



WOMEN & GIRLS CRICKET NEWSLETTER

As we are fast approaching the Summer, Cricket Shropshire has been seeking expression of interest from clubs for Women and Girls cricket in 2024 – with a fantastic response.

There will be Softball and Hardball offers to provide opportunities that women and girls across the county can get involved with.

These offers have been developed in line with our Pathway Programme to ensure as many women and girls as possible have the opportunity to engage in club cricket.

Women & Girls' Officer Katie Rushton said: "We have had a great response for entry into all the leagues across the Women & Girls activity."

"Over the next week or so we will be collating the expression of interest and formalising the league fixtures and structure for the coming season."

"If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in, touch."

GIRLS' SOFTBALL

U12 & U14 Softball Festivals

These will be hosted on separate Sundays, scheduled for the first two Sundays of each month, May, June, July & August with the ECB Softball competition running at the beginning of September.

The U12 festivals will be six-a-side countdown cricket with the U14 focussing on six-a-side pairs matches. Registration will be circulated ahead of each festival and fixtures generated from those. The format will also be updated depending on the number of teams entered.

U12 & U14 Girls Astro Turf Softball Festivals – New for 2024

Date: Sunday 21st April 2024

Time: 10am until 4pm (teams will be allocated a time for their fixture slot, arriving just for their fixtures)

Venue: Wrekin College Hockey Pitches, Sutherland Road, TF1 3BH

GIRLS' HARBALL

We are once again reshuffling the hardball leagues to give as many girls as possible the opportunity to get involved.

Proposed hardball league offers are:

U12 Incrediball/Hardball – Use of pads throughout, Incrediball for first fixture against each team but hardball during return fixture, unless arranged directly with coach/manager from the opposing team.

U14 Hardball/U16 Hardball

Formal structure, rules and format can be finalised once we have team entries confirmed.

We may look to run eight-a-side across all three leagues, utilising 16 over/T16 pairs format to allow the girls to experience both and encourage clubs with less girls to get involved.

We are keen once expression of interest has been gathered to hold a meeting with clubs to discuss how each of the offers will run in more detail.

Following the expression of interest deadline, we will be in touch with further details regarding a meeting.

Within both the leagues and the softball festivals above, we are keen to organise a Renegade teams for players from clubs who may not have the number of girls to enter under their club name.

We will look to keep these regionally based where possible.

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL 2024 Festivals

Based on the demands on the calendar for additional formats across the Cricket Shropshire offer, we have taken the decision stick with five festival dates in 2024.

On each of the dates there will be two festivals in two locations. This will hopefully ensure festivals continue to be well attended but leaves room in the calendar for other activity.

Super 10s League

We are going to introduce a more formal structure to the League, with a "County Division" and potentially three Regional Divisions which we feel will allow teams to be more fairly matched based on previous season's performance.

The structure below IS subject to entry confirmation. The top division consists of those teams who finished in the top two of the three divisions last year.

Having a Regional structure below the County Division will allow clubs not listed to enter at an appropriate level.



W&G Officer Katie Rushton



2023 Super 10s winners Frankton

In each Division teams will compete against each other playing home and away. The team finishing top of the division following the league cut-off date will be crowned the league winners.

For the Regional Divisions, the team finishing top of each of these will compete in a Finals Day during September.

Astroturf Festival Spring 2024

Following the success of the Astroturf festival in providing a transition from indoor to outdoor cricket during the Spring we have once again scheduled a date. Details of the festival are as follows:

Date: Sunday 14th April 2024

Time: 10am until 4pm (teams will be allocated a time slot based on when their fixtures will take place – limited spaces)

Venue: Shrewsbury School Hockey Pitch, Porthill Road Entrance, SY3 8SG

The format will be six-a-side pairs, much like the festivals/indoor leagues. Teams can bring squads of eight players. there will be cost per team, which I will confirm nearer the time.

WOMEN & GIRLS HARDBALL Shropshire 8s

We were really encouraged by the uptake and feedback to this new initiative in 2022/23, therefore we are looking to continue the success in 2024.

Dates have been allocated based on the number scheduled for last season. This is subject to change depending on the number of teams which enter.

The aim with this league is to schedule teams to play both home and away fixtures in pairs and T16 formats as per 2023.

Midweek Hardball League

The plan is for this league to remain the same with teams arranging their own home and away fixtures directly between themselves.

We understand that clubs may not be aware of who they will have involved next Summer, however it has been very helpful to receive the initial expression of interest.

We can use this to propose further plans and dates and circulate these as early as possible ahead of the season.

If there are any clubs who do not have enough players to enter a full team, we can look to add Renegade teams to ensure there is opportunity for all to be involved.

WOMEN & GIRLS HARDBALL INDOOR LEAGUE

Due to the growth and interest in Women & Girls Hardball across the county we have this year been able to offer two indoor leagues running simultaneously.

The County League involving the more established hardball clubs and players is taking place at Wrekin College involving four teams: Quatt, Shifnal, Wellington and Sentinel.

The second Development league aimed at those clubs transitioning through from Softball Cricket is being held at Sundorne Games Hall involving: Wem, Shelton, Conover, Oswestry and Pontesbury.

Each team in the County League will play against each other twice, with the Development League finishing off with a play-off matches.

Following on from the leagues on the 8th & 9th April we will be organising drop-in hardball sessions for new and existing players ahead of the outdoor season at Shrewsbury School Cricket Centre.

This provides training for those who have never played before and an opportunity for net sessions for existing teams who have struggled to get access to facilities.

