match Play

We observe players during our district and representative fixtures during the summer. For the older juniors we will observe performances within senior club cricket.





Selection Policy Overview

Selection Policy

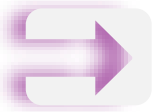
Our Pathway is designed to help young players enjoy, develop and fulfil their cricketing potential, whether that leads to county, regional, or even professional opportunities. Our selection process is intended to be clear, fair, and supportive, ensuring that every player feels valued throughout their journey. This policy explains how selection decisions are made and the qualities we consider when choosing junior representative teams.

Eligibility

CCB follows the ECB's eligibility rules for junior representative cricket. To be considered for selection, players will normally need a clear Cheshire link — such as living in the county, being born here, attending a Cheshire school, playing for a local club, or having represented Cheshire in the previous season. These criteria help ensure our teams reflect the county's cricket community and network. In exceptional cases, and only within ECB regulations, players without one of these links may still be considered with the appropriate approval.

Cheshire Cricket Board's Full Selection policy can be viewed [HERE](#)





Professional Cricketers from our Player Pathway



George Balderson

England U19s,
Lancashire

"My time with Cheshire was not only the most enjoyable of my childhood but also fundamental in helping me to become the cricketer I am today. The lessons I learnt about teamwork, leadership and all-round cricketing skills at a young age were essential. I can only say thank you to the coaches who helped me at a young age to get to where I am today"



Chris Edwards

England LD Captain
CCB Coach

"Cheshire Cricket helped shape my game to become the player I am today. I learnt to believe in myself and that handwork, effort and determination pays off. Enjoy your cricket and embrace everything you learn on the courses"



Sophie Ecclestone

England, Lancashire,
Manchester Originals

"Playing club and county cricket in Cheshire played a huge part in my development and really sparked my love for the game"





Professional Cricketers from our Player Pathway



Joe Moores

England U19s & Lions,
Lancashire



Charlie Barnard

England U19s,
Lancashire



Rob Jones

England U19s, Lancashire,
Worcestershire



Archie Vaughan

England U19s,
Somerset



Tilly Kesteven

Lancashire



Ben Gibbon

Worcestershire





Disability Pathway

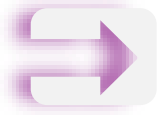


Cricket is a game for everyone. If you have a child with a disability, please get in touch to discuss the opportunities within our club, community and Talent Pathways.

CCB Disability Manager Owen Williamson:
owen.williamson@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk

CCB Disability Coach Chris Edwards:
chris.edwards@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk





Safeguarding



Cheshire Cricket Board is committed to ensuring that all children, young people (aged under 18) and adults who may be at risk involved with cricket in Cheshire have a safe, welcoming and positive experience. We comply with **England Cricket Board's (ECB) Safe Hands Policy** which promotes good practice, helps raise awareness and ensures people know what to do if they have any concerns about children or the behaviour of adults in cricket.



Julie Rafferty

County Safeguarding Officer
Julie.Rafferty@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk

More information
about safeguarding in
cricket can be found
on our website:

