GLOUCESTERSHIRE PLAYER PATHWAY

BOYS PATHWAY HANDBOOK



INTRODUCTION

AT GLOUCESTERSHIRE,OUR PLAYER DEVELOPMENTPROGRAMMES ARE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT YOUNG CRICKETERS FROM THE FOUNDATION PHASE (EEP),THROUGHTHE YOUTH DEVELOPMENTPHASE(U13-U15), AND INTO THE SENIOR DEVELOPMENT PHASE (U16-U18). THESE PHASES WORK TOGETHER TOFEED PLAYERS INTOOUREMERGINGPLAYERS PROGRAMME AND THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ACADEMY, WITH THE ULTIMATE AIM OF HELPING CRICKETERS FROM ACROSSGLOUCESTERSHIRE AND FURTHER AFIELD REALISE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL, WHETHER THAT BE AT THE PROFESSIONAL LEVEL OR BEYOND.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE IS TO PROVIDE AS MANY OPPORTUNITIES AS POSSIBLE IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT REFLECTS THE REALITIES OF THE MODERN GAME. WE DON'T JUST FOCUS ON TEACHING CRICKETING SKILLS, BUT ALSO ON BUILDING THE MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PLAYERS. WE WANT THEM TO WALK AWAY WITH NOT JUST IMPROVED ABILITIES BUT ALSO A LIFELONG CONNECTION TO THE SPORT AND LASTING POSITIVE EXPERIENCES WITHIN THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE PATHWAY.

WHILE ONLY AROUND 10% OF THOSE CURRENTLY IN OUR PATHWAY WILL PROGRESS TO AN ACADEMY PLACE, AND FEWER THAN THAT WILL ULTIMATELY BE OFFERED PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE TRUE SUCCESS OF OUR PROGRAMME LIES IN ITS WIDER IMPACT. THE SKILLS, LESSONS, AND MEMORIES OUR PLAYERS TAKE AWAY FROM THEIR JOURNEY WITH US ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS ANY CAREER IN CRICKET.

AS WE LOOK AHEAD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB IS INCREDIBLY PROUD OF ITS ROLE IN SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CRICKETERS. OUR MISSION GOES BEYOND PRODUCING PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS—WE ARE COMMITTED TO EVERY YOUNG PERSON WHO COMES THROUGH OUR PROGRAMME. OUR GOAL IS TO INSTIL A LOVE OF THE GAME, BUILD THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO SUCCEED, AND DEVELOP THE RESILIENCE TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES, BOTH ON THE CRICKET FIELD AND IN LIFE. ULTIMATELY, WE WANT EVERY PLAYER TO LEAVE THE PROGRAMME HAVING GROWN BOTH AS A CRICKETER AND AS AN INDIVIDUAL, WITH FOND MEMORIES OF THEIR TIME WITH GLOUCESTERSHIRE CRICKET.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
YOUNG CRICKETERS

PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

THE PATHWAY IS GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S PROGRAMME FOR NURTURING AND DEVELOPING TALENT IN CRICKET

PRIMARY PURPOSE
TO IDENTIFY, DEVELOP AND INSPIRE HIGH-POTENTIAL YOUNG CRICKETERS ACROSS GLOUCESTERSHIRE



AIM TO WORK WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO ASSIST PLAYERS IN FULFILLING THEIR POTENTIAL.



AIM TO IMPROVE THE OVERALL STANDARD OF CRICKET PLAYED IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE BY DEVELOPING ALL PLAYERS WITHIN THE PATHWAY.



