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Regional Cricket Re-Structure & Information Document

Introduction

Cricket Wales has produced this document to facilitate the understanding of the new regional cricket structure that will commence from January 2021, to come into effect for the 2021/22 season.

It has been the culmination of extensive consultation, discussion and collaboration with all existing regional organisations across Wales, to ensure that the future direction of junior representative cricket is an exciting one.

We are confident these changes will give every young cricketer the very best opportunity to reach their potential. Cricket Wales, and I personally would like to place on record our sincere gratitude to all of the regions who have worked tirelessly to ensure this strand of the pathway remains a key one moving forward.

We look forward to sharing and implementing the plans of the new structure, and continue to enhance our relationships with clubs and Glamorgan County Cricket Club who link in to the pathway either side of us.

It is worth noting that the structure and subsequent programme was originally scheduled for a November 2020 start date. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there are various aspects of the programme that will sadly not be able to evolve to their fullest extent until the October/November of 2021 and the summer of 2022. These are detailed in this document, but should you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Matt Thompson, **Cricket Wales Head of Talent Pathway**

Virtual Information Evenings

**All evenings begin from 7.30pm. Places are limited to 100 guests.*

These series of evenings will be the best opportunity for anyone associated with regional cricket (players, parents, coaches, clubs, supporters) to listen, understand and ask about the new structure prior to it launching. With the evenings now set virtually rather than in person, there will not be an opportunity for players to sample the new kit provided by Masuri (this will be explained further on each night).

We hope this will be the first official opportunity for the Pathway Lead in each region to be introduced and they, alongside the Head of Talent Pathway will provide further insight into the context and rationale behind the structural changes.

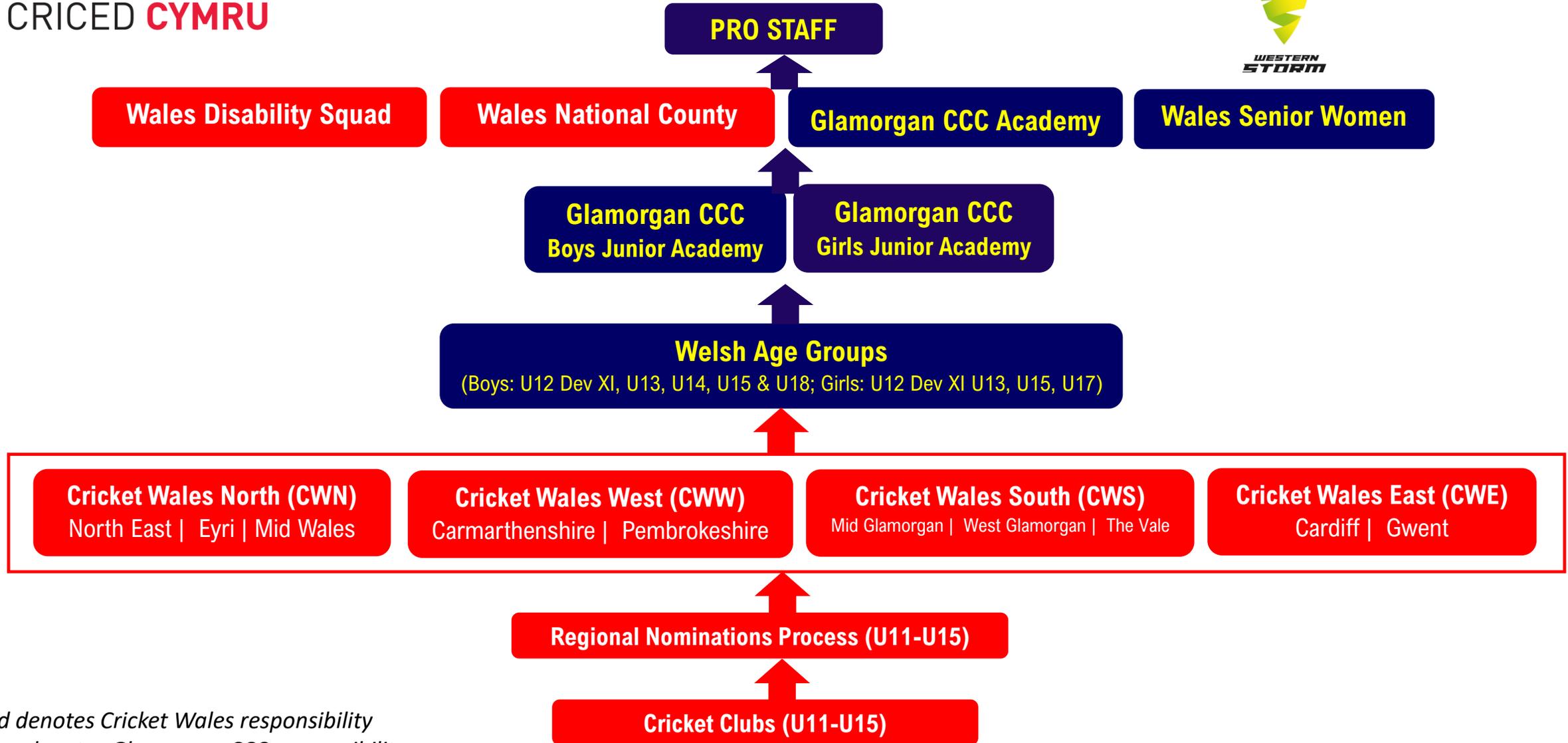
- **Monday 14th September –**
All associated with Gwent region (register below):
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91811220000>
- **Tuesday 15th September –**
All associated with West Glamorgan region (register below):
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91811220000>
- **Wednesday 16th September –**
All associated with Cardiff & The Vale region (register below):
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91811220000>
- **Thursday 17th September –**
All associated with Mid Glamorgan region (register below):
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91811220000>
- **Friday 18th September –**
All associated with Pembrokeshire region (register below):
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91811220000>
- **Monday 21st September –**
All associated with Carmarthenshire region (register below):
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91811220000>

