

2023/2024

SOMERSET PLAYER PATHWAY GIRLS PATHWAY HANDBOOK



 **Bradford's**

THE PLAYER PATHWAY





INTRODUCTION

KIERAN PETERS | WOMEN & GIRLS LEAD

In 2020, Somerset County Cricket Club (SCCC) made a significant move by taking over the running of all Pathway cricket from Somerset Cricket Board. This transition aimed to align our Pathway with the intentions of SCCC, providing more players with the opportunity to be identified, developed, and inspired within our programme. Since this handover, we've seen a rise in training hours by almost a third and a corresponding increase in player numbers. In the past year, we assessed 932 players across both the boys' and girls' programmes for the Somerset Pathway.

The structure of our programmes spans from the Foundation Phase which comprises U11 and U13, the Youth Development Phase at U15s and the Senior Development Phase at U18s. These groups feed into the Somerset Emerging Players Programme and then into our regional partners Western Storm, with the ultimate goal of inspiring and developing cricketers from across the South West to reach the highest level of cricket that they can.

Our philosophy centres on providing as many opportunities to players as possible in an environment that is representative of the game they play. We aim to teach not only the fundamentals of cricket but also the holistic aspects that will support them in every game they play. We strive to foster a lifelong affinity for cricket, a strong understanding of development, and happy memories of their opportunities within the Pathway.

Although only about 6% of our 126 girls that have earned a place within the Pathway this winter will end up being offered a place on the Somerset Emerging Player Programme, and less than 4% will end up being offered a professional contract, we believe that the value of our programme extends beyond professional cricket.

This year we are thrilled to announce a growth in the number of players on the Pathway from 102 last year to 126 this year. The main increase in numbers will occur in the Foundation Phase with an additional 14 places available in both squads. At U11s squads will be split across two mixed ability groups of 22 players and at U13s a 20 player County Age Group squad and a 24 player Wyvern squad.

As we look to the future, Somerset County Cricket Club takes immense pride in our commitment to nurturing the next generation of cricketers. Our dedication extends not just to those who will make cricket their profession, but to all who pass through our programme. We strive to instil in them a love for the sport, the skills to excel, and the resilience to face any challenge, both on and off the field. Our ultimate aspiration is to see each player grow, not just as a cricketer, but as a person, cherishing their time spent within the Somerset Cricket.

PURPOSE & AIMS

PRIMARY PURPOSE

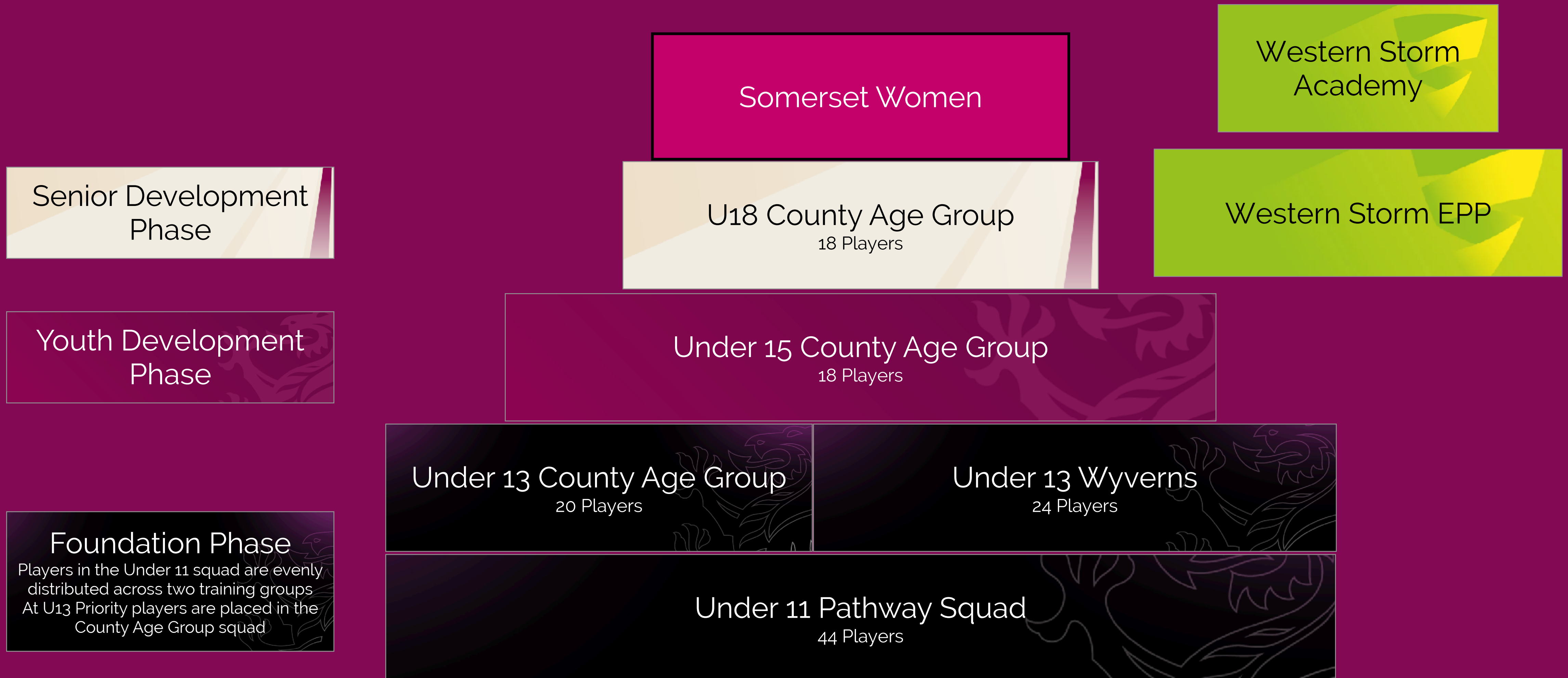
To identify, develop and inspire high potential young cricketers across Somerset.

