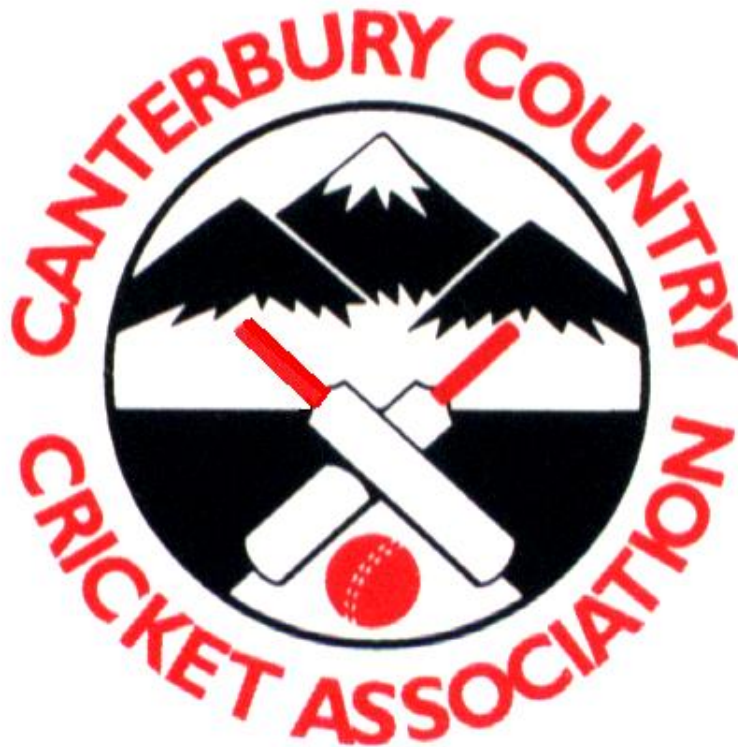


CANTERBURY COUNTRY CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Junior and Youth Pathway Cricket – Handbook

Our Philosophy – *‘The Country Way’*



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Introduction:

The aim of this document is giving our cricketing community a clear understanding of the philosophies that drive our pathway cricket in the junior and youth stages. Our association has a player pathway that enables all players to fulfil their potential which has been seen recently by Peter Fulton, Amy Satterthwaite and Henry Nicholls excelling in International cricket. Equally as important are the players who do not become international stars but continue to enjoy cricket and play for clubs as they reach adulthood.

Over the past few seasons, we have attempted to be as inclusive as possible within the primary and youth age groups. The goal of this inclusive model is to offer additional cricketing opportunities for any junior or youth player who wants to participate. An outcome from this change is we now class all cricket in the junior and youth space as ‘pathway’ cricket rather than ‘representative’.

We continually are trying to find improved ways of best meeting the needs of players at all levels. We hope this document describes the reasoning behind our current systems and structures and how you can best support this.

Toby Doyle - Cricket Manager, Canterbury Country Cricket Association

Players:

When representing a Canterbury Country team we expect all players to:

- Respect their team mates and coach
- Respect the opposition and umpires
- Behave appropriately on and off the field
- Put in a 100% effort for their team
- Dress in a respectable manor
- Enjoy and respect the opportunity to represent our district

All of these points contribute to playing 'The Country Way'. This puts focus on creating well rounded people at the same time as developing well rounded cricketers.

As a player, what can you expect to experience at the varying levels of pathway cricket we offer?:

Junior (Year 7 & 8) Boys and Girls <i>'Developing a love for cricket and making new friends'</i>	<p>At this age and stage players should expect to experience a development and participation focus. All players should expect to experience batting, bowling, and fielding in a variety of positions which will help with their long-term development. Even if a player has a preference in terms of a batting or bowling position, being exposed to a variation of positions will expose the player to a variety of scenarios within matches which will build a well-rounded understanding of the game.</p> <p>Any player who wants to participate at this level will be included and will experience equal opportunities. Players should expect to be filtered into teams to play alongside and against players with a similar ability to create 'like vs like' match ups which are healthy for development.</p>
Youth (Year 9 & 10) Boys and Girls	<p>At this age and stage players should expect to experience a development focus. All players should expect to still experience batting, bowling, and fielding in a variety of positions which will help with their long-term development. Usually during this stage a player will start to develop a role or two within a team they enjoy to perform the most. Players</p>

<i>'Developing a range of tools'</i>	<p>should communicate this to coaches, however, be prepared to still experience playing in differing positions from match to match.</p> <p>Any player who wants to participate at this level will be included and will experience equal opportunities. Players should expect to be filtered into teams to play alongside and against players with a similar ability to create 'like vs like' match ups which are healthy for development.</p>
<p>Youth (Year 11 & 12) Boys and Girls</p> <p><i>'Developing to perform'</i></p>	<p>At this age and stage players should expect to experience a development focus. Players may start specialising into a core role or two within a team. Even though they may have a role or two that they prefer to have, players should expect to be tested by coaches at times and asked to perform roles that might feel a bit foreign to them. When a player has a role within a team they will start to develop a more in depth tactical knowledge in regards to that particular role and how this contributes to the overall team performance.</p> <p>Players should expect to be filtered into teams to play alongside and against players with a similar ability to create 'like vs like' match ups which are healthy for development.</p>

Filtering Process:

Players who choose to partake in our pathway systems and structures need to understand that Canterbury Country Cricket Association will filter players into teams. This filtering system will be done in a way that will ensure players are in teams with like ability players and will play against other like ability players. The personnel who carry out this filtering process will be led Canterbury Country Cricket development staff and will be supported by coaches. The filtering process is carried out using the filtering matrix designed by CCCA which considers different factors such as:

- Soft Skills –
 - Coachability
 - Intrinsically motivated
 - Task focused
 - Resilience

- Team composition (Year 11 and 12 only)
- The 'ceiling' – how far do we feel this player can go in the future
- Current technical ability and skills
- Current maturity (Mental, emotional and physical)
- Availability – Matches, Trainings and Tournaments/Festivals
- Prior knowledge

To Conclude:

Players who self-nominate themselves for Canterbury Country pathway and/or representative programmes should do so knowing all the information recorded above. We hope that all players who self-nominate are committed to give 100% effort and commitment to the team they are filtered into. In return, players should expect support from coaches, parents, and Canterbury Country Development Staff. Along with this support they should expect playing and training opportunities that meet their needs as cricketers.



