



# JUNIOR/YOUTH DOMESTIC PATHWAY

## HANDBOOK 2024

*Building a platform for American cricket*



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## 1 Purpose

- 1.1. The Youth Domestic Pathway Handbook outlines details and best practices for general management and participation in the Domestic Youth Competitions (Hub and Zonal).
- 1.2. USA Cricket Operations, working in conjunction with the Development and Cricket Committees, has the ultimate responsibility for establishing best practices & policies for the Domestic Pathway and details will be reviewed and updated, if necessary, annually.
- 1.3. This will be a working document and USA Cricket may revise the document as and when needed to clarify any guideline or add/update guidelines. USA Cricket also reserves the right to provide exceptions to Hubs to resolve any operational issues on a case-by-case basis. Any exception must be obtained in writing from a USA Cricket authorized person.

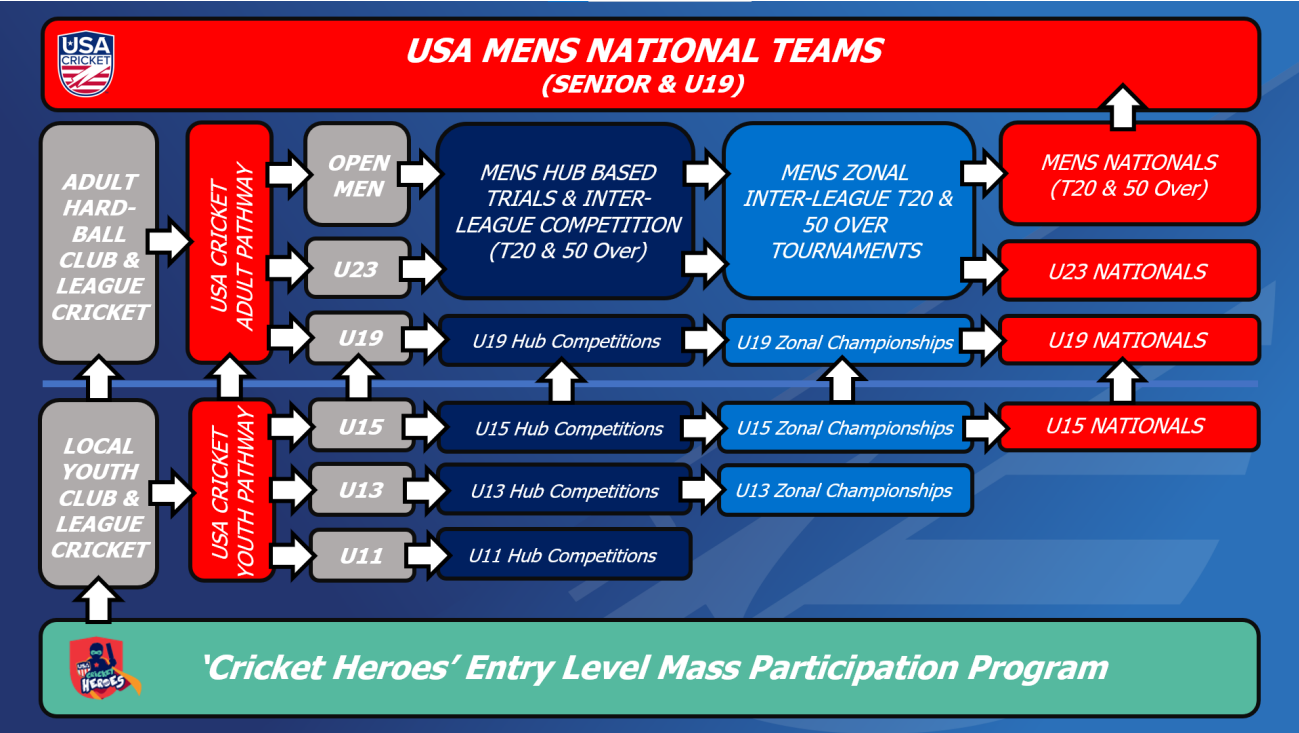
## 2 Format & Playing Conditions Summary