ADDITIONAL PURPOSES

- Produce high potential young cricketers to go on to the Somerset EPP and Western Storm Programme
- Use the Pathway as a vehicle to develop people and provide them with transferable skills
- To inspire players to stay involved with cricket in the region beyond the Pathway



PATHWAY STRUCTURE



Numbers beneath each age group indicate approximate number of players selected each winter.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMES

WESTERN STORM

Western Storm is the South West and Wales' professional regional side that the Somerset Pathway feeds in to.

The region that Western Storm covers includes; Wales, Somerset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Cornwall and Devon.

The Storm EPP and Academy programmes are managed independently by Western Storm with Somerset having no influence on the final decisions made on players going onto programmes.

Players will be observed within County Age Group matches and further Storm observation days/matches before final selections are made.

STORM EPP

Each year Western Storm will select 36 players from across the Western Storm region to take part in weekly hub sessions, group practices as well as some outdoor training days and match play opportunities in the summer months.

The weekly hub sessions will take place at a number of different venues across the region.

Players will be selected as part of a scouting process that sits independently to the associated counties.

Once selected for the EPP players will receive a range of support services including, Cricket Development, Sports Psychology and a Strength and Conditioning Programme.

STORM ACADEMY

The Academy is managed and selected by Western Storm and is open to players from across Wales, Somerset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Cornwall and Devon. The Academy Programme consists of a variety of practice and match opportunities across the region throughout the year, with players attending weekly Academy hub sessions, which will give them the opportunity to develop their skills.

The Academy train at a variety of places across the South West and Wales with weekly hubs taking place in Somerset, Devon, Wales and Gloucestershire. Players selected onto the programme will receive a broad range of support sessions to further their development, including technical support, tactical awareness, sports psychology and a strength & conditioning programme. The players will also receive both physiotherapy and medical support.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MCC FOUNDATION



Working with the MCC Foundation we offer identified state school players who miss out on County Age Group selection with free coaching and match play in order to empower boys and girls to reach their future potential in the game.

Unfortunately only a limited number of spaces are available for this programme each year (U13s & U16s) and are still selected as part of the Pathway observation process.

STATE SCHOOL PROGRAMME



Working with the Clowance Trust we offer state school County Age Group players and selected state school Wyverns squad players with additional free coaching across the winter to acknowledge the lack of cricket currently available in the state school sector.

Players in the U13 - U15 age group are able to be invited to this programme.

CAG & WYVERNS

This section provides clarity on what skills we look to develop in the County Age Group and Wyverns stage of the Pathway.





