

County Newsletter – December 2024

Welcome to the 4th edition of the County Newsletter which we hope you will find informative and useful.

If you have any topics you would like us to cover in the next newsletter, or you have a specific enquiry, please contact us on county@englandhockey.co.uk

Please note: Our offices are closed from 20th December – 2nd January 2025.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – We look forward to what 2025 has to bring and will see you all soon. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped hockey activity throughout the year.

Spirit of Hockey

The new 'Spirit of Hockey' - England Hockey's Code of Conduct, has been released and can be found on the England Hockey website [here](#)

It would be great if Counties could share the resources on your websites to spread the word.
Information below:-

[Spirit of Hockey Marketing Portal](#)

[Spirit of Hockey Poster](#)

[Spirit of Hockey Behaviour Poster](#)

State Schools

We are excited to announce that we will be running two National U14 State School festivals in 2025 following the success of the 2024 festivals. The dates for these festivals are Thursday 27 March 2025 for Tier 1 and Friday 28 March 2025 for Tier 2.

We are keen for Counties to also run a local State School Festival for U14's (7 aside) and have a presentation with the full information to support you including various templates. Please contact [Elaina](#) for the information.

If you know of any schools that would like to express interest in playing in one of these festivals, please ask them to visit the England Hockey website - [U14 State School Festivals | England Hockey](#)

Sharing Good Practice

We would like to open the opportunity for Counties to share good practice with each other and Isle of



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Man have kindly started us off with an article about their Schools Hockey programme which we have sent as an attachment with this newsletter.

If you would like to share anything with other Counties please send a brief outline to us in an email and we will be in touch. We look forward to hearing of more of the excellent things happening.

New Broadcast Partner

This week England Hockey has announced Channel 4 as its new broadcast partner to help with our mission to make hockey more visible, relevant, and accessible. This collaboration with Channel 4 is a significant step towards achieving that goal. By leveraging Channel 4's expertise in broadcasting world-class sporting events, including their acclaimed coverage of the Paris Paralympic Games, the partnership aims to attract new audiences and showcase the energy and excitement of international hockey to homes across the UK. Please see the link for the full news article - [Broadcast announcement](#)

Tickets for Super 6s and Pro League Reminder

We have recently agreed with the Areas and the CSC that we would use Super 6s and Pro League to invite Committee members from Areas and Counties. The reasons for this are two-fold - firstly we are aware that the travel to either can be challenging depending on which part of the country you come from and secondly, we felt it would be a great opportunity for Areas and Counties to see each other and chat. Individuals are able to attend both events if they wish and approved by their Area or County.

Dates and Venues:

Super 6s is being held at Derby Arena on Sunday 26th January 2025

Pro League is being held at Lee Valley on Wednesday 18th June 2025 (Games 15:30, 17:45, 20:00)

The link for signing up has been shared with all County Chairs to share with their committees as appropriate. Please sign up for Super 6's by Sunday 5th January 2025 at the latest.

Hockey Makers Wanted

We have been working with our Events team to reach out to our current Hockey Makers. These have been emailed as follows

'Interested in volunteering in your local Area or County and want to find out more information? Please complete [this form](#) to receive updates of Area and County tournaments and events. We are really grateful for any support Hockey Makers can provide, whether it be on the day help or administrative assistance. If you have any questions, please contact areas@englandhockey.co.uk'

So far, we have had a very positive response which we are currently working through. Once we have completed this we will be in touch to match interest with opportunities. Watch this space!

Dates for the Diary



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Date	Time	Meeting	Topic
11/02/2025	19:00	County Forum	Communications
13/03/2025	19:00	County Forum	Leadership
04/03/2025	16:30	CSC	
13/05/2025	16:30	CSC	
23/06/2025	19:00	County Forum	People including Safeguarding / Safe Hockey

At the CSC meeting we have been discussing what topics to hold for the County Forums and the above topics are what were requested. If there is anything else you would like us to cover please contact the [County](#) team.

Talent Academy and Junior County Hockey Information

Talent Academy Nominations

Coaches from schools, clubs and counties can nominate players for a Talent Academy assessment from 1 November. Coaches have until 1 May 2025 to submit their nominations.

Guidance regarding the nomination process can be found on the Talent Academy web pages and includes relevant links, forms, club mapping and Talent Academy open assessment dates.

If you require any further information, please contact talentacademy@englandhockey.co.uk

Junior County Hockey (JCH) Forum

Counties were invited to attend the JCH Forum held in November 2024.

The England Hockey talent team presented information on the following areas:

1. Recap Talent System – 4 years
2. Purpose/Role of Junior County Hockey
3. Junior County Hockey Framework
 1. What does good look like?
 2. Development programme opportunities

If you would like to see the information presented at the forum please contact the [County](#) team

New feedback form for County Forums

We have made a new Microsoft form to complete following any of the Forums hosted by England Hockey – please see the link to give us feedback on the County Forum for Talent – Hosted on 27th



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November - [Feedback form](#)

Junior County Hockey Framework

The JCH Framework is best practice guidance describing the elements that contribute to a great talent foundation environment. It is designed to be both an evaluation tool for counties to determine their current position and a development tool to support a programme to develop its provision and practices for talented young players.

It consists of seven categories which split into sub-sections:

1. Leadership and Governance
2. Talent Development Environment
3. Coaching
4. Player Development and Wellbeing
5. Culture
6. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
7. Stakeholders

Junior County Hockey Development Programme

The JCH Development programme aims to support and educate JCH environments, and the people that make those environments happen, around embracing and embedding talent development principles within the Talent System Framework.

- Recognising talent is about future potential not just current performance
- Implementing the RARE principles - Right Athlete Right Environment
- An open, inclusive and 'keep the net wide' approach towards talent development
- Embracing the concept of multiple opportunities, multiple eyes, multiple contexts to understand potential
- Providing quality and frequent training and competition

If you would like more information about the framework please contact the [County](#) team