

ANNOUNCEMENT - Friday 1 June – New Hockey for Life Framework

Hockey Wales is delighted to announce the launch of the Hockey for Life Framework. The purpose of this document is to provide you with an overview of what the Hockey for Life Framework is, why and what we are changing and to direct to you to where you can access further information.

The background

Over the past few months we have spent some time consulting with Hockey members and stakeholders through an independently appointed company and have reviewed the previous Hockey Pathway, its benefits, shortfalls and the challenges which it created to the Hockey family.

One of the key concerns highlighted by the review was the lack of understanding around the current pathway. This highlighted the fact that the current system is poorly understood, but also indicates the necessity for the new pathway to be communicated clearly and cohesively to all hockey members and stakeholders.

Input from the current hockey community in Wales indicated that the new framework must reduce the burden on resources including the workforce, relieve some of the pressures on talented players who are often torn in a number of directions, communicate a clear message regarding both aims and implementation and ensure consistency in delivery content and standards.

The new Hockey for Life Framework

The Hockey for Life framework offers a coherent philosophy, structure and long-term vision to hockey participation at all levels. This holistic framework demonstrates how everyone can be involved in the sport of Hockey including players, coaches, officials, umpires, volunteers, educators and administrators.

As with any framework, the design must also be closely aligned with the overarching aims of the sport, the aims of the Hockey for Life Framework are provided below:

1. To create a holistic framework for all (players, coaches, officials, umpires, volunteers, educators and administrators) to engage, grow and excel in Hockey, one system for all
2. To establish and promote a bespoke 'Welsh Way' of playing and delivering hockey, providing a shared vision for players, staff and parents and ensuring greater consistency in delivery
3. To create a player-centred, development driven and competition supported system, designed to permit talent to thrive. Prioritise Talent Development over Talent Identification reflecting the dynamic nature of player development
4. To provide a longitudinal development framework for both domestic and international talent.

The Executive Summary provides more details about the above and also shows:

- The player pathway model – see page 5
- An explanation of each tier – see page 6

So, what will change?

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document has been produced to answer a number of questions, but in summary:

- A new approach to support Primary and Secondary schools and their pupils and for our clubs will be launched in September 2012 called '4689 – the new route to hockey'
- A new club accreditation programme will be developed to better support Hockey clubs to develop and progress in line with the environments within the Hockey for Life framework to suit their aspirations as a club
- Two new products will be introduced to support adult participation in hockey – Back2Hockey and Rush Hockey. More details of these will follow in the Autumn
- Greater links will be made with Further and Higher Education partners to support the delivery of the new framework
- Regional Academies and PDCs (Performance Development Centres) – will cease to exist and will be replaced by 360^o Hockey Centres from September 2012 (Tier 2). Much more information will be released about 360 Hockey centres in July 2012.
- Red Shirt Sundays will continue to operate once a month – these provide a high quality training and development environment for our national age group athletes
- Welsh squads will enjoy a greater level of support and a more year round programme of athlete support on and off the pitch.
- The competition structure is currently being reviewed and a new structure will be introduced from September 2013. In the main competitions for both youth and adult participants will remain the same for the 2012/13 season

Please see the FAQ document for further details.

Further Information

Hockey Wales have produced the following tools to help explain and communicate the Hockey for Life framework

1. Executive Summary – in Welsh and English. Large print available on request
2. FAQ – in English. Welsh language and large print available on request
3. Hockey for Life introductory DVD – in Welsh and English

The 1st June is the launch date of the Hockey for Life framework but this is just the beginning, during the Summer and Autumn months we will release more information about each of the tiers including how you as an individual, your club, your school or your organisation can get involved.

If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. More details are available on the FAQ document.

Helen Bushell
Chief Executive Officer
1 June 2012