Headline Changes

- x3 Regional Performance Centres (RPCs) and current regional programmes to merge together as one programme **including boys and girls** – this means that RPCs no longer exist.
- **Existing 6 regions merged to 3 regions (U11-U15) and referred to as follows:**
 - Cricket Wales **West** (formerly Carmarthenshire & Pembrokeshire)
 - Cricket Wales **South** (formerly West Glamorgan, Mid Glamorgan & The Vale)
 - Cricket Wales **East** (formerly Gwent & Cardiff – *NB: The Vale assigned to Cricket Wales South*)
 - *Cricket Wales **North** (North East, Eyrí & Mid Wales already established in 2019)*
- **Each region will provide the following:**
 - A nominations process from U11-U15 for players that don't currently play regional cricket
 - 9 week winter programme in two locations from January 2021 (**12 weeks for winter of 2021/22*)
 - 3 week winter invitational sessions in one location (**6 weeks for winter of 2021/22*)
 - 4 week summer programme in one location (**6 weeks for summer of 2021/22*)
 - Two squads per age group for boys from U11-U15 (e.g. CWW U11s and CWW U11s Development)
 - One mixed age squad for girls – U13 and below (**3 teams for summer of 2021/22: U11, U13, U15*)
 - Two U10 squads from next winter (2021/22)
 - Virtual Strength & Conditioning programme for 2020/21
- **Each regional squad will compete in:**
 - A newly formed Cricket Wales Super Series (U11-U15)
 - A maximum of 4 additional fixtures OR an English based tour (U11-U15)
- Each region will be led by a Pathway Lead who will be employed by Cricket Wales, supported by a Regional Working Group that comprises of representation from the original 2 regions in the area (e.g. Carmarthenshire & Pembrokeshire).



National Pathway Structure



*red denotes Cricket Wales responsibility
*blue denotes Glammorgan CCC responsibility

Context & Rationale

Below is a brief summary of some of the key themes related to the changes which will be expanded upon during the regional information evenings.

Player Development

Opportunity to play at a more appropriate level. Reduce the need to manipulate games to provide opportunities and/or to avoid heavy losses or wins. If more players are playing at the appropriate standard the game can flow and evolve naturally without the need to influence it as much, in addition to optimising player potential.

National Alignment

This is a key objective of Cricket Wales as we look to enhance our commitment to Long Term Player Development and welfare through appropriate governance and accountability. The structure will enable us to ensure that we are striking the right balance with regard to how much our youngsters are doing across the winter and summer, in addition to what the expectations and commitments are from parents.

