



**GIRLS' EMERGING
TALENT CENTRES**
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

**FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS (FAQs)
GIRLS' EMERGING TALENT CENTRES
*2022/23 SEASON***



Introduction

These FAQs have been developed to support organisations that may wish to apply for a licence to operate a new Emerging Talent Centre. They also explain the rationale behind some of the forthcoming changes to the female player pathway. This document forms part of the overall application pack. It should be reviewed alongside the Girls' Emerging Talent Centres' Criteria, Application Form and Guidance to the Application Form documents prior to submitting an application.

We hope it provides further clarity, but if you want any more information, please email: PlayerPathway@TheFA.com

Q: What are you asking Centres to deliver?

A: Each Centre must commit to running a minimum of three-age-group programme with flexibility over which age groups they choose to run between under-9s to under-16s. Centres may choose to run additional age groups and may choose to operate at more than one location in line with the funding level requested. Centres will run for a minimum of 30 weeks from August 1st to July 31st each year, for a three-year period – and can be blocked to align with school holidays and half-term holidays, allowing fluid movement and flexibility of players to move in and out of Centres.

Q: Is the focus on training or will there be games as well?

A: The focus will be on the training environment, but there will be a small number of games played during training nights and during half-term holidays to avoid clashes with players' grassroots games programme. The Emerging Talent Centres' Games Programme will take a slightly different approach to that which the players experience at their grassroots clubs. It will include flexible formats, mixed football and festivals against other Emerging Talent Centres.

Q: How many Centres will there be across the country, and where will they be?

A: The aim is to have up to 70 Centres, geographically spread across the country, so every player can reach a Centre within one hour of where she lives. This will more than double the number of players in the current pathway to over 4,200. The focus is on providing localised and accessible opportunities.

Q: What is happening to the existing pathway programmes?

A: Regional Talent Clubs (RTCs) will continue to run for next season (2022/23) with a minimum of three age groups, but clubs may choose to run additional age groups. The existing Advanced Coaching Centre (ACC) programme will conclude at the end of the current season (2021/22), to be replaced with the new Emerging Talent Centres for 2022/23. The existing Regional Talent Club (RTC) programme will be replaced by the new Professional Game Academies in the 2023/24 season, but RTCs can begin to deliver an ETC next season alongside their current provision.

Clubs and programmes will also have the flexibility to develop their own pathway provision (age-group teams or programmes) to support their own philosophy, resources and preparation for their senior team ambitions.

Here a visualisation of the transition period:



Q: How will the players be selected?

A: This will be down to each Emerging Talent Centre. However, each Centre should demonstrate that they have an open and ongoing recruitment policy with clear selection criteria.

Q: Can we enter our Emerging Talent Centre into a grassroots league to play weekly fixtures?

A: No, the focus for this programme is Talent ID and supporting players with a holistic training and development programme. It is not about selecting the best players to compete in a league. Emerging Talent Centres should provide a bespoke games programme that supplements the players' grassroots club fixtures.

Q: How do Emerging Talent Centres fit with Professional Game Academies?

A: The Professional Game Academies' programme will be launched in the 2023/24 season. The Academies will be located within Barclays FA WSL and Barclays Women's Championship clubs. Some Professional Game Academies may also have an Emerging Talent Centre as part of their extended Player Pathway. Players may progress from an Emerging Talent Centre to a Professional Game Academy in the future whilst some players may play at different levels of the Women's Football Pyramid.

Q: Who can apply to run an Emerging Talent Centre?

A: Applications are welcomed from key partners and stakeholders who feel they can meet the criteria, and who best understand the needs of female players in their local communities. Those who can apply are:

- Affiliated women's football clubs in Tiers 1-4 of the Women's Football Pyramid.
- Club Community Organisations (CCOs) linked to Premier League, EFL and National League clubs.
- County Football Associations and FA Women's High-Performance Football Centres.

Q: How can we apply?

A: Each prospective Centre will be required to complete an open application process, with licences granted for three years (aligned to funding). Applications will be reviewed and awarded based on the information in the submission and the ability to meet the programme outcomes.

Q: How much funding is available?

A: The funding available is outlined below. Applicants are required to demonstrate a commitment to suitable match funding and complete a financial forecast spanning a three-year period to outline costs associated to the programme.

50% of your Match Funding must be cash, the other 50% can be made up of Value in Kind. Value in Kind can include things like kit, equipment, facilities and staff time. Centres may wish to apply for a different level of funding in years one, two and three to support the development and growth of the programme. This must be outlined and evidenced via the Financial Forecast in the application form.

FA funding available	Total Match Funding (50%)	Cash contribution	Value in Kind contribution
£10,000.00	£5,000.00	£2,500.00	£2,500.00
£15,000.00	£7,500.00	£3,750.00	£3,750.00
£20,000.00	£10,000.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
£25,000.00	£12,500.00	£6,250.00	£6,250.00

Q: What will applicants need to do to be considered?

A: Potential Centres will be required to complete the application form, outlining how they will meet the criteria outlined across seven key areas:

- Centre Management, Finance and Administration;
- Safeguarding Children
- Player Registration, Recruitment and Selection
- Centre Programme Delivery
- Centre Workforce
- Centre Facilities
- Measuring the Centre Environment

Applicants are requested to work with their local County FA to support the process of applying. There is a section within the application form for County FAs to complete.

Q: What are the timescales?

A: The application window will open on **Wednesday 4th May 2022** and closes on **Wednesday 22nd June 2022**. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept late applications and any additional post-deadline information provided will not be accepted.

Q: How will the applications be assessed and by whom?

A: Following an initial sifting process, a set of five regional panels with appropriate expertise across the country will make the decisions on applications from their geographical area. Final decisions will be made by a central panel made up of experts from a number of key areas (finance, facilities, player development, coaching, talent identification etc).

Q: What happens next if our application is successful/unsuccessful?

A: Successful applicants will be notified in writing by **Wednesday 20th July**. Following that, successful applicants will be required to submit details of a confirmed and compliant workforce as well as programme risk assessments before a formal licence is issued.

Unsuccessful applicants will also be informed by **Wednesday 20th July**.

Q: When would delivery of the programme start?

A: Programme delivery is expected to commence at any point from September onwards but this not a hard start date. Each Centre may choose to start their Centre delivery when they are suitably ready while ensuring they complete their 30-week programme before July 31st the following year.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: As at the start of this document, the email address for more information is: PlayerPathway@TheFA.com

We thank you for your interest and support of The FA's Player Pathway.