Parents:

Canterbury Country players and teams are lucky to receive a large amount of parent support. We thank you for your support and willingness to allow your child to participate in extra cricketing opportunities via our pathway programmes.

As a parent, you have a big impact on the overall experience your child has in sport. We would appreciate it if you took the time to read both the **Player** and **Coach** section to gain an insight into what philosophies we are wanting our coaches and players to buy into. Once you understand these philosophies you will then be able to best support the players and coaches to make the cricketing experiences as positive and enjoyable as possible.

An easy thing to do as a parent is focus all discussions and feedback to players on results, statistics, and outcomes. Players will always play to win and put pressure on themselves to do their best for their team. Added pressure from parents can be harmful and detrimental to players.

Here are some expectations we have of parents:

- Make the car ride home enjoyable
 - Praise effort and behaviour (not outcomes, stats or results)
 - Ask the player what part of the game they enjoyed the most
- Be present, but not persistent
 - Research shows that young people highly value having their parents at games as spectators.
 - We encourage once players arrive at the grounds, to let players have their own space to be with their teammates and coaches.
 - Coaches will make decisions in regard to different things to do with the team. Refrain from questioning decision making as they are trying to do their best for your child.
 - If you want to help a team perhaps offer your services to the coach as a scorer, hydration technician or sunscreen monitor. Refrain from yelling instructions to players during the match.
- Respect umpires and opposition
 - Umpires will make some good decisions and some poor decisions. This is a part of cricket which will never change. Helping players understand this in a healthy way will help them build resilience and sportsmanship.

- Opposition players and parents are looking to achieve the same outcomes from their cricketing experience – an enjoyable and positive one. Respecting this and being friendly and welcoming towards opposition teams is an important step with this.

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To Conclude:

As an Association we set out equally value all players, no matter their current age, ability level or circumstances. As a parent, you have major influence to the overall experience for your child has.

It is a challenge to stop praising results, outcomes, and statistics as these are the things that are easy to see. By praising behaviour and effort the players will feel encouraged and positive about their experience, no matter whether they have won or lost.

Coaches:

Our Association has been very fortunate over the years to attract high quality people to coach our various pathway teams.

As coaches it is critical to understand the main objectives of our pathway teams are:

- Provide high quality development opportunities via trainings, matches and festivals for players.
- Provide high quality coaching to players to ensure development opportunities are maximised.
- Ensure all players are equally valued and given equal opportunities.
- Whilst players will play to win when matches are being played, we encourage coaches to stay focused on providing learning and development opportunities rather than becoming outcome or result focused.
- Implement the following systems and structures with their team dependant on the age group of the players they are coaching:

Junior (Year 7 & 8) Boys and Girls <i>'Developing a love for cricket and making new friends'</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pod System to be used for all teams at this age and stage – For guidance on how to implement this please discuss with CCCA Development Staff.• Enjoyment and development are the priorities at this age and stage• Create ways for players to feel empowered by contributing to decision making where possible
Youth (Year 9 & 10) Boys and Girls <i>'Developing a range of tools'</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Player rotation system to be used for all teams at this age and stage – For guidance on how to implement this please discuss with CCCA Development Staff.• Enjoyment and development are the priorities at this age and stage• Empower players to create their own batting and bowling plans• Empower the captain or captains to create a game plan in conjunction with yourself

<p>Youth (Year 11 & 12) Boys and Girls</p> <p><i>‘Developing to perform’</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players to start to have a core role or two within a team. • Enjoyment and development are the priorities at this age and stage. • Empower players to create their own batting and bowling plans • Empower the captain or captains to create a game plan
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This filtering system will be implemented in a way that will ensure players are in teams with like ability players and will play against other like ability players. The personnel who carry out this filtering process will be led Canterbury Country Cricket development staff and will be supported by coaches. The filtering process is carried out using the filtering matrix designed by CCCA which considers different factors such as:

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The traditional thought process in regards to ‘selecting’ teams with the sole outcome of giving the team the best chance to win a tournament is no longer relevant. This traditional way of thinking resulted in lot of players who were more physically mature selected over players who were less physically mature. The filtering matrix ensures a broader range of aspects are taken into consideration when filtering players into teams.

To Conclude:

We appreciate the time and effort that all coaches put in to help run our various pathway teams. This time and effort if directed to align to our philosophies as described in the table above will see:

- More players continuing to play cricket as they reach early adulthood
- More players returning to be part of our pathway programmes the following season/s
- More players exposed to pathway cricket opportunities above and beyond their club or school cricket
- More players realising and reaching their potential as a player
- More players getting more enjoyment out of the pathway cricket opportunities we provide them
- More players developing as cricketers through engaging with our pathway programmes



Balance Is Better:

The 5 major **myths** vs **reality**