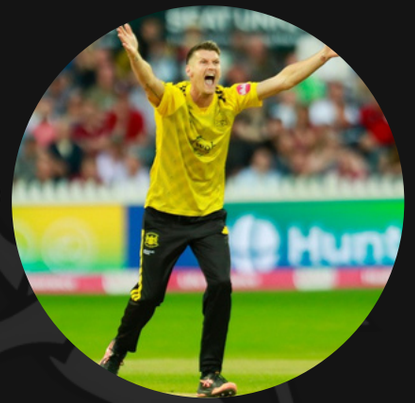
AIM TO PRODUCE HIGH POTENTIAL YOUNG CRICKETERS WHO GAIN SELECTION ONTO THE EPP ACADEMY FIRST CLASS AND INTERNATIONAL CRICKET



GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
YOUNG CRICKETERS

PLAYER PATHWAY





KNOW YOUR GAME
PROFESSIONAL CRICKET

UNDERSTAND
THE GAME
(U15, U18, EPP & ACADEMY)



LEARN
THE GAME (U13 TO U15)



LOVE
THE GAME (EEP)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
YOUNG CRICKETERS

PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT

DISCOVER (LOVE)

- THIS IS WHERE WE HOPE THAT THOSE INVOLVED WILL DEVELOP AN EARLY LOVE FOR THE GAME.
- WE AIM TO ENSURE THAT PLAYERS ARE ABLE TO SAMPLE ALL THAT THE GAME HAS TO OFFER.
- ENSURING PLAYERS UNDERSTAND AND PROGRESS IN THE FUNDAMENTALS OF BATTING, BOWLING, WICKET-KEEPING, FIELDING AND TACTICAL NATURE OF THE GAME.
- EMPHASIS AT THIS STAGE IS ENJOYMENT, POSITIVE AND MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES.

ENHANCE (LEARN)

- THIS IS WHERE WE CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLAYERS TO INTENTIONALLY EXPLORE THEIR CAPABILITIES.
- DECISION MAKING, USING MULTIPLE ENVIRONMENTS AND FORMATS TO DO SO.
- WORKING ALONGSIDE COACHES TO UNDERSTAND THE LEARNING PROCESS, EXPLORING CHALLENGE, STRETCH AND FAILURE.

REFINE (UNDERSTAND)

- THIS IS WHERE WORK IS CARRIED OUT WITH PLAYERS ON COMMITTING TO THEIR JOURNEY AS A CRICKETER, GAINING MORE UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THEIR ROLE AS A PERSON AND IN THEIR CRICKET DEVELOPMENT.
- PLAYERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REFLECT AND ANALYSE ON THEIR NEEDS AND ACTIVELY ENGAGE WITH COACHES TO DRIVE THEIR DEVELOPMENT.
- SEEKING OUT GOOD INFORMATION, WHICH WILL IN TURN DRIVE THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND DECISION MAKING FORWARD.

PERFORM (KNOW YOUR GAME)

- THIS IS THE PHASE WHERE PLAYERS GO ONTO INTERNATIONAL AND FRANCHISE CRICKET.
- DURING THIS STAGE PLAYERS TAKE THE LEAD ON THEIR DEVELOPMENT, IN ORDER TO BECOME THE WORLDS BEST! WITH THE FULL BACKING AND SUPPORT OF THEIR COACHES.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
YOUNG CRICKETERS

EARLY ENGAGEMENT PHASE

U12 EEP
UP TO 72 PLAYERS(24IN EACH)

NORTH | GLOUCS | SOUTH

U11 EEP
UP TO 72 PLAYERS(24 IN EACH)

NORTH | GLOUCS | SOUTH

U10 EEP
UP TO 72 PLAYERS(24IN EACH)

NORTH | GLOUCS | SOUTH

NUMBERS BENEATH EACH AGE GROUP INDICATE APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PLAYERS SELECTED EACH WINTER

EARLY ENGAGEMENT PHASE

Launching in Autumn 2025, the Early Engagement Phase is designed specifically for players at U10–U12, providing a vital foundation ahead of the County Age Group (CAG) programme at U13. This new phase will make cricket more accessible by reducing travel requirements and lowering associated costs, allowing more young players to benefit from high-quality coaching in their local area. Programmes will be delivered regionally (North, Gloucester and South) across the county, ensuring players receive the same level of development support. The focus will be on building core skills and game understanding, helping each player grow in confidence and perform to their full potential over time. (The Early Engagement Phase also provides a clear development pathway, with players looking to progress into the County Age Group squads from U13 onwards.)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB YOUNG CRICKETERS

