



## DEVELOPMENTAL SELECTION POLICY

This policy demonstrates Exe Hockey Club's commitment to the development of young players as they are the future of our club and of hockey in general and that the club will always act in the best interests of the individual.

The policy's aim is to ensure that our young members are given every opportunity to reach their full potential whatever level that may be (international, regional, county, social or otherwise). This policy states:

1. The club will take a long-term view of the development of all its young players in line with the principles of Long Term Athlete Development adopted within England Hockey's Player Pathway.
2. The club will enforce that a player must have reached the age of 13 to be eligible to play in adult only competition.
3. The club will enforce the England Hockey League (EHL) regulation stating that a player must have reached the age of 15 to be eligible to be registered to play in the EHL.
4. Young players will not be called upon to play in adult only competition until it is in the best interest of the young player. If an adult team is short and the only option is a young player who is not ready either physically, mentally or socially, then the adult team will play short.
5. The club will abide by England Hockey recommendations regarding player eligibility and competition rules.
6. The club will abide by the England Hockey's centralised calendar and the priority this provides to ensure that young players at each stage of their development are given the opportunity to play and train at the right level for them without being overplayed.
7. For young players eligible to be involved in adult teams, careful consideration will be given to ensure that the distance travelled is proportional to the likely pitch time for the young player. As a guide, it is suggested that players who will play less than half a game should not travel for longer than 60 minutes.
8. All selection will be made in line with the principles outlined in England Hockey's Code of Ethics & Behaviours, Safeguarding Young People & Equality Policies, all of which have been adopted by the club.
9. As much as practically possible, peer group teams will ensure that each member of the squad is given as equal as possible an amount of pitch time per match or per event to ensure every individual has the opportunity to develop. Winning is important but is a short term gain.

## **THE ENGLAND HOCKEY PLAYER PATHWAY**

The Player Pathway provides an environment that helps all junior players realise their potential, whether that means they are the best club player that they can be, seek a lifelong commitment to the game through coaching, or volunteering, or perhaps go on to represent England or Great Britain at junior or senior level.

The Player Pathway is made up of the following tiers:

Development Centres – provide a local entry point to the player pathway for U13s - U17s

Academy Centres – delivered in 49 counties, provide a high quality talent programme for identified players in U13 – U17 age groups

Performance Centres – are based across the country providing frequent, high quality training with the best coaches for U15 and U17 players

Futures Cup – supports player development within a high-intensity and pressurised best v best tournament environment

Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) - programme provides additional training and sport-related education for U17 players selected from Performance Centres

National Age Group Squads (NAGS) – are selected at U16 and U18 age groups for girls and boys. NAGS provides the first taste of international competition for our young players

U21/Development Programme – is an elite training environment for players who aim to transition into the senior programme and become world-leading players.

Please see the diagram on page 3.

Exe HC supports the delivery of the Player Pathway in Devon and will nominate any young players who have not been nominated through their school for assessment in the local Development Centres.

Full information can be found on the Devon website [www.devonjuniorhockey.org](http://www.devonjuniorhockey.org)

# CLUB

