



**ENGLAND
HOCKEY**

**ENGLAND AGE GROUP TRIALS
OCTOBER 2020**

Talent Development A New Way Forward

With the planned 2020 edition of Futures Cup cancelled due to COVID-19, England Hockey have been considering various options to effectively observe and assess players for England U16 and U18 Age Group programmes.

We are excited to be hosting a series of days to observe players in a number of contexts. The training days will take place from 25th to 30th October.

To support 'selection' for these days, we have a new process, inviting nominations from Performance Centre, club and school coaches. With many players having had little hockey related activity over the last six months, it is important that we have the most robust selection possible, and with this in mind, we are expanding the process to include nominations from club and school coaches.

This nominations process will open from 09 September 2020. We invite coaches considering player for nomination to access further information by clicking [HERE](#)

The nomination window will close at 17:00hrs on Monday 28th September 2020. A panel will consider nominations before communicating to invited players during w/c 5th October 2020. In the case of an appeal, please refer to the England Age Group Nominations Policy document which can be found [HERE](#)

Delivery Format

COVID-19 and the associated Government guidance continue to impact preferred delivery, we have therefore adopted the following approach:

- 1. Delivering single day-based activity (no overnights)**
- 2. Running trials-based activity across three regional sites (rather than one National site as per Futures Cup)**
- 3. Utilising a group of experienced national / international coaches across the three sites
(with dialogue across the three sites) to ensure an open, transparent and meritocratic selection process is implemented**

We are pleased to be able to share the format of the six days

Players invited to the training days will attend all three days at the same location on the following basis:

Date	Age group	Locations
Sunday 25th October Tuesday 27th October Thursday 29th October	U16 Boys & Girls DOB 2005 & 2006	Lilleshall National Sports Centre Millfield School Old Loughtonians HC TBC
Monday 26th October Wednesday 28th October Friday 30th October	U18 Boys & Girls DOB 2003 & 2004	Lilleshall National Sports Centre Millfield School Old Loughtonians HC TBC

Players will be allocated a specific centre to ensure appropriate numbers at each location. While every effort will be made to accommodate players at their nearest centre, in a small number of cases this may not be possible.

Each day will incorporate 2 x 2hr pitch sessions with a lunch break to include a mix of short educational, 1:1 or small group discussions.

Over the three days coaches will have the opportunity to observe players and understand their individual profile further in line with the technical, tactical, physical and mental player development qualities.

What happens after the training days?

Those players who are selected to progress will be taken forward for further observations and assessment with activity taking place on the following dates:

England U16 Girls Assessment Phase Dates

Sunday 22nd November 2020

19-20 December 2020

England U16 Boys Assessment Phase Dates

Saturday 21st November 2020

19-20 December 2020

England U18 Girls Assessment Phase Dates

Sunday 22nd November 2020

19-20 December 2020

2-3 January 2021

England U18 Boys Assessment Phase Dates

Saturday 21st November 2020

19-20 December 2020

2-3 January 2021

Please be aware, players may not be taken forward for all assessment dates, decisions will be at the discretion of the programme Head Coach and the England Hockey Junior Talent Development Manager.

Full information will be shared through a call up letter sent out to those players who successfully progress from the October training dates.

Player and parent queries

Q: How will I know if I have been nominated and going to training days?

A: Only players taken forward for training days will receive a call up letter from England Hockey during w/c 5th October. Once the letters have been issued a list of players being taken forward for trials will be published on the England Hockey website. This will not coincide with any formal announcements.

Q: Can a player be nominated multiple times by different people

A: Yes, we expect some players may be nominated 2-3 times, especially if they are playing in multiple environments. We wouldn't expect multiple nominations from the same environment e.g. two separate nominations from coaches at the same school or two coaches from the same club.

Q: Will the 2019/2020 England Age Group players attend the October training days?

A: No, the 2019/2020 players will not attend the trials taking place 25-30 October 2020. This allows England Age Group coaches to observe a greater breadth of players during the first stage of the assessment process. The 2019/20 England Age Group players will join at the second phase of trials taking place through November, December and January.

Q: What format will the trials take?

A: Hockey is a fast past and dynamic invasion game. Over the three training days players can expect to undertake a variety of sessions, providing coaches and with insight into a player's technical, tactical, mental and physical qualities.

Q: Who can nominate players for the England Age Group trials?

A: Any coach who feels they are working with a high potential player or players, who meet the age criteria, may consider nominating players through the nomination channels. The criteria and process for coaches wishing to nominate can be found [HERE](#).

Q: Can a parent, guardian or relation nominate a player?

A: No, we are seeking nominations from coaches only, requiring both a proposer and a seconder for all nominations. Please refer to the nomination process for further information. In the case whereby as a relative, you are also the primary hockey coach of the player, we ask you to contact the England Hockey Junior Talent Development Manager before making a nomination.

Q: What if I (coach) miss the deadline for nominations?

A: England Hockey will be pro-active in circulating information through our coaching network, social media channels and the website. We will not accept nominations after the deadline. Please refer to the appeals process [HERE](#).

Q: Is there a cost to send my son or daughter to the training days?

A: Yes, the cost for each player to attend three days is £90.00. There is no pro-rata payment option and payment must be paid in full, in advance of the trials. Details will be shared in the invitation letter to be sent out w/c 5th October. Information will include channels of communication to follow should this cost prove to be a barrier to a player being able to attend the training days.

Q: What if I am invited to training days but can't attend due to other commitments?

A: If you receive an invitation, the information provided will clearly state channels of communication for you to follow. All individual circumstances will be managed on a case by case basis.

Q: If I am not nominated for these training days, what happens next?

A: Performance Centre (PC) activity will begin in September 2020, though there may be some regional variations due to the availability of facilities. Please contact your regional association if you haven't received any information and expect to be attending PC. Age eligible players who are in PC, will be expected to continue in the programme to be considered for Futures Cup in 2021. Those players born in 2003 will return to their club and/or school programmes.

Q: Will players who attend the training days be provided with feedback?

A: Players will be offered the opportunity for feedback, by arranging a follow up conversation, details of which will be provided in the call up letter.

Q: Are parents allowed to watch the training days?

A: Parents will be allowed to observe the training days in line with COVID-19 guidelines and at the discretion of the facility operator. Given the current circumstances, there may be limitations and restrictions at each venue. We ask you to respect any guidance which may be in place. Information will be provided through the call up letter .

Q: What happens if any of the training days need to be cancelled due to COVID-19? Will I get a refund?

A: Should national or local guidance require England Hockey to cancel or postpone any of the trials, we will contact the individuals concerned to advise of next steps, including refunds if applicable.

Q: What measures will be in place to protect all participating players, coaches and administrators to minimise the risk of infection and spread of COVID-19?

A: Delivery of the training days will adhere to the guidance as provided by England Hockey to all clubs and deliverers. Players will have the option to opt out of attending if mitigating factors are at play. Further details and advice will be communicated through the call up letter.



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