Celebrating Our Pathway Community
As County Player Development Programme trials have taken place across the country, we want to take a moment to recognise the commitment, passion and dedication shown by everyone involved. To the athletes attending trials, the parents and carers supporting them, and the coaches, selectors and volunteers gifting their time to create these opportunities, thank you.
Every young person who steps onto court at a trial demonstrates courage, ambition and a love for netball. We know how much preparation, effort and excitement goes into the process, and we are proud of every athlete who puts themselves forward.

To Those Athletes Who Trialled
We also know that selection decisions can bring mixed emotions. While some athletes will be celebrating success, others may be feeling disappointed. That feeling is completely understandable. Many players who have gone on to achieve great things in the game have experienced setbacks, missed selections and challenges throughout their journey.

A selection outcome reflects a decision made at a particular point in an athlete's development journey. It does not define their future potential or their love of the game.

Athletes develop at different rates, and the England Netball Player Pathway is designed to provide opportunities for entry and progression at multiple stages. We would encourage every player to keep learning, keep enjoying the game and keep believing in their ability.

Understanding the England Netball Player Pathway
We've seen a number of questions being asked about how County programmes operate within the England Netball Player Pathway, so we wanted to provide you with information to support your conversations.

County Programmes are a formal and valued part of the England Netball Player Pathway, providing thousands of young athletes with high quality development opportunities every year.

The pathway relies on an incredible network of coaches, selectors, officials, administrators and volunteers who invest significant time and expertise to support young athletes. Their commitment is fundamental to creating development opportunities and experiences for players across the country.

To help answer common questions, we have provided further information below about:

- **County programmes are a formal part of the England Netball Player Pathway.** U13 and U15 County programmes form the first two stages of the pathway and provide the first formal entry point for young athletes.

- **The pathway is designed to support long term athlete development.** At U13 and U15, the focus is on providing high quality coaching, a combination of training and competition opportunities, within an environment that allows athletes to develop over time.

- **County programmes are an important part of an athlete's wider development experience.** County training and competition sit alongside school and club netball to provide athletes with a broad and well rounded development programme.

- **County programmes connect directly into our Pathway Clubs.** Each Franchise Pathway Club has an allocated geographical territory containing a number of Counties. Building strong relationships between the Pathway Club and their aligned Counties is an important part of creating a clear and connected pathway for athletes.

- **County participation is an important part of U15 Pathway Club eligibility.** Athletes are required to be registered within a County PDP to be selected to represent a Pathway Club at national U15 pathway competition, including the U15 National School Games and U15 NPL Tournament, in accordance with the relevant pathway regulations.

- **The pathway remains open to athletes developing at different rates.** While County programmes provide the first formal entry point at U13 and U15, there are further opportunities to enter the pathway at later stages through Franchise Pathway Clubs U17 & U19 NPL and U17 / U19 / U21 PDP's, recognising that athletes develop at different rates.

- **England Netball Player Pathway programmes operate on a non profit basis.** As set out within the England Netball Player Pathway Service Level Agreement, County PDP's through to Franchise Pathway Clubs NPL & PDP's are delivered to support athlete development, with programme income used to support the delivery of the pathway rather than generate any profit.

- **England Netball greatly values the people delivering our County programmes.** The expertise, commitment and time given by County coaches, leads, selectors, volunteers and administrators are fundamental to the success of the pathway and the experiences we provide for young athletes.

Thank You

Thank you to every athlete who attended a trial, every parent and carer who supported them, and every coach and volunteer who helped make the experience possible. You are all an incredibly important to our sport and we wish you every success for the season ahead.

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