

Somerset Cricket Board Pathway Changes

Somerset Cricket Board are delighted to communicate changes that we will be implementing to the pathway as of the 2018/2019 winter. All changes have seen an expansion in playing/development opportunities for players. The changes align to our pathway vision and objectives that can be found below:

Vision

“To create an environment that allows players to develop their skills and challenge themselves to the highest possible standard”

Objectives

- To provide players with the opportunity to develop & challenge their current level of cricket - through match-play and training
- To continually evolve ensuring that the pathway is player-centred and allows player development to be maximised
- To encourage players to develop important personal/character skills by adopting the Somerset values
- To identify and develop players capable of winning matches for Somerset and England at a senior level

The major pathway changes are:

1) **Changes to District Cricket, now Somerset Pathway Centres**

Objective: To ensure that players that are currently outside of the County Age Group programme are able to access a training and playing programme that allows for a more fluid transition into the County Age Group sides.

Somerset Pathway Centres (SPC) will replace District cricket at Under 12, 13 & 15 age groups. The introduction of these programmes will see increased opportunity for players across both the winter and summer programmes. Players within these age groups will be able to access 14 hours of winter group sessions at a local SPC (North and South). An increased training programme running concurrently with County Age Group programme will allow for more fluid & regular player transition across the two groups. These pathway centres will be split into Junior and Senior groups in order to provide players with the most appropriate level of support and training.

In the summer players will have the opportunity to join up with their age group peers as part of the Development Centre summer programme. Each area will be headed up by the Somerset Area Lead with the same programme being delivered across all SDC's. The Junior Development Centre will be aimed at players in the Under 12 and Under 13 age groups. The Senior Development Centre will be available to Under 13 and Under 15 age group cricketers.

The summer programme will run as follows:

Phase One: Development Days

Players (at each age group) will be invited to take part in Development Days allowing a large group of players to implement skills learnt in the winter. This phase of the summer focusing solely on player development with opportunity for all players to develop their relevant cricket skills.

Phase Two: North versus South Development Games

A selected group of players from Phase One development days will be invited to take part in a series of North v South Twenty20 fixtures.

Phase Three: Inter County Development Games

Players who have performed well during phase two will be invited to be part of inter county development games. At this stage County players will be integrated into the programme to allow for County coaches to get eyes on SDC cricketers in an appropriate context and inform selection ahead of the winter.

2) Expansion of the County Age Group match play programme

Objective: To aid the transferability of learning (through increased contact time) from the winter programme to summer match play programme.

Under 13's

Focus One: Development Days and School Fixtures

All players who have taken part in the CAG winter programme will be invited to take part in a diverse range of development day fixtures & practices with an aim of providing opportunities for winter skills to be explored in a match play environment. These opportunities will include Twenty20 and/or 30 over matches against peers and schools. This phase of the summer focusing solely on player development with opportunity for all players to develop the appropriate cricket skills.

Focus Two: County Age Group Playing Programme T20 days

A smaller group of players from Phase One development days will be selected to take part in a minimum of six T20 County fixtures followed by a festival week. Invited players will receive a broad range of appropriate opportunities with the aim of developing and broadening their game. A player who was potentially able to access all opportunities would receive up to 16 match days during the summer.

Under 15's and Under 17's

Phase One: School Fixtures and Development Days

All players who have taken part in the CAG winter programme will be invited to take part in School Fixtures and Development Days allowing a large group of players to implement skills learnt in the winter. This phase of the summer focusing solely on player development with opportunity for all players to develop the appropriate cricket skills.

Phase Two: ECB Competitive League Fixtures

Whilst skill development and providing players with development opportunities is imperative at this phase, the importance attached to the result increases with players beginning to understand their role within the side and how performances can influence the end result of a game.

Under 19's

The Somerset Under 19 Development Squad programme is growing to allow players out of County Age Group cricket the opportunity to take part in a playing programme. This is intended to help transition players into the senior women's set up and increase the competition for places in that side.

3) Girls Emerging Player's Programme and Academy

Objective: To challenge and provide diverse opportunities to players who have either performed above their peer group or have shown the ability to perform at a higher level.

Girls Emerging Player's Programme (EPP)

Players between the ages of Under 13 - Under 16 will be selected from County Age Group programmes as a result of; exceptional playing performances and/or perceived potential within the Somerset Player Pathway. The programme will facilitate players' development in order to progress onto Regional Development Centres (RDCs) such as Western Storm and/or England Performance programmes in the future.

Girls Academy

Players above the age of Under 16 will be selected from County Age Group programmes as a result of; exceptional playing performances and/or perceived potential within the Somerset Player Pathway. The programme will support players who are already part of a Regional Development Centre (RDC) such as Western Storm and/or an England Performance programme.

To view full details on each stage of the pathway programme, please visit our website by [click here](#).

If you have any queries please contact sophie.luff@somersetcricketboard.org