



# COUNTY EMERGING PLAYER PROGRAMME (“EPP”) REGULATIONS

## INTRODUCTION

These Regulations set out the eligibility criteria, registration and player movement provisions relating to EPP Players. Each FCC and CCB responsible for delivering a County EPP Programme, including Cricket East, (each a “**County**”) has an obligation to promote, protect and support the individual wellbeing of each player on its County Emerging Player Programme, in accordance with its duty of care to players and the requirements of the FCC County Partnership Agreement or CCB County Partnership Agreement (as applicable). This will involve considering each EPP Player’s personal and developmental needs. Each County must also ensure that, where an EPP Player is under the age of 18, the EPP Player’s parent/carer is provided with appropriate information and gives consent to all necessary decisions and/or documents in respect of the EPP Player’s participation in the County Emerging Player Programme. Where any of these Regulations require an EPP Player to take some action (for example, give notice to a County), that action can be performed by the EPP Player’s parent/carer on their behalf where the player is under 18 years old. Any approach or notice by a County to an EPP Player that is under the age of 18 must be made or given (as appropriate) to the parent/carer of the player.

## DEFINITIONS

In these County EPP Regulations (the “**Regulations**”), unless otherwise specified, defined terms shall have the same meanings as defined in the FCC Registration Regulations (as defined below).

“**Academy Player**” means a cricketer who is registered with an FCC Academy Programme.

“**Boys’ CAG Programme**” means the training and competition programme at the first stage of the Men’s County Talent Pathway Programme, for boys aged under 13 to under 18 years, to provide training and competition in order to test and develop skills under pressure as well as the additional training and competition programme that certain Counties may run for cricketers in under 10, under 11 and under 12 age categories.

“**CCB**” means County Cricket Board.

“**CCB County Partnership Agreement**” means the funding agreement between each CCB and the ECB.

“**County Emerging Player Programme**” means the programme of support to players aged under 13 to under 18 years to develop basic foundations of future performance through an individualised programme of development.

“**Current County**” means the County an EPP Player is currently registered with.

“**ECB Young Player (Academy and EPP) Personal Data Acknowledgements and Consents Form**” means the



form of this name published by the ECB as amended from time to time.

**“EPP Player”** means a cricketer who is registered, or is seeking registration, with a County Emerging Player Programme.

**“FCC”** means First-Class County Cricket Club.

**“FCC Academy Programme”** means the programme of support delivered by FCCs pursuant to the FCC’s County Partnership Agreement to develop robust foundations of future performance through an intensive and individualised programme of development.

**“FCC County Partnership Agreement”** means the funding agreement between each FCC and the ECB.

**“FCC Registration Regulations”** means the Regulations Governing the Qualification and Registration of Cricketers, as amended and/or succeeded and in force from time to time.

**“International Match”** has the meaning given to it in the International Cricket Council Player Eligibility Regulations.

**“Men’s County Talent Pathway Programme”** means collectively the Boys’ CAG Programme, the County Emerging Player Programme and the FCC Academy Programme. The Men’s County Talent Pathway Programme and any matches played as part of the Men’s County Talent Pathway Programme are open gender.

**“Player Spreadsheet”** means the player data spreadsheet in the standard form specified by the ECB as amended from time to time.

**“Talent Pathway Lead”** means the person employed by the county to lead and be responsible for the Men’s County Talent Pathway Programme.

## **1 ELIGIBILITY**

- 1.1 In order to be registered as an EPP Player a cricketer must be aged between 12 and 17 (inclusive) at midnight on the 31 August immediately prior to the EPP Player’s registration.
- 1.2 The provisions of the ECB Trans Playing Policy will apply to these Regulations and the County Emerging Player Programme is classified as open gender.

## **2. REGISTRATION PROCESS**

- 2.1 Each County may register an unlimited number of EPP Players for the period from 1 November to 31 October in accordance with these Regulations.
- 2.2 By 1 November in each year (or an alternative date specified by the ECB), Counties must submit to the ECB a fully completed Player Spreadsheet. If a County wishes to register any additional EPP Players

after 1 November, it must submit an updated Player Spreadsheet.

