



2026 Hampshire Champions Programme

“Empowering Hampshire’s young cricketers through skills,
leadership and volunteering opportunities.”



The Programme

The Champions Programme consists of three sequential, year-long courses that participants can complete to develop their skills and experience within the cricket community. Each stage includes a set of criteria outlined in the Champions Booklet, which must be verified by either a member of the Hampshire Cricket Board (HCB) team or the designated club contact identified during registration.

“This exciting programme empowers participants to develop their skills in coaching, officiating, leadership, and volunteering. With a third level being added this year (Gold) for those who have achieved their Bronze and Silver, the programme offers tailored opportunities to inspire and nurture future cricket leaders.”

Ben Saunders – Programme Lead



What Can You Expect?

Bronze

The Bronze Award serves as the entry point into the Champions For children aged 13-15. Programme, providing participants with foundational knowledge and hands-on experience across key areas of the game. (For Children aged 13-15)

 **Junior Activator Coaching Activity (On Course)**

 **Umpire and Scoring Theory (On Course)**

 **Groundskeeping (On Course)**

 **Umpire and Scoring Practical (On Course)**

 **HCB Volunteering Activity**

 **Club Volunteering Checklist (16 Hours)**

Silver

Building upon the learning achieved in the Bronze Award, the silver stage enhances leadership and practical experience, with an increased emphasis on volunteering and community contribution. (For children aged 14-16).

 **Junior Activator Coaching Activity (On Course)**

 **Leadership In Sport - HCB Training**

 **Umpire 1x Junior Match & Score 2x Matches at Club**

 **HCB Volunteering Activity**

 **Ground Volunteering (Supervised By A DBS Checked Club Member)**

 **Coaching (8 Hours)**

Gold

For children aged 15-17.

 **ECB - Beyond the Boundaries Training**

 **Umpiring Level 1**

 **Scoring Level 1**

 **Buddle Social Media - Marketing In Sport (1 Hour)**

 **HCC Pathway Coaching CPD**

 **HCC Volunteering Activity**

 **HCB Volunteering Activity**

 **Club Volunteering Checklist (20 Hours)**

Our 2025 Champions

In 2025, a total of 101 Hampshire Champions were trained, contributing over 2,500 hours of volunteering within local cricket clubs.

Our 2025 Champions also supported major cricket events across the county, including:

- Every match of The Hundred at the Utilita Bowl
- All Vitality T20 Blast fixtures, supporting:
 - Skills Challenge zones
 - HCB Pick Up & Play zones
- Hampshire Cricket Board Summer Holiday Festivals and community events across the county



Programme Timelines

Bronze

February Half Term

- 5 regionalised training sessions
- Junior Activator coaching activity
- Umpiring & scoring theory

April - May Half Term

- Groundskeeping theory
- Umpiring & scoring practical

Summer

- Complete club volunteering checklist
- Hampshire Cricket Board volunteering activity

August - September

- Express Event
- HCB sign-off of Champions Booklets

Silver

February Half Term

- Junior Activator coaching activity
- Leadership in Sport – HCB training

March - April

- Recommended ground volunteering at club
- (aligned with Get Set Weekend)

May – August

- Complete club volunteering checklist
- Hampshire Cricket Board volunteering activity

August - September

- Express Event
- HCB sign-off of Champions Booklets

Gold

February

- Buddle: Social Media & Marketing in Sport
- Coaching Pathway – Practical session

April

- ECB Beyond the Boundaries (E-Learning)
- Umpiring Level 1 course

May

- Scoring Level 1 course

May – August

- Complete club volunteering checklist
- Hampshire Cricket Board volunteering activity

August / September

- Express Event
- HCB sign-off of Champions Booklets

Impact in the Community

Champion Spotlight: Josh Bentham

Hook & Newnham CC – 2025 Cricket Collective Rising Star Award Winner

Josh is an outstanding young volunteer at Hook & Newnham CC, dedicating countless hours to coaching and supporting the U9s. From running weekly training sessions and preparing pitches, to scoring and umpiring matches, Josh consistently applies the skills he gained through the Hampshire Champions Programme.

Always willing to help with a smile, Josh's dedication, leadership and enthusiasm truly embody the spirit of the Champions Programme.

Josh on volunteering in cricket:

"I enjoy supporting younger players and helping them grow in confidence. Umpiring junior matches is fun and rewarding, and scoring keeps me focused and trusted by the team. Helping run U9 training sessions and seeing their excitement makes all the effort worth it."

Josh on the programme's impact:

"The practical coaching sessions had the biggest impact on me. Running activities pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped build my confidence. The feedback I received helped me improve and take on more responsibility at my club."

Josh's advice:

"Go for it. You'll try things you might never have done before and gain real skills. The programme builds confidence, creates opportunities, and is incredibly rewarding."



Registration & Key Information

How to Register

Register now via the Hampshire Cricket Board website:
www.utilitabowl.com/cricket-board/youth-cricket-hampshire/hampshire-champions-programme/

Cost: £50 per participant

Key Information

- Participants may register independently or with support from their cricket club
- A named club contact is required at registration to approve volunteering hours
- All participants will receive a Hampshire Champions T-Shirt

If you have any questions, please contact Ben Saunders at:
[**Ben.Saunders@utilitabowl.com**](mailto:Ben.Saunders@utilitabowl.com)

For young people who love cricket and want to develop skills, confidence and leadership while giving back to the game, the Hampshire Champions Programme is the perfect opportunity.

Don't miss your chance to become a Hampshire Champion and take your skills to the next level!



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