FRAMEWORK

WHAT IS IT AND WHY WAS IT INTRODUCED?

The Pathway Framework was introduced in 2020 with the aim of providing a roadmap for Pathway players, coaches throughout the club & school network, and parents alike to have a greater understanding of the Pathway development journey.

The Framework is essentially a blueprint which outlines the key skills and competencies players should aspire to demonstrate at each stage of their development within the Somerset Pathways. It is structured in a way that ensures progressive learning, starting with establishing an understanding of core skills at the Foundation Phase, developing them during the Youth Development Phase and demonstrating them as they progress into the Senior Development Phase. This progressive structure of the Framework ensures that players are continually challenged and engaged, promoting consistent growth and development.

The Somerset Pathway programme is built from the Framework, allowing us to create

an aligned, age group specific, coaching curriculum that ensures players have the opportunity to develop all aspects of the Framework across the winter and summer. The creation of this coaching curriculum ensure that all aspects of a player's game are developed and that no critical skills are overlooked. By providing a clearer understanding of the areas of development at each phase it is hoped that players have a greater ability to also develop relevant skills outside of formal Pathway training sessions.


By sharing the Pathway Framework we can start to build a common language and understanding of what the Pathway sees as important for the progression of young players. This common language will also ensure a clear and effective communication between all parties involved, which is critical for efficient learning and improvement.


The next three pages, summarise the Pathway Framework for all skills across the Foundation Phase, Youth Development Phase and Senior Development Phase.


PATHWAY FRAMEWORK

UNDER 11 GIRLS & UNDER 13 GIRLS

BATTING


 Establishing a position at release that allows them to be balanced, aligned and ready to move to different types of delivery on the front foot and back foot against pace and spin.

 Establishing the ability to identify length and attempt positive movements on the front foot and back foot vs seam and spin.


 Establishing an awareness of contact and how to use their hands to add, use and remove pace

 Establishing an awareness of positive running between the wickets


 Establishing the ability to identify gaps and space and find ways to score runs in different areas of the ground

 Exploring an awareness of different game situations and roles


PACE BOWLING


 Establishing an awareness of an efficient bowling action that works in a straight line towards the target

 Establishing a grip and release allowing for lateral movement

 Establishing the ability to regularly challenge the stumps


 Establishing the ability to bowl yorkers and variations (U13's)


 Establishing an awareness and understanding of where different types of delivery are most likely to be hit


 Establishing an awareness and understanding of appropriate fields

 Establishing a desire to bowl fast and take wickets


FIELDING

 Establishing the ability to attack first and defend second every ball as well as understanding the requirements of their role whilst fielding in a variety of positions.

 Develop an effective ready position to move quickly and take the most direct line to intercept the ball


 Establishing an awareness of the technique required to pick-up the ball cleanly in a variety of locations on the field and the sequencing of footwork for an appropriate release

 Establishing an awareness of the technique to effectively throw at pace towards the target from a variety of locations on the field to create run out opportunities


 Establishing an awareness of the technique to catch the ball from different heights in various locations on the field


 Establishing confidence to hit the ground by learning how to dive and roll safely to keep the ball in play at all cost

SPIN BOWLING


 Establishing an awareness of a bowling action that effectively creates spin on the ball and works towards the target

 Establishing a grip and release allowing for spin


 Establishing the ability to regularly challenge the stumps


 Establishing an awareness and understanding of where different types of delivery are most likely to be hit


 Establishing an awareness and understanding of appropriate fields


 Establishing a desire to spin the ball hard and take wickets


WICKETKEEPING

 Establishing an awareness of how to take different types of catches when standing up and standing back

 Establishing an awareness of how posture combined with a positive use of head, hands and feet allows them to manage different types of delivery

 Establishing an awareness of positioning to catch throws and get the ball to the stumps as fast as possible to create run out opportunities

 Establishing an awareness of how to be involved and influence the game

 Beginning to show confidence and bravery when standing up to the stumps

PATHWAY FRAMEWORK

UNDER 15 GIRLS







BATTING

-  Developing a position at release that allows them to be balanced, aligned and ready to move to different types of delivery against pace and spin
-  Developing the ability to identify length and effectively play off the front and back foot against pace and spin
-  Developing the ability to effectively use their hands to add, use and remove pace
-  Developing the ability to run positively between the wickets
-  Developing the ability to identify and hit gaps and space in different areas to score runs
-  Establishing the ability to adapt their approach to run scoring based on the game situation, their role, the surface and conditions