- 2.3 Where a County seeks to register an EPP Player who has not previously been registered for their County Emerging Player Programme, the County must provide:
- (a) where requested by the ECB, evidence that the EPP Player meets the requirements of Regulation 1; and
  - (b) a copy of the cricketer's completed and signed ECB Young Player (Academy and EPP) Personal Data Acknowledgements and Consent Form.
- 2.4 Where a County seeks to register an EPP Player who has previously been registered for their County Emerging Player Programme, the County must provide such information as required by the ECB from time to time to evidence that the EPP Player still satisfies the requirements in Regulation 2.3.
- 2.5 For the avoidance of doubt, registration as an EPP Player does not permit the EPP Player to play in Competitive County Cricket. An EPP Player must be registered in accordance with the FCC Registration Regulations in order to play Competitive County Cricket.
- 2.6 The ECB has overriding discretion with respect to all registrations pursuant to these Regulations., Notwithstanding such discretion, the ECB will ordinarily refuse to grant an EPP Player's registration where:
- (a) a County is subject to any applicable player registration sanctions under any ECB Regulations; and/or
  - (b) the cricketer in question is subject to any suspension or period of ineligibility under any ECB or ICC Regulations or the Regulations of another ICC Member Country; and/or
  - (c) having given the relevant County and cricketer a reasonable opportunity to make representations, the ECB considers in its sole discretion that to grant such registration as an EPP Player will adversely affect (or is likely to adversely affect) the best interests, image or reputation of the County Emerging Player Programme, the ECB or cricket generally, including but not limited to where the cricketer in question is the subject of any allegations, investigations or charges by the ECB, ICC, another ICC Member Country, police or other law enforcement body relating to any doping, corruption, other criminal offence or any other serious misconduct.

### **3. TERMINATION OF REGISTRATION**

- 3.1 The registration of an EPP Player pursuant to these Regulations may be terminated as follows:
- 3.1.1 At any time, by the EPP Player providing written notice to the County. In such circumstances, the EPP Player's registration with their Current County will terminate immediately after 28



days (unless an earlier date is agreed between the EPP Player and the Current County).

The County must notify the ECB when the EPP Player's registration has terminated.

3.1.2 At any time, by the County providing written notice to the EPP Player and to the ECB. In such circumstances, the EPP Player's registration with their Current County will terminate immediately (or on an alternative later date agreed between the County and the EPP Player).

3.1.3 By the ECB if:

- (a) the ECB is satisfied, in its sole discretion, that the EPP Player does not meet the eligibility criteria in Regulation 1; and/or
- (b) the ECB considers, in its sole discretion and having given the relevant County and EPP Player a reasonable opportunity to make representations, that such termination would be in the best interests of the County Emerging Player Programme, the ECB or cricket generally including but not limited to where the EPP Player in question is the subject of any allegations, investigations or charges by the ECB, ICC, another ICC Member Country, police or other law enforcement body relating to any doping, corruption or criminal offence or any other serious misconduct; and/or
- (c) it is necessary to give effect to a decision of the CDC or any other tribunal or panel appointed under any ECB or ICC Regulations or the Regulations of another ICC Member Country (as applicable).

In such circumstances, the EPP Player's registration with their Current County will terminate immediately (unless the ECB agrees a later date with the EPP Player and Current County).

3.1.4. They become registered as an Academy Player, in which case their registration as an EPP Player with their Current County will terminate immediately.

3.2 If the County and EPP Player reach an agreement that the EPP Player will stay at the Current County within the 28-day period (or less, as applicable) referred to in Regulation 3.1.1, the EPP Player will be deemed to have withdrawn the termination notice issued in accordance with Regulation 3.1.1.

3.3 An EPP Player's registration with a County pursuant to these Regulations will expire on 31 October unless it is terminated earlier in accordance with Regulation 3.1.

3.4 Once an EPP Player's registration with a County has been terminated in accordance with this Regulation 3, that EPP Player shall be entitled to register with another County.

#### **4 PLAYER MOVEMENT AND APPROACHES**

4.1 An EPP Player can only be registered with one County pursuant to these Regulations at any one time



for participation in any part of the Men's County Talent Pathway Programme.

- 4.2 A County must not approach, enter into or otherwise be involved in discussions with, any registered EPP Player (or any person acting on an EPP Player's behalf) who is registered with another County, with a view to offering them a trial, registering them, or engaging them in any capacity save as permitted by Regulation 4.3.
- 4.3 An EPP Player (or any person acting on an EPP Player's behalf) who is registered with a County may approach, enter into or otherwise be involved in discussions with another County with a view to that County offering them a trial, registering them, or engaging them in any capacity only where:
  - 4.3.1 the EPP Player has first notified their Current County of their intention to approach another County. In this circumstance the EPP Player may make an approach to another County and that County may enter into discussions, but must not make the initial approach;
  - 4.3.2 the EPP Player or their Current County has provided a termination notice in accordance with Regulations 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 (as applicable); or
  - 4.3.3 the Current County has provided notice in accordance with Regulation 4.5.
- 4.4 If a County wishes to approach any player it must check the registration status of the player with the ECB (and previous County the player was registered with, if known) and ensure that they comply with Regulation 4.2. For the avoidance of doubt, any approach to a player under the age of 18 permitted under this Regulation 4 must be made to the parent/carer of the player.
- 4.5 A County must give notice to an EPP Player if it does not wish to renew their registration for the following season. Such notification must be given by 15 October (or an alternative date specified by the ECB).