CAG PATHWAY STRUCTURE

UNDER 13 COUNTY AGE GROUP
BETWEEN 20-25 PLAYERS

UNDER 14 COUNTY AGE GROUP
BETWEEN 20-25 PLAYERS

UNDER 15 COUNTY AGE GROUP
BETWEEN 20-25 PLAYERS

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PHASE

EPP

UNDER 16 COUNTY AGE GROUP
UP TO 18 PLAYERS

UNDER 18 COUNTY AGE GROUP
UP TO 18 PLAYERS

SENIOR DEVELOPMENT PHASE

ACADEMY

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
YOUNG CRICKETERS

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMES

EPP

THE EMERGING PLAYER PROGRAMME (EPP) IS AN ADVANCED STAGE WITHIN GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S CRICKET PATHWAY, DESIGNED TO NURTURE AND DEVELOP TALENTED YOUNG CRICKETERS IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE COUNTY AGE GROUP SYSTEM. ITS PRIMARY FOCUS IS ON SELECTING PLAYERS WHO DISPLAY THE POTENTIAL TO PROGRESS TO THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ACADEMY AND, EVENTUALLY, TO HIGHER LEVELS OF THE GAME.

SELECTION FOR THE EPP IS BASED ON A PLAYER'S FUTURE POTENTIAL, THEIR CURRENT PERFORMANCE, AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THEIR SKILLS CAN BE REFINED AND ELEVATED TO COMPETE AT MORE ADVANCED LEVELS OF CRICKET. THE PROGRAMME PROVIDES THESE PLAYERS WITH SPECIALISED COACHING, ACCESS TO ENHANCED RESOURCES, AND INDIVIDUALISED DEVELOPMENT PLANS TO HELP THEM GROW BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD.

EACH YEAR, BETWEEN 10-12 PLAYERS, RANGING FROM THE U12 TO U15 AGE GROUPS, ARE CHOSEN TO JOIN THE EPP. WITH A LARGE POOL OF PLAYERS ACROSS THESE AGE GROUPS, THE SELECTION PROCESS IS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE, WITH ONLY AROUND 10% OF PLAYERS FROM THE PATHWAY BEING OFFERED A PLACE IN THE EPP.

THE EPP AIMS TO CREATE A STRUCTURED YET FLEXIBLE ENVIRONMENT WHERE EMERGING TALENT IS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO FLOURISH, ENSURING THAT GLOUCESTERSHIRE CONTINUES TO PRODUCE CRICKETERS CAPABLE OF SUCCEEDING AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GAME.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
YOUNG CRICKETERS