PACE BOWLING

-  Developing an efficient bowling action that works in a straight line towards their target to increase pace and accuracy
-  Developing the ability to generate lateral movement in the air and/or off the surface
-  Developing the ability to regularly bowl a length challenging the stumps
-  Developing the ability to bowl yorkers and variations
-  Establishing an understanding of effective deliveries to bowl based on the game situation, their role, the surface, the conditions and the batter's approach
-  Developing an awareness and understanding of appropriate fields; establishing how they are influenced by the deliveries they are bowling and how they can influence the batter's approach
-  Demonstrating a desire to bowl fast and take wickets

FIELDING

-  Developing the ability to attack first and defend second every ball as well as understanding the requirements of their role whilst fielding in a variety of positions.
-  Demonstrate an effective ready position to anticipate where the ball could go and move quickly taking the most direct line to intercept the ball
-  Developing an awareness of the technique required to pick-up the ball cleanly in a variety of locations on the field and the sequencing of footwork for a quick release
-  Developing the technique to effectively throw at pace towards the target from a variety of locations on the field to create run out opportunities
-  Developing the technique required to catch the ball from different heights and in various locations on the field
-  Developing confidence to hit the ground by learning how to dive and roll safely to keep the ball in play at all cost

SPIN BOWLING

-  Developing a bowling action that works towards the target to increase spin and accuracy when bowling with intent and energy
-  Developing a grip, release and seam position allowing for spin
-  Developing the ability to regularly bowl a length challenging the stumps
-  Establishing variations that deceive batters in the air and off the pitch
-  Establishing an understanding of effective deliveries to bowl based on the game situation, their role, the surface, the conditions and the batter's approach
-  Developing an awareness and understanding of appropriate fields; establishing how they are influenced by the deliveries they are bowling and how they can influence the batter's approach
-  Demonstrating a desire to spin the ball hard and take wickets

WICKETKEEPING

-  Developing the ability to convert wicket taking chances when standing up and standing back
-  Developing an understanding and consistency of their posture and movements to manage different types of delivery when standing up and standing back
-  Developing a position to catch throws and get the ball to the stumps as fast as possible to create run out opportunities
-  Establishing the ability to positively impact the game by providing relevant information to fielders, bowlers and captains and creating intensity in the field
-  Developing the courage to stand up to the stumps and the ability to identify when this is most appropriate

PATHWAY FRAMEWORK

UNDER 18 GIRLS

BATTING

-  Regularly demonstrates a position at release that allows them to be balanced, aligned and ready to move to different types of delivery against pace and spin
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to identify length and execute appropriate movements on the front and backfoot, to create run scoring opportunities against pace and spin.
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to effectively use their hands to add, use and remove pace
-  Demonstrates the ability to run positively between the wickets
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to identify gaps and space. Has clear single and boundary options against pace and spin.
-  Developing the ability to adapt their approach to run scoring and execute effective options resulting in match influencing performances







PACE BOWLING

-  Consistently demonstrates a bowling action that works in a straight line towards their target facilitating pace and accuracy
-  Regularly demonstrates the adaptability to generate lateral movement in the air and/or of the surface
-  Regularly demonstrates the adaptability to execute an appropriate wicket taking length
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to accurately execute yorkers and bouncers
-  Developing an understanding of effective deliveries to bowl based on the game situation, role, surface, the conditions and the batter's approach
-  Regularly demonstrates an awareness and understanding of appropriate fields; developing how they are influenced by the deliveries they are bowling and how they can influence the batter's approach
-  Demonstrates a desire to bowl fast and take wickets

FIELDING

-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to attack first and defend second every ball as well as understanding the requirements of their role whilst fielding in a variety of positions.
-  Regularly demonstrates the desire to be ready and anticipate where the ball could go. Take the most direct line to intercept and pick-up the ball, with appropriate footwork and throwing technique to create run out opportunities
-  Regularly demonstrates an effective throwing technique allowing them to throw at pace towards the target from a variety of locations on the field
-  Regularly demonstrates the technique required to catch the ball from different heights and in various locations on the field
-  Regularly demonstrates the confidence to dive and roll safely and the desire to keep the ball in play at all costs