Key Benefits

Finance

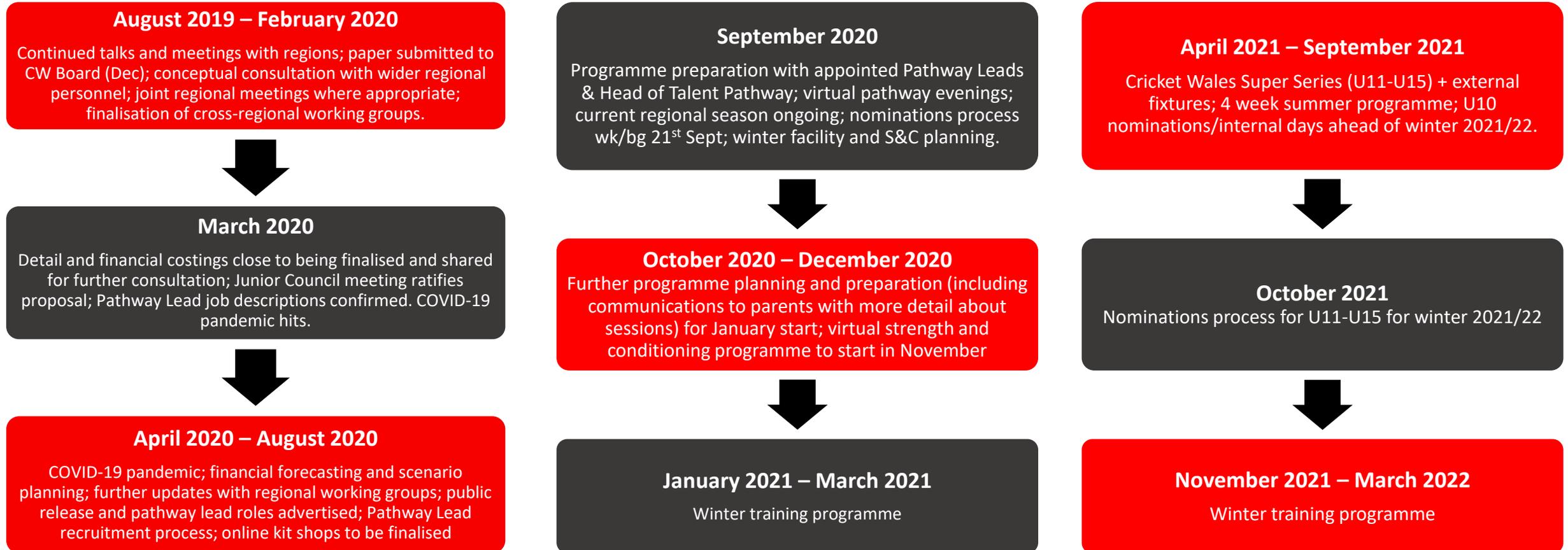
Not only will each of the newly formed regions retain the equivalent level of funding from previous years, but it gives us the opportunity and mechanics to invest significant funds in an efficient manner. It will also mean parents are not required to pay for multiple programmes as they have in the past (regions + RPCs/NDCs).

Profile

We want to enhance the exposure, and raise the profile of regional cricket even more; both in terms of its stature in the eyes of the players and across England and Wales but also commercially. It will continue to be a key cog of the national pathway.

Regional Cricket Timeline (2019-2022)

We hope the below timeline captures the journey Cricket Wales and the regions have been on leading up to the structural changes, in addition to providing you with a rough overview of what you can expect to happen from now until the start of the programme.



Kit & Clothing



All regional competitions in Wales will be in coloured kit, supplied by our partners Masuri. Each region will have their own designated online shop where all clothing and additional items can be ordered and purchased. These will be shared once they are ready to go online – a preview of each region's colours are shown below:



Regional Working Groups

Key to the successful running of each region is the newly formed working group. This, in most cases comprises of representatives from both merging regions to ensure that a wealth of knowledge and experience is maintained. The group will be key in providing advice, support and ongoing scrutiny to the Pathway Lead. Below details the members of each regional group and we look forward to their input as part of the new structure.

