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| A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated  **FAQs** | This FAQs sheet provides extra information to answer any other questions you may have. |

1. **What is the purpose of the County Academies?**

The England Lacrosse Talent Pathway is a vital part of improving the standard of competitive lacrosse played in England and will help us towards our ultimate goal of becoming World and European Lacrosse Champions across all levels.

The County Academies provide athletes with a unique, individualised, performance training environment. Athletes will specifically learn, train and prepare for the next level of the Pathway and for a future career as an England player.

Obviously not all will make future England teams, but the skills learnt will help them in lacrosse and with many life skills as well.

1. **How does my child progress through the Talent Pathway?**

England Lacrosse run assessments, with specific criteria outlining the expected standards from the initial nomination process into the Regional Academy through to the National Academy for girls or straight into the Academy for boys.

In practice, coaches are tasked to identify athletes who are working to the expectations. Part of the identification process, coaches will rank players in their group and use feedback and the criteria to nominate individuals to be assessed at the National Academy for girls and the Academy for boys.

1. **What training and support will my child receive?**

The Talent Pathway has a long-term objective to provide athletic decision makers who can perform under pressure the opportunity to learn how to maximise their potential in a sportive environment.

The Pathway will focus on individuals learning to perform under pressure in game-based practices, scenarios and constraints to explore understanding and improvement after reflection.

Practices will require all athletes to play attack and defence and work hard through transition; tactically these are fundamental component of the 10 a-side version of the game. Technical components will focus on the refinement when in 1 v 1 situations, 4 v 4 practices and positional workshops. To increase the pressure, individuals will play in small sided games.

1. **What happens if my child cannot attend a training session or is injured?**

In the first instance, please contact [talent@englandlacrosse.co.uk](mailto:talent@englandlacrosse.co.uk) or call England Lacrosse head office 0161 974 7757. Please provide your child’s name, region and brief explanation why your child is not available to attend.

You will be offered the opportunity to attend an alternative region for that specific training block. If you are not able to attend either session, unfortunately you will fore-go the cost of the training weekend.

1. **Who should we contact if my child is late or ill over night?**

Each centre’s head coach has been provided with a mobile phone, to allow parents to call the academy centres over the training weekends. The contact telephone numbers will only be switched on during the training weekend and will act as the immediate point of contact.

1. **Can my child swap regions?**

For your child’s benefit, it is preferred that athletes remain at one centre. However, due to availability, the pragmatic response is to allow individuals to attend a different centre.

1. **What happens if my child is ‘released’ from the academy?**

The Talent Pathway has a revolving door; athletes can move up and down the Pathway. Those who are unfortunately not meeting the standards, will be asked to leave the academy. Being unsuccessful is part of performance sport, it is how you respond, showing resilience etc., that counts.

Individuals will receive a detailed action plan of what to improve. It is important to understand that everyone differs from biological, emotional, and chronical maturity. This has an impact on how individuals cope with the emotional and physical demands of performance sport.

1. **Can we pay pro-rata?**

There is no pro-rata option for missed academy sessions.

1. **What clothing is my child expected to wear?**

England Lacrosse would like you to feel part of the England Academy Team so, whilst not compulsory, we will be giving you the opportunity to purchase Official 2019/20 England Training Kit.