SPIN BOWLING

-  Regularly demonstrates a bowling action that works towards the target facilitating spin and accuracy when bowling with intent and energy
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to deceive batters in the air and off the pitch with their stock ball and developing variations to do the same
-  Regularly demonstrates the adaptability to execute an appropriate wicket taking length
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to adapt their pace to remain threatening in all conditions
-  Developing an understanding of effective deliveries to bowl based on the game situation, their role, the surface, the conditions and the batter's approach
-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to deceive batters in the air and off the pitch with their stock ball and variations
-  Demonstrates a desire to spin the ball hard and take wickets

WICKETKEEPING

-  Regularly demonstrates the ability to convert a high percentage of wicket taking chances when standing up and standing back
-  Regularly demonstrates a strong and repeatable posture and appropriate movements to manage different types of delivery when standing up and standing back
-  Regularly demonstrates a position to catch throws and get the ball to the stumps as fast as possible to create run out opportunities
-  Developing the ability to positively impact the game by providing relevant information to fielders, bowlers and captains and creating intensity in the field
-  Demonstrates the courage to stand up to the stumps and positively impacts the game by identifying when it is appropriate to do so

SELECTION & TALENT ID

The process of talent identification encompasses numerous different considerations, is multifaceted and ever-evolving.

Recognising that it is impossible to achieve perfection, it should be an ongoing process that adapts, evolves, and improves over time.

This section gives an idea of how we select, what we select on and the process of selection for all players





FUNDAMENTALS

WHAT FUNDAMENTALS DO WE LOOK FOR AT OBSERVATION DAYS?



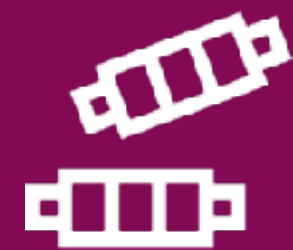
BATTING

- Creates a balanced position at ball release
- Identifies length and moves appropriately
- Uses hands effectively to add, remove and use pace



PACE BOWLING

Has an action that shows potential to bowl with pace & accuracy



FIELDING

- Shows a desire to catch and stop every ball
- Is able to throw with accuracy and intent



SPIN BOWLING

Shows potential to bowl with energy and accuracy

Is able to spin the ball off the surface

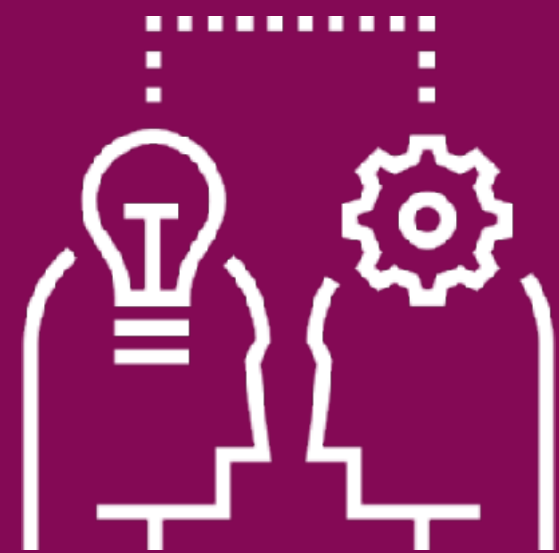


WICKETKEEPING

- Creates a strong position to catch from
- Manages a variety of deliveries

SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

COACH JUDGEMENT



Coach judgment is crucial in talent identification and selection. Coaches rely on their experience, judgement, evidence, opinion and intuition to assess a player's potential and capabilities.

Throughout our observation process full-time members of staff will work alongside Pathway coaches to evaluate players fundamentals against the Pathway Framework. These coaches are able to use a strong awareness of Pathway cricket to observe technical skills, tactical awareness, game understanding, and strategic thinking.

PLAYER POTENTIAL



Player statistics form little to no part of our Pathway selection and instead a players potential will be the key selection factor. The evidence says that until the U18 age group, there is no link between statistics and players long term success at senior/professional level.