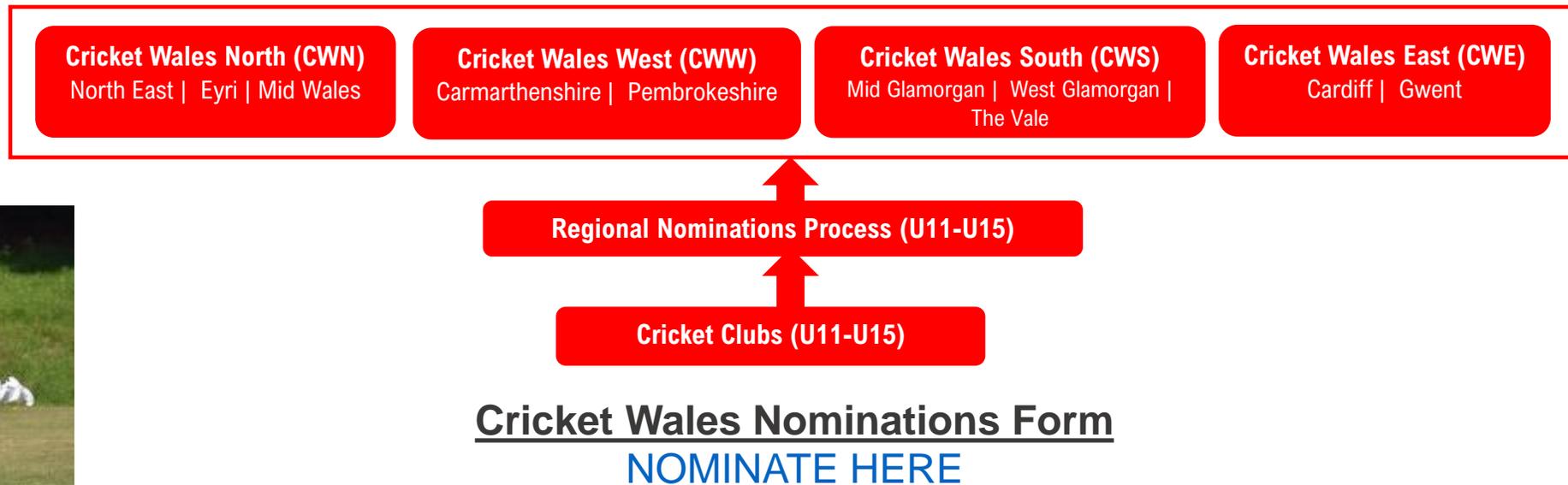
Cricket Wales North (CWN)	Cricket Wales West (CWW)	Cricket Wales South (CWS)	Cricket Wales East (CWE)
<i>Pathway Lead: Sam Painter</i>	<i>Pathway Lead: to be appointed</i>	<i>Pathway Lead: to be appointed</i>	<i>Pathway Lead: to be appointed</i>
Tony Moss*	Iwan Richards	Rob Wilkins	Ian Williams
Sue Wells	Peter Davies	Rod Owen	Brychan Tudor
Tim Coleman	Nigel Furneaux	Peter Williams*	Misha Mehta
Richard Penney	Andrew Bailey	Dave Hart	James Hassett
Robin Varley	Simon Williams	Dave Fowles	Anthony Blades
Colin Grindey	Steve Lewis	Mark Cox	Richard Jones
Alistair Pearson	Jonathan/Lisa Willington	Ryan Aingworth	Amy Green*
Ian Martin	Nick Evans	Sara Russell	Geraint Adlam
Allan Senior	Ross Grieve		Alan Burkitt
	Rob Green*		David Clarke

Regional Nominations Process

It is important to note that all players in regional squads (U10-U15) for the season of 2020 **automatically obtain entry into the new regional programme.**

Players that currently aren't part of a regional squad (U10-U15) will have the opportunity to be nominated throughout August and early September 2020 (**deadline 5pm, 12th September**) by club coaches via the Cricket Wales Nominations Form online (link provided below also).

Nominees, will be invited to attend a session during the week of September 21st in a accessible location to showcase their skills to obtain entry to the regional programme in their area.





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Cost

The details of the programme costs are below, with a breakdown of hourly rates below to illustrate what players are entitled to.

Whilst the programme represents excellent value for money in comparison to other sporting pathways, Cricket Wales recognise that everyone has different financial capabilities. We are passionate about equality and will ensure that no player of family does not access the programme because of cost. You should contact the Head of Talent Pathway, Matt Thompson (matt.thompson@cricketwales.org.uk) in this scenario.



Overall Programme Cost = £180

(*£250 for winter of 2021/22)

Payment Method: Online through two instalments

9 week winter programme (18 hours)

4 week summer programme (8 hours)

Virtual strength and conditioning programme (November-March)



ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF PROGRAMME

3 invitational winter sessions (9 hours at no additional cost)

Squad fixture programme = £5 match fees

Any external tours (at cost)

FAQs

- **What is happening with the Regional Performance Centres?**

The RPCs and regional programmes have come together to form this new structure in each region. That means that there is one programme moving forward not two.

