

**Please read carefully as the nomination criteria has recently changed**

Registrations are now being accepted for the 2021 Development Centre (DC) programme for all age groups and in line with a recent England Hockey directive, **age group squads will now be determined by academic year**, and not by birth year.

The 2021 programme will commence in September with all sessions taking place on Friday evenings at a variety of venues across the county. Goalkeepers will receive specialist coaching from dedicated goalkeeper coaches and these sessions will all take place at Yateley Hockey Club, with a training schedule similar to that of outfield squads.

**Provisional Dates (boys)** - 17<sup>th</sup> **September** 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> **October** 12<sup>th</sup> **November**  
**Provisional Dates (girls)** - 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> **September** 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> **October** 5<sup>th</sup> **November**

**Age Group Banding** - Under 13 = September 2008 to August 2010 (Years 7 & 8)  
Under 14 = September 2007 to August 2008 (Year 9)  
Under 15 = September 2006 to August 2007 (Year 10)  
Under 16 = September 2005 to August 2006 (Year 11)  
Under 17 = September 2004 to August 2005 (Year 12)

The Development Centre programme is designed to improve and challenge core hockey skills at an individual and team level and exercises are delivered in game play situations. Sessions will be physically demanding, but no more than would be expected at a competitive school or club match.

The programme has two key objectives – to develop player ability, and to assess future potential. During the sessions players are assessed against England Hockey criteria and at the end of the programme, selections will be made and there will be a number of outcomes for each age group squad, with goalkeepers being assessed independently.

- Players who have shown the requisite levels of ability, attitude, dedication and development potential during the training programme will be invited to join the Academy Centre (AC) and train with the county squad. The Academy Centre usually takes place between January and is the next phase in the England Hockey Player Pathway. During the course of the programme, selected players will represent Berkshire in county versus county matches which are usually scheduled later in the season.
- A number of players will be disappointed with the selection decisions and we would encourage those players to continue to develop their hockey playing skills and to return next year, stronger and even more determined to succeed.

All players, whether they progress from Development Centres to Academy Centres or not, should benefit from training with players from other clubs and schools in an inclusive and challenging programme and **players do not need to attend a school or club or live within the county to participate in the Berkshire programme.**

The programme will run across a number of locations within Berkshire and details of squad location will be confirmed (where appropriate) closer to the date when the volume of attendees has been finalised.

In order to register for the programme please follow the link below or copy and paste the web address into your browser. If the player already has a Player Pathway log in after attending a previous Development Centre or Academy Centre, **DO NOT CREATE A NEW PLAYER PROFILE** but instead, please use existing log in details. Fees for the 2021 programme are £70 per player, payable via GoCardless system once registration details are complete.

[https://www.playerpathway.englishockey.co.uk/members/sign\\_in](https://www.playerpathway.englishockey.co.uk/members/sign_in)

*(Sign up by selecting DC Enrolment then Berkshire, followed by the relevant age group)*

The youngest age groups are often heavily subscribed with a waiting list operating. In view of this, Berkshire Hockey Association reserve the right to remove any registrations where payment of fees has not been received within 14 days of initial registration.

If registration is made after the squad list becomes full, the player will be placed on a waiting list and fees will be refunded should a place not become available before the start of the programme. Formal confirmation of places on the programme, together with further details of the sessions, will be made closer to the initial training session.

Berkshire Hockey Association is managed entirely by a volunteer management team and it is not possible to acknowledge every registration or payment, however, should fees not be received within the timescales mentioned, an email will be sent requesting payment. Anyone in a position of proven financial hardship is encouraged to apply for assistance by emailing [president@berkshirehockey.org](mailto:president@berkshirehockey.org).

Whilst writing if anyone is interested in joining Berkshire Hockey Association's management team or would like to offer support or assistance with a particular age group squad, we would be delighted to speak with you. There are many roles and responsibilities which need support and assistance on a regular or an ad hoc basis and hockey experience is not essential, merely a willingness to be involved.

**Thank you for supporting hockey and youth development within Berkshire.**

**For and on behalf of  
Berkshire Hockey Association**