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMES

ACADEMY

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ACADEMY IS ONE OF 18 FIRSTCLASS CRICKET ACADEMIES IN THE UK, CONSISTENTLY DEVELOPING TALENTED PLAYERS WHO CAPTIVATE AND INSPIRE GLOUCESTERSHIRE FANS. IN RECENT YEARS, SEVERAL PLAYERS, INCLUDING ARCHIE BAILEY, LUKE CHARLESWORTH AND OLLIE PRICE, HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PROGRESSED FROM THE ACADEMY TO THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE 1ST XI. THEY JOIN A PRESTIGIOUS GROUP OF FORMER ACADEMY GRADUATES LIKE JAMES BRACEY, CHRIS DENT, AND MILES HAMMOND, WHO PLAY CRUCIAL ROLES WITHIN THE TEAM, ALONGSIDE ESTABLISHED FIGURES LIKE DAVID PAYNE. THE ACADEMY ATTRACTS PROMISING CRICKETERS FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND NEARBY AREAS, OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES TO PLAYERS BETWEEN THE AGES OF U15 AND U18. EACH YEAR, LESS THAN 5% SECURE AN ACADEMY PLACE, MAKING THE SELECTION PROCESS INCREDIBLY COMPETITIVE.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ACADEMY IS DRIVEN BY A COMMITMENT TO: UNCOVER AND NURTURE THE AREAS BRIGHTEST CRICKETING TALENTS, GUIDING THEM ON THE PATH TO BECOMING ELITE PROFESSIONALS WHO CAN PROUDLY REPRESENT GLOUCESTERSHIRE. DELIVER A TAILORED, ALL-ENCOMPASSING PROGRAMME THAT DEVELOPS GROWTH NOT ONLY IN THEIR CRICKETING ABILITIES BUT ALSO IN THEIR PERSONAL AND MENTAL DEVELOPMENT. EMPOWER PLAYERS TO LEAVE THE ACADEMY AS WELL-ROUNDED INDIVIDUALS, PREPARED FOR SUCCESS BOTH ON THE CRICKET FIELD AND IN THEIR FUTURE CAREER ASPIRATIONS BEYOND THE GAME.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
YOUNG CRICKETERS

The ACE Programme was launched by Surrey County Cricket Club in January 2020 in response to the decline of the black British professional players by 75%, and less than 1% of the recreational game. The ACE Programme was designed to engage young people of African and Caribbean Heritage and a talent search was launched.

ACE

2024-2030 ROAD TO REPRESENTATION

"Supporting underrepresentedtalent from grassroots to the elite"

ACE

OUR MISSION	**Achieve representation in the talent pathway, produce 10 professional cricketers and reconnect the Black British community to cricket by 2030**			
OUR VISION	Accelerate the road to representation within the black community for cricket	Change our communities fo the better	Empower ACE community to fulfil potential, allowing people to be themselves and express themselves, in a safe and supportive enviroment	
4 PILLARS OF ACE	Produce TEN Professional Cricketers	Grow The Base	Accelerate Female Growth	Develop Generational Hybrid Coaches
KEY TARGETS	4 Girls and 4 Boys per county into age group cricket per year from hubs, clubs and devlopment environments	20,000 Young people per annum through the grasroots programme	Launch Blaze Her Trail Programme, create female role models across the charity	Create hybrid coach framework; CPD plan for all coaches

NO CAG EXPERIENCE PRE ACE

23 UP 40 %

PREVIOUSLYINCAG -BACKINVIAACE

10 UP 18 %

INCAG -ACEADDITIONALSUPPORT

24 UP 42 %



FOUNDATION

TALENT IS EVERYWHERE BUT OPPORTUNITY IS NOT

FOUNDATION

3,200 PARTICIPANTS 77 HUBS

34% OF OUR PARTICIPANTS WERE FROM ETHNICALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

169 UK HUB PARTICIPANTS, 129 BOYS AND 40 GIRLS, WERE SELECTED TO PLAY REPRESENTATIVE CRICKET

FOUNDATION

CHELTENHAM GIRLS

FOUNDATION

CIRENCESTER BOYS

FOUNDATION

CIRENCESTER GIRLS

FOUNDATION

BRISTOL BOYS

FOUNDATION

BRISTOL GIRLS

MCC run a network of cricket Hubs that provide free-to-access training and match play to 6,500 state-educated young cricketers at 164 sites across the UK. The Hubs focus o talent: helping promising youngsters who have been engaged through mass participation activities or non-traditional formats to join cricket clubs, develop their hard-ball skills, and access the formal talent pathways.

SKILLS FRAMEWORKS

THIS SECTION PROVIDES CLARITY ON WHAT SKILLS WE LOOK TO DEVELOP IN BOTH THE EEP AND CAG STAGES OF THE PATHWAY.



GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
YOUNG CRICKETERS

SKILLS FRAMEWORKS

WHAT IS IT AND WHY WAS IT INTRODUCED?