Age Group	U11	U13	U15
Playing Format	<b>HUB:</b> 20-30 Overs	<b>HUB:</b> 20-30 Overs <b>ZONALS:</b> 30 Overs	<b>HUB:</b> 30-40 Overs <b>ZONALS:</b> 40 Overs <b>NATIONALS:</b> 40 Overs
Playing Details	9 to 11-a-side 1 Super Sub 4.75oz/135gm WHITE ball Colored clothing 20 yard pitch max 40 yard boundaries Inner circle – 20 yards	11-a-side 1 Super Sub 5.5oz/156gm WHITE ball Colored clothing 22 yard pitch 45-50 yard boundaries Inner circle – 25 yards	11-a-side 1 Super Sub 5.5oz/156gm WHITE ball Colored clothing 22 yard pitch 55 yards boundaries Inner circle – 30 yards

2023	U11	U13	U15
LOCAL COMPETITIONS	Academy Club/School/Junior League	Academy Club/School/Junior League	Academy Club/School/Junior League
HUB COMPETITIONS	U11 Hub Based Competition	U13 Hub Based Competition	U15 Hub Based Competition
ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	N/A	U13 Zonal Championships	U15 Zonal Championships
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	N/A	N/A	U15 National Championships (40)

### 3 Hub Context & Formation

The Hub Competition is the first step in the domestic pathway towards playing representative cricket. Hubs will be established in each of the USA Cricket zones, with the number of Hubs determined by several established criteria, including the number of registered players, and the size of each relevant zone. Local Youth Leagues and Organizations are being asked to partner with USA Cricket’s volunteer network to help administer the youth cricket competitions at Hub level. As participation grows in areas throughout the USA, the number of Hubs year-on-year will grow to reflect and support the growth in junior/youth cricket.



## 4 Oversight of Youth Pathways

### 4.1 Youth Steering Task Force

The Youth Steering Task Force will offer support and guidance for the entire pathway.

### 4.2 Hub Cricket Lead

The Hub Cricket Lead will be the main point of contact between the Hub and USA Cricket with a focus on local partnership building including sponsorship. Overall responsibility for Hub operations and other development activities within the Hub.

### 4.3 The Zonal Body

The Zonal Body will oversee their respective Zone and be responsible for running annual Zonal Championships at U13 and U15 age-groups.

### 4.4 Hub Youth Coordinator

The Hub Youth Coordinator is responsible for helping deliver youth programs within the Hub, including U11, U13 and U15 Hub and Zonal competitions. They are the liaison between the Hub Body and the Hub Cricket Lead.

### 4.5 Hub Body

The appointed Hub body as voted on by Hub Club Members, are responsible for running Hub Competitions annually for at least 2 of the age-groups (U11, U13, U15). The Hub body is comprised of the following 6 positions...

- Hub Youth Coordinator (non-voting)
- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Logistics Coordinator
- Umpiring Coordinator



## 5 Hub Guidelines:

### 5.1 HUB GOVERNANCE:

**5.1.1** The appointed Hub must be registered following IRS 501c3 laws. Any new entity established for the purposes of Hub operations must pursue 501c3 status within the first year.

**5.1.2** Each Hub must appoint a 5 member Hub Body comprised of the following positions:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Logistics Coordinator
- Umpiring Coordinator

**5.1.3** Each club can nominate one person (Hub Club Member), who will participate in voting for the members of the Hub Body.

**5.1.4** The USAC appointed HYC will be a non-voting member on each Hub Body.

**5.1.5** The Hub Body will be responsible for all operations, including but not limited to...

- Scheduling of matches
- Finances
- Selection process
- Safety and well-being of athletes
- Address grievances

### 5.2 HUB OPERATIONS:

**5.2.1** Each year a Hub must have competitions in at least two (2) of the USAC recommended age groups.

**5.2.2** A Hub must have at least two (2) different clubs participating at each age group and a total of 3 clubs in the Hub at minimum.

**5.2.3** A club must have a minimum of 12 registered players to take part in any competition.

**5.2.4** A Hub may conduct 'seasonal camps/high performance camps' but should not conduct for-profit academy type activities.

