

Please read carefully as the nomination criteria have recently changed

Registrations are now being accepted for the 2023 Development Centre (DC) programme for all age groups with **age group squads now determined by academic year** as introduced in September 2022.

The 2023 programme will commence in September with all sessions taking place on Friday evenings **every fortnight** at the single Sonning Lane site shared by Sonning Hockey Club and Reading Hockey Club. Sessions are scheduled to begin on 8th September 2023 and run through half-term, finishing on 24th November 2023. 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.

Age Group Banding:	Under 13 = September 2010 to August 2012
	Under 14 = September 2009 to August 2010
	Under 15 = September 2008 to August 2009
	Under 16 = September 2007 to August 2008
	Under 17 = September 2006 to August 2007

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



Berkshire Hockey Association

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 2023 programme are £80 per player, payable via GoCardless system once registration details are complete.

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 our Acting President at berkshirehockey.vpb@gmail.com.

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**