This is where a player's ability to demonstrate the skills within the Framework is so important as these are all directly transferable to the high level of cricket that they aspire to play.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

TRAINING HISTORY



Understanding a player's cricket journey and current access to the sport helps us gauge their developmental progress. This information is particularly valuable for newcomers or those with limited exposure to the game.

ATHLETICISM



Assessing a player's athleticism is crucial for their development. We look at their movement abilities and overall physical coordination to determine how well they can perform certain aspects of the game.

MATURATION



In the observation phase, we consider growth and maturation data to ensure fair comparisons among players of similar biological age. This is especially important for players aged U13-U15, as early maturers may have advantages over their later developing peers.

ADAPTABILITY



Players in the Pathway are exposed to higher levels of challenge. Those who demonstrate a higher level of awareness and the ability to learn from and cope with challenges quickly tend to excel. We assess how quickly players adapt, learn, and embrace new ideas.

MONTH OF BIRTH



Considering the month or stage of the year a player is born becomes relevant, especially in the Foundation phase (U9-U12). This factor can significantly impact performance, as players born in the first quarter of the year may have an advantage over their peers.

EXPLORATION



We evaluate how players approach tough situations, challenges, and adversity. Their ability to handle discomfort and push beyond their comfort zones, as well as their willingness to adapt and improve, is key to their development.

OBSERVATION DAYS

WHAT ADDITIONAL THINGS MIGHT YOU SEE AT THE OBSERVATION DAY?

USE OF BIBS



We use bibs within our sessions for a variety of reasons but mainly because it allows us to have an awareness of certain key selection considerations like relative age effect and growth and maturation data without constantly referring to clipboards or electronic devices

CONVERSATIONS



Building rapport with players and beginning to understand relevant aspects of their cricket journey helps us build a greater understanding of the player. Coaches may also look to get a better understanding of how a player may overcome a challenge or problem.

FOOTAGE



Collecting footage throughout sessions allows us to review aspects of the observation day away from the day itself. This is particularly helpful when recording bowlers and overseeing net scenarios

DATA COLLECTION



Getting bowling speeds not only provides a unique experience for players but also allows us to build a picture of what good looks like using data.

SELECTION TIMELINES FOUNDATION PHASE

Selection numbers are all approximate, based on historical data and/or projections for 2023/2024



UNDER 11 GIRLS TIMELINES

NUMBER OF PLAYERS NOMINATED: 60 + 10 EXISTING

NUMBER OF WINTER SQUAD SELECTED PLAYERS: 44



STAGE ONE DATE: 24TH JULY OR 18TH AUGUST

STAGE TWO DATES: 29TH AUGUST

UNDER 13 GIRLS TIMELINES

NUMBER OF PLAYERS NOMINATED: 60 + 30 EXISTING

NUMBER OF WINTER SQUAD SELECTED PLAYERS: 44



STAGE ONE DATE: 24TH JULY OR 18TH AUGUST

STAGE TWO DATES: 31ST AUGUST

SELECTION TIMELINES YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PHASE

Selection numbers are all approximate, based on historical data and/or projections for 2023/2024



UNDER 15 GIRLS TIMELINES

NUMBER OF PLAYERS NOMINATED: 50 + 40 EXISTING

NUMBER OF WINTER SQUAD SELECTED PLAYERS: 18



STAGE ONE DATE: 11TH AUGUST

STAGE TWO DATES: 30TH AUGUST

SELECTION TIMELINES SENIOR DEVELOPMENT PHASE

Selection numbers are all approximate, based on historical data and/or projections for 2023/2024



UNDER 18 GIRLS TIMELINES

NUMBER OF PLAYERS NOMINATED: 20 + 20 EXISTING

NUMBER OF WINTER SQUAD SELECTED PLAYERS: 18



STAGE ONE DATE: 11TH AUGUST

STAGE TWO DATES: 30TH AUGUST

ARE YOU WORRIED
OR CONCERNED
ABOUT ANYTHING?

TELL
SOMEONE



- PARENTS
- COACH
- SCCC STAFF
- SOMEONE ELSE THAT YOU CAN TRUST

If you think you are in immediate danger call: **Police 999**

You can also call:

Child line **0800 1111**

SCCC Safeguarding Lead, Jaie Goddard:

07776 532433

ECB Safeguarding Team:

02074 321 200

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