**5.2.5** A Hub must have access to a minimum of two (2) grounds throughout the season.

**5.2.6** Every Hub must have a communication channel to ensure all USAC Junior Pathway related information is promptly relayed to parents and players.

**5.2.7** Hubs that do not meet the minimum requirements based on the USAC Membership may be dissolved.

### 5.3 HUB FINANCES:

**5.3.1** A Hub must generate support and sponsors locally to fund Hub competitions.

**5.3.2** The Hub Body may charge a participation fee over and above the USA Cricket registration fee for each team or player to help cover the cost of operations.

### 5.4 HUB COMPETITIONS:

**5.4.1** The 2024 schedule should be announced by the end of March or two weeks prior to the commencement of the season.

**5.4.2** A Hub will have flexibility to organize its season April through June.

**5.4.3** A Hub will follow USAC provided 'Playing Conditions'.

**5.4.4** Teams/Clubs/Academies must participate in the Hub that they are geographically a part of.

**5.4.5** A Hub must provide a total of 6 games minimum per team.

**5.4.6** A Hub must have a champion in each age category it operates.

**5.4.7** Each Hub will work with Zonal Umpire Coordinators to assign USA Cricket Certified Umpires to games wherever possible.

**5.4.8** For U15 Hub matches it is mandatory to have 1 Neutral Umpire, and encouraged wherever possible for U11 and U13 matches. At the U15 level umpires should have USAC Level 1 certification at a minimum.

**5.4.9** In accordance with the spirit of cricket, and to encourage ongoing participation, the Team Coach, Manager and Captain are encouraged to rotate players within reason to provide playing opportunity for all players within their squad.



**5.4.10** All participants are required to complete a liability waiver form, to be issued and collected by Team Managers, who will pass along to Hub Body.

**5.4.11** The Hub Body will assign the Coach and Manager to each age group Team participating in the Zonal competition.

**5.4.12** Hubs must use CricClubs portal to maintain scorecards and stats. USA Cricket will provide an Admin login to each Hub Body to administer Junior pathway tournaments.

*Please contact support at: [support@usacricket.org](mailto:support@usacricket.org)*

## **5.5 HUB REPRESENTATIVE TEAM SELECTIONS:**

**5.5.1** To be eligible to send a team to the Zonal competition in any age-group, a Hub must have at least 13 (thirteen) registered players in that age-group.

**5.5.2** Where there are not enough players for a Hub competition (3 teams minimum) the players from that Hub can join the clubs in neighboring hubs and participate in the hub league.

**5.5.3** Hub representative teams/squads will be chosen by the appointed selectors only, without any outside interference.

**5.5.4** A Hub Representative team will consist of 13 players and 2 reserves.

**5.5.5** All players must meet minimum fitness benchmarks, which will be defined and implemented for Zonal and National Selections.

**5.5.6** Hub teams must be selected and submitted to the Zonal Body at least 3 weeks prior to the requisite Zonal competition.

**5.5.7** Selections must be governed by the USAC Youth Pathway Selection Guidelines.

## **6 Zone Guidelines:**

### **6.1 GOVERNANCE:**

**6.1.1** Formed each year with a combination of Hub & USAC representatives; size limited to 5 members.

**6.1.2** Each Hub will nominate one representative; USA Cricket will appoint up to three representatives.

**6.1.3** Chairperson will be appointed from the USAC representatives in 2024.

**6.1.4** The Zonal Body will supervise the Hubs in the zone and be the first escalation point for any issues.

### **6.2 OPERATIONS:**

**6.2.1** To Organize and Facilitate Zonal tournament in each of the USAC recommended age categories.

**6.2.2** Will determine number of teams to participate in Zonal Championships from each Hub with guidance from USA Cricket.

