

ENTRY PROCESS FOR BERKSHIRE WOMEN'S TALENT PATHWAY



2025/2026

BERKSHIRE CRICKET

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WOMEN'S TALENT PATHWAY

QUICK ACCESS LINKS

[About Us](#)

[Staffing](#)

[Pathway Structure](#)

[U10-U12 Cricket](#)

[U13-U18 Cricket](#)



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WOMEN'S TALENT PATHWAY

ABOUT US

The Berkshire Women's Talent Pathway is responsible for identifying and developing home grown cricketers to play for Berkshire and beyond. We believe that the learning and development of core fundamentals underpins the foundations from which a young player can progress. Across our pathway, we seek to prepare players for the next level of cricket and help players develop a lifelong love of the game.

Berkshire Cricket has a rich history within the Women's game. Until the formation of the Regional Domestic Structure, Berkshire Women spent most of their time competing in Division 1 of the Women's County Championship. A host of international players have also represented Berkshire including former England Captain Heather Knight, Anya Shrubsole, Isa Guha and Claire Taylor.

The talent pathway also has a strong history of producing players that go on to play regional and international cricket including

- Lauren Bell (England & Hampshire)
- Mia Rogers (Durham)
- Alice Macleod (Essex)
- Ava Lee (Hampshire)
- Poppy Tulloch (Hampshire)

We also contribute a significant number of players that form part of the Southern Vipers Academy & Emerging Player Programmes. In 2024/25, we currently have 3 players on the Academy making up 25% of the group, along with 8 EPP players again making up 25% of this year's cohort.

WOMEN'S TALENT PATHWAY

FULLTIME STAFF

Women's Talent Pathway Lead

Tom Jackson

Responsible for our High
Performing/Potential - County
Cricket Programmes.

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Women's Development Phase Lead

Verity Johnson

Responsible for our Developing Talent -
Early Engagement/District
Programmes.

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WOMEN'S TALENT PATHWAY

PATHWAY STRUCTURE



Female Pathway Programme Overview Jan 2026-Sept 2026

U10 U11 U12 U13 U14 U15 U16 U17 U18

Regional Cricket (Hampshire/Vipers)

Extra Provision Group

U14
Performance
Squad

U16
Performance
Squad

U18
Performance
Squad

Women's
1st XI
Squad

MCC U14 Performance Hub

MCC U16 Performance Hub

A free to access Winter Training Programme to support state educated players to progress from Developing Talent to High Performing phase & providing supplementary support for those with CAG programmes (partnership with MCC Foundation)

Early
Engagement
Programme

U14 East Berks

U16 East Berks

U14 West Berks

U16 West Berks

MCC U14 Development Hub

MCC U16 Development Hub

A free to access Winter Training Programme to support state educated players progress from Club Cricket to the Developing Talent phase (partnership with MCC Foundation)

Club Cricket

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High
Performing/
potential
(County Cricket)

Developing
Talent
(District Cricket)

U10-U12 CRICKET

ECB TALENT PATHWAY ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES

As part of the ECB's Talent Pathway Action Plan, this winter will see all counties introduce an Early Engagement Programme (EEP) for U10-U12s. This will replace the county programme that had previously been run at this age group. The aim is to create more and fairer access and opportunities for children.

The Early Engagement Programme will:

- Broaden the talent base and increase the connection between the recreational game and the Talent Pathway
- Increase diversity within our Talent Pathways
- Double the number of players at base of the Pathway
- Build foundational competencies to enable players to perform to their maximum capability over time.
- Inspire players to commit to a lifelong engagement in cricket

*ECB Talent Pathway Action Plan 2024

BERKSHIRE CRICKET – WOMEN'S TALENT PATHWAY EEP OBJECTIVES

- Deliver a programme that provide the flexibility to make it accessible to as many girls as possible by delivering programmes out of local centres and across a range of days/times during the week.
- Create a 'scouting'/entry process into the EEP that attracts players from a diverse range of cricketing backgrounds.
- Support player development with the fundamental skills required to progress in their cricketing journey. Whether this be back to the club/school environment or continuing into the County Age Group programme.
- Provide a fun and engaging programme that promotes a lifelong love of the game.
- Increase the size of the Early Engagement Programme year on year.

Please note: Berkshire's Early Engagement Programme formally starts in January 2026, running till September 2026.

