Netball Development & Pathway Information



**Community Club and School Netball**

Children learn and progress with their netball at a local club. Most clubs provide netball at entry beginner level up to playing in local league competition. A few clubs in Oxfordshire offer the next level of playing in regional level competition. Players can access club netball at any stage and it is open to all.

**Satellite & County Academy**

County (ages 14-15) & Satellite (ages 11-13) Netball is the first official step on the England Netball Performance Pathway. Run by Oxfordshire Netball, it is ‘*targeted at players who have been identified as having the potential to play netball at a higher level*.’ The focus is on individual development of ball handling skills, playing techniques, and strength & conditioning. Clubs and Schools nominate players for trials. County is great for those players that have a real desire/ambition to play at the highest levels and would benefit from the extra coaching to focus on their individual playing abilities.

**Regional Netball**

Clubs can enter regional selection at the start of the season. Oxfordshire is within South Region which covers an area from North/South Bucks, Berkshire, Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, and Guernsey. South region offers competitive leagues for U13, U14, U16, U19, and Adult age ranges. To participate in a division every team has to qualify via a one-day tournament. At junior level this is where all the best players in South region compete. It’s fast, powerful, competitive netball. Clubs entering regional competition hold trials to select their squads. For details about regional level clubs visit the [Netball South](https://www.netballsouth.co.uk/) website.

Kites NC do not enter regional competition; however we help players with potential by offering an introduction to clubs playing regional netball. Players can play for Kites at local level which provides a competitive and social environment to enjoy their netball alongside peers and friends. Regional netball is more rigorous and requires resilience, self reflection and motivation from players; it also requires a greater time commitment from parents and carers.

**Super League Academy**

The Super League Academies (Franchise Academies) is where the top clubs offer pathway netball to selected athletes. There are currently 11 super league clubs, covering specified areas across England, Scotland, and Wales for which they offer academy netball.

Wasps Netball runs academies in Oxfordshire. Players can trial for any club during a season. Applications to trial are by the individual, you do not require nomination from a school or club coach. Trial dates can be any time from June to October; it is advised that you check the website and Twitter account for all clubs you are interested in from as early as May onwards.

A franchise academy is made up of 5 levels/age ranges – Hub, U15 National Games squad, U17 National Performance League (NPL) squad, U19 NPL squad, and U21 NPL squad. All players aged U15-U19 will form part of a Hub, a geographically local training group. Hub’s will then train once a week and periodically play against other hubs in the same franchise as part of a hub league. Subject to successful selection, players can then go on to form competition squads for each age range. From here, the very elite might be fortunate enough to then go on to be selected for England Roses Academy.

Commitment from players is increased, they must timetable in netball sessions and competition around their routine school work. Parents will also have to make additional commitments. It is feasible for any one player to remain eligible for County, play Regional level, and be selected for a franchise. All three of which require weekly attendance to their respective 2-hour training sessions. Parents of such players will spend a lot of time driving their daughters back & forth or sitting around waiting whilst they train.

The information provided on this page shows the pathway from grass roots netball to national play. It also reflects the experiences from a parent of a player who has played at Kites and been subsequently selected to play at every level to national. The netball pathway can be quite complex to the uninitiated and so we hope the information provided helps players and parents understand the various levels involved. We are happy to provide additional information, share experiences and advise any netballer and their families, please contact our development coach via our club contact page.