

Sussex Early Engagement Programme (EEP)

The introduction of the Early Engagement Programme (EEP) is our commitment made following the recent ICEC report to increase the diversity of the talent pathway, creating fairer access and opportunities for more children.

The Early Engagement Programme will:

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

The Early Engagement Programme will be positioned at U10 – U12, before the introduction of County Age Group (CAG) for girls at Under 13. It will also allow programmes to be run out of areas.

The programme will involve both winter practice and summer match – play elements and be shaped by the following guiding principles:

- Deliver programmes that allow girls, more opportunity and more fluidity
- Be localised, aiming to minimise travel and feature strategic policy aimed at reducing costs while providing appropriate support and assistance where it is needed most.
- Establish a national development framework which is used to shape delivery.
- Appropriately integrate each element of the Talent Pathway, including non-traditional cricket environments and programmes (such as soft ball, tape ball)
- An emphasis on all players receiving quality match-play experience

U10s Early Engagement

The U10s will be run out of two areas, North/West and South/East, this is because we are aware numbers are currently low at this age group, so we will do two combined areas and the following year, with numbers hopefully going up will go to three or four areas.

We will look to have 20 in each area so a total of 40 girls in the Early Engagement Programme at U10s. They will all practice and play soft ball cricket, this will allow and girls new into cricket an opportunity to decide if this is something they want to continue to do before adding more cost onto families by buying hard ball equipment.

If a girl has good movement skills, good hand eye co-ordination and played a little bit of cricket please do nominate them. U10s is our entry level and during the winter, all girls will be given the opportunity to bat, wicket keep, bowl spin, swing bowl. This is because we want the girls not to specialise in one area of cricket and give them the opportunity to try something that they may enjoy or be good at.

In the summer they will play matches against one another, in different formats, including 6-a-side, 8-side, 10 a-side, pairs, tape ball, hundred ball etc.

U11s Early Engagement

The U11s will be run out of three areas, West, Central and East and the girls will attend the area that is closest to them or has the best access for them.

They will play hard ball, but at assessments it will all be soft ball, so no hard ball experience is required at this age group.

We will be looking for 16 – 20 girls to train in each area.

During the winter they will start of doing drills with soft ball, which will be done pre-Christmas and then in the new year they will start training with hard ball.

In the summer they will play matches against each area, playing different formats, such as pairs, hundred ball, T20 etc. All the games will be hard ball.

U12s Early Engagement

The U12s will also be run out of three areas, West, Central and East and the girls will attend the area that is closest to them or has the best access for them.

They will play hard ball, and the assessments will be a mixture of soft ball and hard ball, depending upon the experience.

We will be looking for 16 – 20 girls to train in each area.

During the winter they will start of doing drills with soft ball, which will be done pre-Christmas and then in the new year they will start training with hard ball.

In the summer they will play matches against each area, playing different formats, such as pairs, hundred ball, T20 etc. All the games will be hard ball.