



ENGLAND HOCKEY PLAYER PATHWAY

Academy Centre Survey

In February 2017 the Player Pathway team surveyed players about their most recent experience of JAC. Due to the age of some players in the pathway, parents were asked to answer on behalf of their children where appropriate. This document contains a summary of information gathered which we will use to help inform our development of Academy Centres.

Who responded to the survey?

2035 responses were received from the following age groups:

U13 – 20.9%
U14 – 25%
U15 – 22.9%
U16 – 17.3%
U17 – 13.9%

Responses were received from players in the following areas:

Avon	Bedfordshire	Berkshire	Buckinghamshire
Birmingham	Black Country	Buckinghamshire	Cambridgeshire
Channel Islands (Guernsey)	Channel Islands (Jersey)	Cornwall	Derbyshire
Devon	Dorset	Durham	East Cheshire
Essex	Gloucestershire	Greater Manchester	Hampshire
Herefordshire	Hertfordshire	Humberside	Isle of Man
Kent	Lancashire (North)	Lancashire (South)	Leicestershire
Middlesex	Norfolk	Northamptonshire	Northumberland
Nottinghamshire	Oxfordshire	Shropshire	Somerset
Staffordshire	Suffolk	Surrey	Sussex
Warwickshire	West Cheshire and Wirral	Wiltshire	Yorkshire



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When and where do they play hockey?

School Hockey

76.7% of players asked participate in hockey at school on average 1.8 times per week.

Club Hockey

90% of players asked participate in hockey at a club on average 2 times per week.

JAC Hockey

- In the last JAC cycle, players attended between 4 and 6 training sessions and up to 4 matches.
- 17.7% of players asked, attended 0 matches in the last JAC cycle.
- Fridays and Sundays were the most popular days for JAC training and competition.
- Most players travelled 30-40 minutes to get to training.
- 50% of players travelled over 60 minutes to get to a competition venue.

What do players like most about hockey?

Players enjoy club hockey the most compared to school and JAC.

Club hockey is their favourite environment to play in because:

- That's where their friends are
- They think the standard of coaching is high
- They like the frequency of training and matches

Why do players want to go to Academy Centres?

Players want to go to Academy Centres to learn and improve (75%)

Other reasons were:

To represent their county (15%)

To have fun (9%)

Other (1%)

What would players change about JAC?

Higher quality and more regular sessions (training and competition) were the top answers to this question.



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How much did JAC cost during the last cycle?

£50-100 (inclusive of training and competition)

Do players know what the next stage of the pathway is?

59% of players told us they know what the next stage of the Player Pathway is. 41% didn't know or weren't sure.

Kit

77% of respondents would purchase Academy Centre kit if it was offered in the same style as Performance Centre kit. The top reason for not wanting to purchase kit was the cost.

Playing kit (shirt, shorts/skort, socks), was popular, as predicted with 85% of respondents interested in purchasing. In addition centralised Academy Centre sweatshirts were a popular request (73%).

Tracksuit bottoms (45%) and waterproof jackets (46%) were less popular with respondents.

Next steps

In response to answers to 'Why do players want to go to Academy Centres' we have already begun to initiate plans to:

- **Up skill coaches** – Throughout the 2017-18 season we are organising more workshops to up skill Academy Centre coaches.
- **Support on pitch delivery** – We've now launched a Player Pathway section of the hockey hub, providing videos and ideas to support coaches in their delivery. This was targeted at coaches in the May edition of Academy Centre communications.
- **Help identify talent** – We've recently updated our website to include guidance on player selection and transition. This document tells coaches what to look out for and offers advice on how to select players for Performance Centre assessments.

To support further development of Academy Centres, the Player Pathway Team have now recruited an Academy Centre Development Group, made up of coaches, organisers and sports development professionals. The results of this survey are one of the things that this group will discuss in detail to help inform development of this tier of the Player Pathway.