*6.2.2.1 – Maximum of 8 teams in U13 and U15 Zonals.*

*6.2.2.2 – For a hub to have 2 teams in any age-group at Zonals, they must have a minimum of 6 teams in their hub competition.*

*6.2.2.3 – For a hub to have 3 teams in any age-group at Zonals, they must have a minimum of 9 teams in their hub competition.*

*6.2.2.4 – No hub can have more than 3 teams at Zonals.*

**6.2.3** Must use USAC approved Umpires as match officials.

### **6.3 FINANCES:**

**6.3.1** Able to generate support and sponsors locally to help fund Zonal competitions.

**6.3.2** USA Cricket will provide some support in 2024.

**6.3.3** Zonal Body may charge a participation fee for each team or player to help cover the cost of operations.

### **6.4 COMPETITIONS:**

**6.4.1** 2024 Zonal schedule to be announced by the end of April.

**6.4.2** Zone will follow USAC provided 'Playing Conditions'.

**6.4.3** The Zonal Body will work with Zonal Umpire Coordinators to assign umpires to games.

- 6.4.4 Must have a Zonal champion in U13 and U15 age groups.
- 6.4.5 A minimum of 4 matches to be played by each team in each Zonal competition.
- 6.4.6 Each player in a Zonal squad must play a minimum of 2 games (in starting XI).
- 6.4.7 In accordance with the spirit of cricket, and to encourage ongoing participation, the Team Coach, Manager and Captain are encouraged to rotate players within reason to provide playing opportunity for all players within their squad.
- 6.4.8 All participants are required to complete a liability waiver form, to be issued and collected by Team Manager, who will pass along the completed forms to the Zonal Body.
- 6.4.9 Zones must use CricClubs portal to maintain scorecards and stats. USA Cricket will provide an Admin login to each Zone to administer tournaments.  
*Please contact support at [support@usacricket.org](mailto:support@usacricket.org)*

## 6.5 U15 ZONAL REPRESENTATIVE TEAM SELECTIONS:

- 6.5.1 USA Cricket will appoint selectors for Zonal team selections.
- 6.5.2 A 13-Player Squad to be selected for Nationals, with 2 Reserves.
- 6.5.3 All players must meet minimum fitness benchmarks, which will be defined and implemented for Zonal and National Selections.
- 6.5.4 U15 Zonal teams must be selected and submitted to the Development Manager by close of business on **Monday August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.
- 6.5.5 Selections must be governed by the USAC Youth Pathway Selection Guidelines.

## 7 2024 National Tournament Dates

U15 Nationals	August 29 – September 2	Param Veers Sports Complex, Atlanta, GA
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## 8 Safety, Security, and Inclusion

- 8.1 - SAFEGUARDING – USA Cricket REQUIRES all staff, volunteers, team managers, coaches, contractors, and other adults who have regular contact with or authority over a minor amateur athlete, to complete SafeSport Training and report abuse, misconduct, and violations of its safety policies.
- 8.2 – The [SAFESPORT COURSE](#) is specifically built to help you recognize emotional, physical and sexual misconduct.
- 8.3 - Zonal Bodies, Hub Bodies, Team Managers, Coaches, Captains, and USA staff will ensure an inclusive, safe, and welcoming environment for all.
- 8.4 - All staff, players, and parents must respect the rights and dignity of every person regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.
- 8.5 - Volunteers, team managers, coaching staff, officials, USA Cricket staff and all others involved will recognise the importance of safety and security and never intentionally compromise the safety of participants, on or off the field.
- 8.6 - All volunteers and staff must promote the principles of the Spirit of Cricket and discourage unsporting behaviour.
- 8.7 – USA Crickets FAST BOWLING DIRECTIVES will be strongly recommended from 2024 onwards, to ensure we do more to nurture and protect our young fast bowlers through their formative years.



## 9 Eligibility

**9.1** – All players must register with USAC and pay the annual registration fee to participate in any pathway competitions.

**9.2** – Residents or citizens of USA are eligible to play these competitions in 2024.

**9.3** – There is no restriction on how long one has been a resident for the U11, U13 and U15 age-groups.

**9.4** - Players can play either in the Hub where they reside or in the Hub that their club/academy participates in.

**9.5** - Players are *not* permitted to play for more than one team.

**9.6** - Females can participate at the Hub (U11, U13, U15) and Zonal (U13, U15) levels.

**9.7** – Female players get a two-year age exception to participate in a lower age-group. They can choose to either participate in their age-group or the lower age-group, but not both.

**9.8** - Age cut-offs are on September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

**9.9** – Selectors **ONLY** may make recommendations for players to play up an age-group at Hub Level if they strongly feel that player has a chance of being selected to represent the Zone in the higher age-group.