## **5. DISPUTES**

Any unresolved dispute as to the interpretation or implementation of these Regulations shall be referred to the ECB for a decision. Such decision, subject to Regulation 7, shall be final and binding on the parties to the dispute.

## **6. NOTICES**

- 6.1 Any notice given to a County by or on behalf of an EPP Player or by the ECB under these Regulations must be sent by post to the registered address of the County, addressed to the Talent Pathway Lead of the County, or by email to the email address of the Talent Pathway Lead of the County. Any notice sent by post shall be deemed to be properly served 2 days after the date the notice was posted and any notice sent by email shall be deemed to be properly served on the day the email is sent, provided

it is sent before 4:30pm, or the next day if it was sent after 4.30pm.

- 6.2 Any notice given to an EPP Player by a County under these Regulations must be sent by post to the last known address of the EPP Player (and their parent/carer if they are under the age of 18) or by email to the last known email address of the EPP Player (and their parent/carer if they are under the age of 18). Any notice sent by post shall be deemed to be properly served from the date 2 days after posting the notice any notice sent by email shall be deemed properly served on the day the email is sent, provided it is sent before 4:30pm, or the next day if it was sent after 4.30pm.

## 7. APPEALS

- 7.1 Appeals from parties directly affected by decisions of the ECB under these Regulations shall be made to an independent panel appointed to consider the appeal (the “**Appeal Panel**”). Any dispute as to whether a party is directly affected by a relevant decision of the ECB shall also be resolved by the Appeal Panel.
- 7.2 The Appeal Panel shall determine appeals in accordance with these Regulations and, where appropriate, the laws of England and Wales. However, the Appeal Panel will also pay due regard, to the extent permitted by law, to the fact that certain decisions are made in the exercise of the sole discretion of the ECB and that the ECB is the guardian of the game of cricket in England and Wales and is in a unique position to assess the best interests of the game.
- 7.3 Any party directly affected by a decision who wishes to appeal that decision must ensure a written notice of appeal complying with Regulation 7.4 below (a “**Notice of Appeal**”) is received by the ECB’s National Talent Manager within 14 days of the appealing party receiving the relevant decision. Failure to lodge a written Notice of Appeal complying with the requirements of Regulation 7.4 below will mean that the appeal is out of time and it will not be entertained by the Appeal Panel, unless the Appellant can demonstrate to the Appeal Panel that there were exceptional reasons justifying such failure.
- 7.4 The Notice of Appeal must state (i) the decision or part of the decision against which the appeal is made (ii), the grounds and basis of the appeal and, (iii) the nature of the remedy sought. The Notice of Appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of £100 which may be used to contribute towards any costs awarded against the appellant or returned to them in whole or in part after the appeal hearing at the discretion of the Appeal Panel.
- 7.5 As soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the Notice of Appeal, the ECB shall inform Sport Resolutions (UK) who shall appoint an Appeal Panel comprising three members (including a Chair).
- 7.6 The Chair of the Appeal Panel shall fix a date for the appeal hearing which shall normally be within 28 days of the lodging of the Notice of Appeal.
- 7.7 The Appeal Panel shall determine its own procedure, provided that this shall include the opportunity

for each party to present their/its case. The ECB will normally be represented as a party to any appeal against a decision of the ECB.

- 7.8 Decisions of the Appeal Panel shall be by majority vote and where necessary the Chair of the Appeal Panel shall have a casting vote.
- 7.9 Decisions of the Appeal Panel shall be communicated in writing to the parties as soon as possible after the hearing.
- 7.10 The Appeal Panel shall have unlimited power to award costs against either party. For the avoidance of any doubt, the payment of the £100 deposit should in no way be construed as a cap on the costs liability of any party which submits an appeal.
- 7.11 Any decisions made pursuant to these Regulations shall stand and be enforceable by the ECB pending determination of any appeal pursuant to this Regulation.
- 7.12 The decision of the Appeal Panel shall be final and binding on all parties to the appeal and there shall be no right of appeal of any kind by any party to any body whatsoever on any ground whatsoever, and/or the parties shall be deemed to have waived irrevocably any right to appeal, review or recourse to a court of law, arbitral body or any other body of any nature.