- **Why is there no U10s provision in this structure?**

We always envisaged U10s being part of the programme and that will come into effect for next winter (2021/22). Due to the pandemic however, and with our intake of players largely coming from initiatives such as All Stars (which haven't run this summer) we feel the U10s are best placed to feed into the structure next year. We will be undertaking some activity in the summer of 2021 to start that process of in the form of open invite days, but there will be no competitive cricket for them next season under this structure. **This means that the long standing, and highly successful Aberystwyth Festival for U10s will resume from August 2022.** Any under 10s that are currently involved in regional squads will remain involved.

- **Why only one girls' team?**

In the same way as the U10s our intention was always to have 3 teams per region for the girls at U11, U13, and U15. Due some uncertainty around numbers, and again given the initiatives that haven't run this year we will be starting slowly by having a mixed age girls team in the summer of 2021. The intention for 2022 is to expand to two teams per region (Junior team and Senior team), and then potentially look at 2023 being the time to have three teams.

- **Will the girls' train with the boys, and can they still play regional cricket for the boys?**

During the winter the girls will train with the boys, and can still compete in boys regional cricket if they are of the appropriate standard. That said, they will be expected to represent the girls team/s as it is vitally important girls have their own platform to compete and develop in, in line with the direction that women and girls cricket across England and Wales is taking.

- **What does this mean for travel in the winter?**

Each region will have two facilities that all age groups will train out of. Cricket Wales West for example, will have sessions running out of a Pembrokeshire based facility and a Carmarthenshire based facility. Each age group will be divided into two groups based on ability at the start of the programme, and those two groups will have half their programme in each facility to ensure travel is kept fair throughout the winter. Groups will remain fluid and flexible and will be subject to change over the course of the programme. The 4 week summer programme will be in one location per region.

- **What happens if there is second wave of the pandemic in the winter?**

At this stage, it is impossible to gauge what January will look like with regards to COVID-19, in terms of social distancing stipulations, indoor facility usage, numbers of participants in groups etc. Rest assured Cricket Wales (like we have this summer) will be working closely with Sport Wales, the Welsh Sports Association and the Welsh Government to ensure that the latest guidance at the time is adhered to and the necessary precautions are implemented for cricket to take place.

- **What is the eligibility criteria to represent a region?**

In simple terms it is the **region where your club is situated.** Regardless of where you live or go to school, if your club is part of the region you can only represent that region. A period of one year must be served with a new club in a different region before you can represent them.

FAQs



- **With The Vale being assigned to Cricket Wales South, what clubs does that apply to?**

All clubs that encompass The Vale are: Penarth, Dinas Powys, Sully Centurions, Sully Spartans, Barry Wanderers, Barry Athletic, Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and Vale.

- **Does this change how the junior leagues work in any way?**

No – the junior leagues operate as they traditionally have done. The Vale clubs continue to play in the leagues they have done.

- **What do we do about kit?**

With the Super Series all in coloured kit, whites should not be required unless in extenuating circumstances. Each region will have their online shop via Masuri which will be forthcoming.

- **How do I progress from regional cricket now?**

Glamorgan CCC will continue to run a version of the invitation festivals / sessions that Cricket Wales have run traditionally. Players will be invited by the Glamorgan Age Group coaches with assistance and feedback coming from the regional coaches and Pathway Lead for each region.

- **Who is my main point of contact for general queries?**

Your Regional Pathway Lead (when appointed) will be your main and first point of contact for any general queries. Until then, or alternatively contact Matt Thompson (Head of the Talent Pathway) via matt.thompson@cricketwales.org.uk. If your query is welfare related, the regional welfare officer for each region (detailed on this document) should be contacted.

- **When will the fixtures for the new regions be?**

Fixtures for the 2021 season will likely be announced around February 2021 – the mapping of the fixtures will be undertaken once the majority of Wales Age Group games are confirmed to ensure

- **Am I guaranteed a place in either squad once I'm part of the programme?**

This is a really important question – the simple answer is unfortunately no. Even if you are part of the 9 week winter and 4 week summer programmes there is no guarantee you will be selected for either your region, or region's development squad. That said, injuries and unavailability often occur throughout a season and so there is a good chance that a player who was not initially selected may find themselves playing a considerable amount.

- **Will athletic development still be a focus?**

We remain committed to this approach – there will be a remote programme for players to engage with during the first year of the programme as we come to terms with the pandemic's restrictions whilst wanting to maximise the contact time our players receive from a cricket perspective.