**9.10** – At Hub Level a male player must participate only in their respective age-group, unless the Hub Body and the parent/guardian has approved selectors recommended exceptional circumstances (see 9.9) for a younger player to play up.

2024	2024 (Males)	U11	U13	U15	U19	U23
	Born on or after	Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2012	Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2010	Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2008	Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2006	Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2000
	Born on or before	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> 2014	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> 2012	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> 2010	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> 2008	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> 2006
	Age range	9 - 11	11 - 13	14 – 15	16 - 18	18 – 22
	2024 (Females)	U11	U13	U15	U19	U23
	Born on or after	Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2010	Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2008	Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2006	N/A	N/A
	Born on or before	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> 2014	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> 2012	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> 2010	N/A	N/A
2025	Age range	9 – 13	11 - 15	13 – 17	N/A	N/A
	2025 (Males)	U11	U13	U15	U19	U23
	Born on or after	Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2013	Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2011	Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2009	Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2006	Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2001
	Born on or before	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> 2015	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> 2013	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> 2011	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> 2009	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> 2006
	Age range	9 – 11	12 - 13	14 – 15	17 - 18	18 – 22
	2025 (Females)	U11	U13	U15	U19	U23
	Born on or after	Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2011	Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2009	Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2007	N/A	N/A
	Born on or before	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> 2013	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> 2011	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> 2009	N/A	N/A
	Age range	11 - 13	13 - 15	15 – 17	N/A	N/A
ICC U19 WORLD CUP 2026						

## 10 Coach & Support Staff Selection

**10.1** - Zonal Bodies, in conjunction with USA Cricket, are responsible for appointing Team Managers and Coaches for Zonal Championships, and USA Cricket will appoint Managers, Coaches and Officials for National championships.

**10.2** - Coaches should be considered based upon the following criteria...

**10.2.1** - Must be a minimum of 18 years of age.

- 10.2.2** - Qualifications/certification – For Zonal level and above must have completed the equivalent of level 1 coaching certification from USA Cricket, any ICC Full member organization.
- 10.2.3** - Has coached regularly at local club/league level in recent seasons.
- 10.2.4** - Is a positive example and above reproach in all aspects of the Spirit of Cricket, impartiality, attitude, and behaviour.
- 10.2.5** - Have a track record of being impartial and inclusive, and having a 'player centred' approach, putting the needs of the players first.

## 11 USA Cricket Responsibilities

- 11.1** - USAC will provide support and direction to Zonal Bodies, Hub Bodies, HYCs, Team Managers, Coaches, and Captains
- 11.2** - USAC will arrange for Scouts and Selectors to observe matches, scorecards and/or live streams, to make informed selection decisions.
- 11.3** - USAC will provide development opportunities for interested parties - officials, coaches, and support staff.
- 11.4** - CricClubs is the common scoring software will be provided for the scoring of all matches at Hub, Zonal and Nationals.
- 11.5** - Media support and coverage will be provided throughout the season.
- 11.6** - Budget permitting, USA Cricket will contribute an unspecified dollar amount toward costs associated with running the Hub Competitions and Zonal Championships.
- 11.7** - USA Cricket will provide player insurance thru its player registration program.

## 12 Code of Conduct

- 12.1** - All participants are required to review and adhere to USA Cricket's Codes of Behaviour for players, coaches, umpires & officials, and parents/caregivers. These are available on the USA Cricket website.
  - [Match Officials](#)
  - [Coaches](#)
  - [Parents/caregivers](#)
  - [Players](#)

## 13 Conflict Resolution & Escalation Process

- 13.1** - In the event a player and/or anyone else has a dispute which is not able to be resolved or addressed immediately, said dispute should be reported to the Grievance Committee who will then decide on the appropriate course of action.
- 13.2** - All disputes will be handled in a confidential and unbiased manner.

**NOTE:** USA Cricket reserves the right to step in and override any decisions made by the Hub or Zonal Committees which they feel are not made in the best interests of cricket.

**NOTE:** If anything within this document is unclear, or if any issues arise, Hubs and Zones should reach out to USA Cricket via the Volunteer Youth Coordinator/s on their committee.