U10-U12 CRICKET

AUTUMN OPPORTUNITIES

1) Autumn Development Programme - Oct/Nov - **OPTIONAL**

Berkshire will deliver a 6 Week Open to All Training programme designed to support players in the U10-U12 age groups develop foundational competencies and love for the game. This will be used to monitor cricketers to identify those that may benefit from being invited to be part of a Performance EEP group in January. Players from this programme will then be signposted to the EEP sessions starting in January. There will be 4 sessions based across the county at a broad range of days/times. Open to players who are already playing some form of hardball cricket or who aspire to progress to hardball cricket.

2) EEP Observation Sessions – Dec - **Free & Open to All**

Berkshire will also deliver 2x observation sessions free of charge for those who choose not to/missed the opportunity to attend the Autumn Development Programme. Here players will be observed and then signposted to EEP with some players being sign posted to a 'Performance' EEP centre.

To register interest in either the Autumn Development Programme or EEP Observation Sessions, please follow the link below.

SIGN UP →

[Register Interest Here](#)

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

As part of our U10-12 programme we are looking for girls who display high levels of athleticism that may have transferable skills for cricket or already show a flair for the game. We are looking for players who may be able to bowl quick/turn the ball, strike the ball hard and are keen to progress.



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WINTER OPPORTUNITIES (JAN ONWARDS)

The Early Engagement Programme will formally start at this point. All players involved in the programme will be entitled to attend a winter training programme followed up summer matchplay opportunities.

We plan to run the following sessions:

Centre 1: West Based – Weekday Evening

Centre 2: East Based – Weekday Evening

Centre 3: Central Based – Saturday Morning

Centre 4: 'Performance Centre' – Sunday Morning (Invite-only)

Centre 5: Central Based – Sunday Morning (Depending on Sign Up Numbers)

Details of these sessions will be made available later in the year.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES (APRIL ONWARDS)

All those that participated in the EEP during the winter will be invited to participate in summer match play opportunities.

3 Types of Matchplay Opportunities:

- 1) Evening School Term Matches – There would be a designated evening for games with the focus of increasing the confidence of players in match play environments.
- 2) Festival Days – These days we would have large numbers of players in attendance and would involve shorter, constraint led games. It would also provide some more holistic development opportunities. Spread across Easter, May HT & Summer Holidays.
- 3) Ability/Stage of Development Based Games – Here players would be selected based on age/stage of development to provide playing opportunities against players of similar ability. Summer Holidays

U10-U12 CRICKET

EARLY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME STRUCTURE



Female Pathway Early Engagement Programme U10-U12

Entry Routes

FREE
EEP
Observations

PAID
Autumn
Development
Programme

FREE
School
Festivals

FREE
Urban
Cricket



PAID
Winter

EEP West
24 Players

EEP Central 1
24 Players

EEP Central 2
24 Players

EEP East
24 Players

PAID
Summer

All EEPs - Summer Matchplay Programme

Winter (January-March)
Summer (April-August)

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U13-U18 CRICKET

CHANGES FROM OCT 2025

2025/26 will see Berkshire Cricket expand our Women's Talent Pathway to involve two tiers of cricket.

Tier 1 – High Performing/Potential ie. County Age Group Cricket;

Tier 2 – Developing Talent ie. District Cricket.

Both tiers will run a year-round programme for both state & privately educated cricketers. These changes will allow us to keep our Talent Pathway broader for longer, making it easier for late developers to reach our County Age Group (CAG) programme as well as giving those that may miss out on our CAG programmes a route back to regain their place.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

For our Autumn Development Programme/Observations Sessions, we are looking for girls who play hardball cricket at club or school, show a flair for the game, have a desire to learn and want to take their cricket further. These characteristics are what we would be looking for when selecting for our District Cricket programme.

We will also be observing players within the two entry points for selection onto a County Age Group Squad in January 2026. Here we would be looking for the following types of players dependent on age group:

U13/U14 Cricketers - looking for girls who are committed to cricket, excelling within their respective teams and keen to progress further. We are looking for players who set an example within their club/school environment in both performance and attitude.

U15/16 Cricketers - Players should be performing at a level above their peers or have potential to perform at the next level up.

U17/18 Cricketers - Players should be playing competitive senior club cricket and have the potential to play for Berkshire Women's 1st XI or above.