Women & Girls Recreational Cricket Officer Katie Rushton said: "It is fantastic to see the hardball format growing amongst the women and girls with more clubs also scheduled to join the outdoor leagues in the Summer.

"The Women & Girls are keen to give hardball a go and build their confidence alongside the other teams working their way along the comprehensive pathway we are now able to offer."

WOMEN & GIRLS FORUM

The aim of the forum, which has now met for the first time, is to share views and experiences of females involved in cricket within in Shropshire.

This includes:

- Players – those playing in mixed gender teams



- Club environment/culture – experience of club committees
- Officials – umpires and scorers
- Other aspects you feel need addressing to improve and engage more females

Following a promotion of the option across the cricket network, a number of women involved in cricket as players, officials and parents of girls who play at club have registered their interest.

We held the first meeting at the end of February to discuss all matters impacting Women & Girls within cricket with more planned in the future.

A broad range of topics were discussed, and actions compiled to ensure that we continue to work to ensure that cricket in Shropshire is a welcoming environment for all.

SECONDARY SCHOOL DELIVERY

As part of our school delivery funding from Chance to Shine we can deliver in a selected group of Secondary schools across the county.

The funding we receive is focussed on the delivery of a designated girls-only programme surrounding leadership and playing and competition opportunities.

So far this school year we have delivered at Mary Webb School and Thomas Adams School. We are due to deliver at Belvidere School, Marches School, The Grove School and Sir John Talbot in the coming months.

The delivery programme consists of an initial leadership session where pupils are taught leadership skills and asked to deliver cricket activities.

They then use these skills to support events and competitions with primary school pupils and other students within lunchtime and afterschool clubs.

Delivery also takes place within the curriculum delivery allowing the girls to try cricket, in some cases for the first time. We then work with the school and local clubs to provide an offer outside of the school activity to engage the girls in club cricket.

Katie said: "It is great to see the girls engage with the leadership and practical cricket elements of the programme. We then often see the girls at competitions and club activity which is fantastic."



WOMEN & GIRLS FORUM

SHARE YOUR VIEWS & EXPERIENCES

The aim of the forum is to share views and experiences of females involved in cricket within Shropshire. This includes:

- Players – those playing in mixed gender teams
- Club environment/culture – experience of club committees
- Officials – umpires and scorers
- Other aspects you feel need addressing to improve and engage more females

We will hold informal meetings through out the year to hear from as many people as possible and follow up actions to make a real difference across the network.

If you would like to receive further communications regarding the forum, please complete the google form below or scan the QR code:

<https://forms.gle/7Hd1n7yHd02d9y7>

SCAN ME



FEMALE ONLY ACTIVATOR TRAINING

MONDAY 18TH MARCH
6.30PM UNTIL 9.30PM

Venue: Walford College Sports Hall, Baschurch, Nr Shrewsbury, SY4 2HL

For any females involved at clubs looking to support the All Stars & Dynamos sessions at their club. No prior experience needed. Great way to start your coaching journey, support your club and engage new parents and children to get involved in cricket.

Register your interest via the following link:
<https://forms.gle/7Hd1n7yHd02d9y7>



What is a National Programmes Activator?

National Programmes Activators are the **volunteers** key to creating a **positive** & **active** experience for hundreds of thousands of **kids** and **families** across the country.

National Programmes Activators **make All Stars Cricket and Dynamos Cricket happen!** It is one of the **MOST** important roles in the game, but you don't need coaching knowledge or experience to get involved.

AN ACTIVATOR:

- makes being All Stars Cricket and Dynamos even easier for kids
- gives kids and the chance to pick up a new sport
- provides support and encouragement to new players and any other children in the club
- helps to make the club a fun and friendly place for all
- supports the club to be a successful and thriving community

So what exactly does an Activator do?

AN ACTIVATOR:

- lead the club for sessions, taking on all the responsibilities of a coach
- support or lead the club's activities, games, events, and social events
- ensure the club is a safe and fun place for all
- ensure the club is a successful and thriving community

Interested in becoming an Activator?

Get all the info you need to become an Activator. Contact your local club or the National Programmes Activator team.

WOMEN & GIRLS' ACTIVATOR COURSE

A female only All Stars and Dynamos Activator Training Course will be staged ahead of the new season.

It will take place at Walford College Sports Hall in Baschurch near Shrewsbury on Monday, March 18, from 6.30-9.30pm.

It is suitable for any females looking to support the All Stars & Dynamos sessions at their club.

No prior experience is needed. It is a great way to start your coaching journey, support your club and encourage new parents and children to get involved in cricket.

Register your interest via the link [HERE](https://forms.gle/7Hd1n7yHd02d9y7).

ECB FOUNDATION COACH COURSE

For anyone looking to continue their coaching journey, an ECB Foundation Coach Course is being staged in April.

It is taking place at Ellesmere College on Sundays April 7 & 14 from 9.30am until 4.30pm.

The cost is £150 and some bursaries are available.

Candidates must be 17-years-old (18 for certification), has a valid safeguarding credentials (accessed once registration is complete), and valid ECB DBS.

This programme has been designed to develop a learner's knowledge, skills and confidence to use iCoachcricket to lead safe, fun and inclusive sessions that ignite a lifelong love of the game.

An ECB Foundation Coach will be qualified to lead coaching sessions independently and without supervision.

The registration link can be found [HERE](https://forms.gle/7Hd1n7yHd02d9y7).

If you have any questions on any of the stories in this newsletter, Katie can be contacted via:

katie.rushton@shropshirecricketboard.co.uk