U13-U18 CRICKET

ENTRY OPTIONS

(For those not currently part of a CAG squad)

OPTION 1 – OPTIONAL PAID FOR

Berkshire Cricket will be running an Open Access – 6 Week Autumn Development Programme in Oct/Nov. We plan to run each week 3x U13/U14/U15 sessions, including a Slough based venue along with 1x U16/U17/U18 session. The programme will seek to upskill players with a secondary focus of identifying players for programmes in January.

Please Note, players will not be required to attend a trial to access the Autumn Development Programme like in previous years. The programme is aimed at players who play hardball cricket and have a desire to take their cricket further.

OPTION 2 – FREE & OPEN TO ALL

For those who do not attend the Autumn Development Programme we will be offering a 2nd route into the formal part of our Talent Pathway starting in January.

We will run 2x Observation Sessions (free of charge) in December. These will seek to identify players for programmes in January.

To register interest in either the Autumn Development Programme or Observation Sessions, please follow the link below.

SIGN UP →

[Register Interest Here](#)

U13-U18 CRICKET

U13/U14 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE



Female Pathway U13/U14 Programme

White arrows indicate entry options for players that were not involved in Summer 2025 County Programmes

OPTION 1



Autumn

OPTIONAL

U14
Performance
Squad

Approx 20 Players

OPTIONAL

U13/14/(15) Development Programme
(Split across 3 Sessions - including a Slough based venue)

Approx 55 Players
(exc. 15 for U15 players)

OPTION 2

Open Trial



Selection Opportunity - Ahead of Winter Programme

Winter

U14 CAG Squad

Approx 20 Players

U14 MCC Hub
Performance -
State School
Top Up

U14 East
Berks Squad

Approx 16 Players

U14 MCC Hub
East - State
School Top Up

U14 West
Berks Squad

Approx 16 Players

U14 MCC Hub
West - State
School Top Up

April - Internal Matchplay Programme

Summer

Selection Opportunity - Ahead of Summer Matchplay Programme

U13 & U14 CAG
Squad External
Matchplay



U14 East Berks v West Berks Squad
Matchplay Programme

Option 1 - Available for anyone who wish to attend our optional Autumn Development Programme that have not been involved in the County Age Group in Summer 2025. This will be a 6 week paid for programme to upskill players with a secondary focus of identifying players for programmes in January. There is no trial to access this programme.

Option 2 - For those who do not wish to attend the Autumn Development Programme, we will be offering Open Trial opportunities in December for players we have not seen as a 2nd entry option. These will be run free of charge

*Autumn (September-December)
Winter (January-March)
Summer (April-August)

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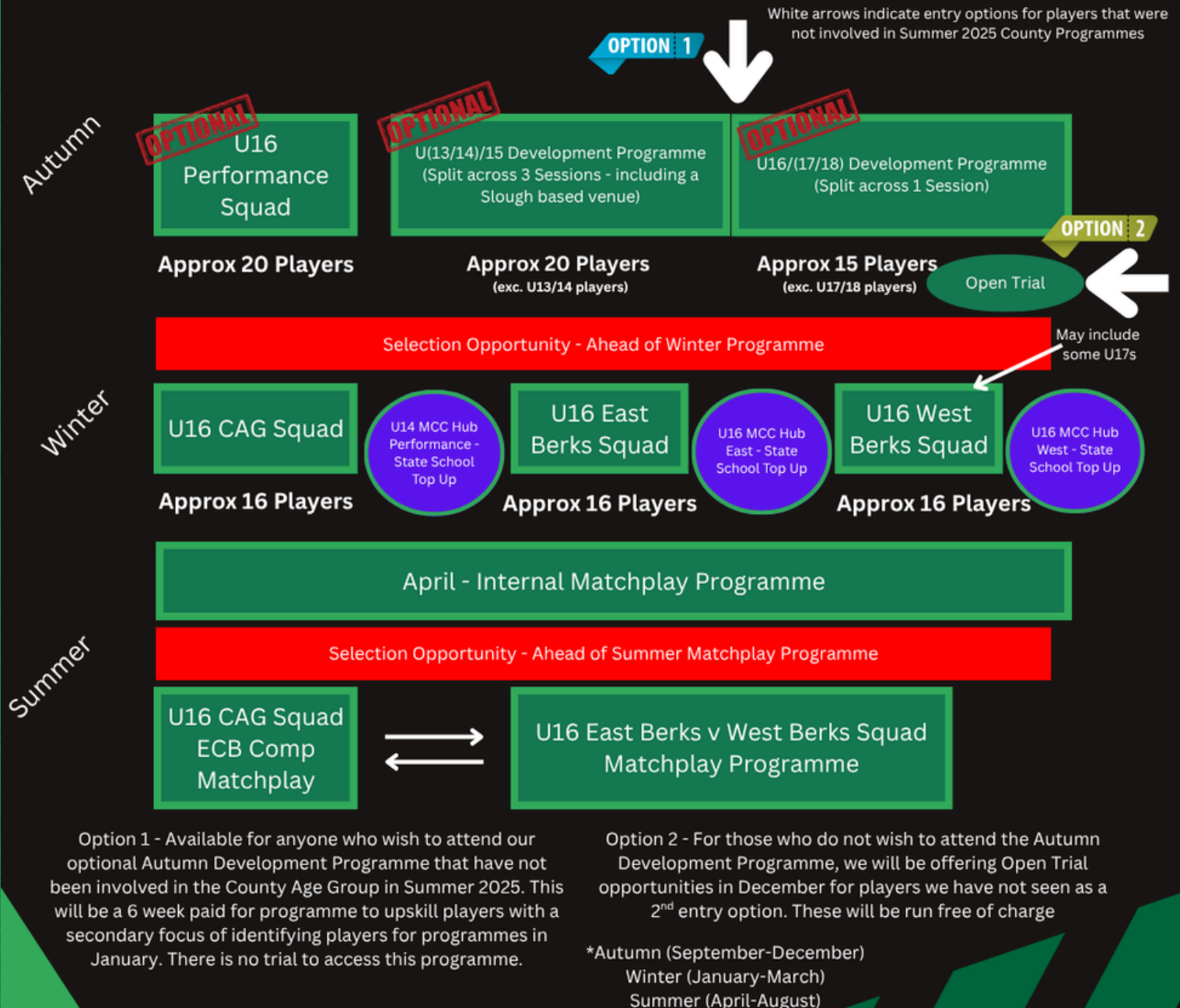
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U13-U18 CRICKET

U16 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE



Female Pathway U15/16 Programme



U13-U18 CRICKET

U18 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE



Female Pathway U17/18 Programme

White arrows indicate entry options for players that were not involved in Summer 2025 County Programmes

OPTION 1



Autumn

OPTIONAL

U18
Performance
Squad

Approx 20 Players

OPTIONAL

U(16)/17/18 Development Programme
(Split across 1 Session)

Approx 10 Players
(exc. U16 players)

OPTION 2

Open Trial



Selection Opportunity - Ahead of Winter Programme

Winter

U18 CAG Squad

Approx 16 Players

Some U17s may be invited
to participate in U16
District Programme

Summer

U18 CAG Squad
ECB Comp
Matchplay

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Winter (January-March)
Summer (April-August)

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U13-U18 CRICKET

SELECTION PROCESS

1 – SELECTION OPPORTUNITY – AHEAD OF WINTER

- This selection will be the main selection opportunity during the winter and will take place in December.
- The selection will take into consideration observations from Autumn Development Programme and Open Trials as well as observations from Performance Squad sessions (Autumn) for those that had previously been part of our CAG programme in the summer of 2025.
- At this point we will make an initial selection for the 2026 County Age Group squads for U13/14, U16 & U18. Players in CAG squads will also be assigned to a squad as part of our District Cricket programme.
- Players that are not selected for a CAG squad may be offered a place on our District Cricket programme (age dependent). Players selected here that are state educated will also be signposted to free MCC Hub top up sessions.
- Any player not selected on our District Cricket programme would then be signposted back to club/school cricket.

2 – SELECTION OPPORTUNITY – AHEAD OF SUMMER

- Coaches will review the squad selections based off observations from the Jan-Mar winter training programme as well as the April – Internal Matchplay Programme.
- At this point players may be re-assigned to a different squad going into the summer.

*Movement between the County Age Group matchplay programme and District Cricket matchplay programme will remain fluid throughout the season to provide appropriate playing opportunities. CAG Cricketers will be expected to participate in the District cricket programme.