THE SKILLS FRAMEWORK SERVES AS A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE,OUTLINING THE ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND CHARACTERISTICS THAT PLAYERS WITHIN THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE PATHWAY SHOULD STRIVE TO ACHIEVE AT EACH STAGE OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT. THIS FRAMEWORK IS METICULOUSLY DESIGNED TO FACILITATE CONTINUOUS AND PROGRESSIVE LEARNING, ENSURING THAT PLAYERS ARE EQUIPPED WITH THE TOOLS NECESSARY TO EXCEL BOTH WITHIN AND BEYOND FORMALTRAINING ENVIRONMENTS.

THEFRAMEWORKISDIVIDED INTOTHREEKEY PHASES:

FOUNDATION PHASE:

THIS PHASE FOCUSES ON INSTILLING A SOLID UNDERSTANDING OF CORE CRICKETING SKILLS. PLAYERS ARE INTRODUCED TO THE FUNDAMENTAL TECHNIQUES AND TACTICAL AWARENESS THAT WILL FORM THE BASIS OF THEIR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PHASE:

BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION, THIS PHASE AIMSTO ENHANCE AND REFINE PLAYERS' SKILLS THROUGH MORE ADVANCED TRAINING AND COMPETITIVE SCENARIOS. PLAYERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXPAND THEIR TECHNICAL, MENTAL, AND PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES, ENABLING THEM TO ADAPT TO HIGHER LEVELSOF THEGAME.

SENIOR DEVELOPMENT PHASE:

AT THIS STAGE, PLAYERS ARE EXPECTED TO DEMONSTRATEMASTERYOF THEIRSKILLS, BOTHINPERFORMANCE AND DECISION-MAKING UNDER PRESSURE. THE FOCUS SHIFTS TOWARDS PREPARING THEM FOR THE DEMANDS OF SENIOR AND PROFESSIONAL CRICKET, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON LEADERSHIP, CONSISTENCY, AND RESILIENCE.

THIS STRUCTURED, PHASED APPROACH ENSURES THAT EACH PLAYER'S DEVELOPMENT IS CONTINUOUSLY SUPPORTED AND APPROPRIATELY CHALLENGED. IT PROMOTES SUSTAINED ENGAGEMENT AND LEARNING, FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF WELL-ROUNDED ATHLETES WHO ARE READY FOR THE NEXT LEVEL OF CRICKET.

ADDITIONALLY, BY CLEARLY DEFINING THE SKILLS REQUIRED AT EACH PHASE, THE FRAMEWORK EMPOWERS PLAYERS TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF THEIR PROGRESS. IT ENCOURAGES THEM TO PRACTICE AND REFINE THEIR ABILITIES OUTSIDE OF STRUCTURED PATHWAY SESSIONS, REINFORCING THE NOTION THAT DEVELOPMENT IS AN ONGOING PROCESS THAT EXTENDS BEYOND FORMAL COACHING.

THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS PROVIDE AN IN-DEPTH SUMMARY OF THE PATHWAY FRAMEWORK, DETAILING THE SPECIFIC SKILLS TO BE DEVELOPED AT EACH PHASE—FOUNDATION, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, AND SENIOR DEVELOPMENT—OFFERING A CLEAR ROAD MAP FOR PLAYERS ASPIRING TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL WITHIN GLOUCESTERSHIRE CRICKET.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
YOUNG CRICKETERS

PLAYER CHARACTERISTICS

PHYSICAL

THE KEY PHYSICALCHARACTERISTICS INCLUDE:

EFFICIENT EXECUTION OF CRICKET-SPECIFIC MOVEMENTS: THE ABILITY TO PERFORM PRECISE, CRICKET-RELATED MOVEMENTS SUCH AS BATTING, BOWLING, AND FIELDING WITH OPTIMAL TECHNIQUE TO ENHANCE PERFORMANCE AND REDUCE PHYSICAL STRAIN.

INJURY PREVENTION: DEVELOPING STRENGTH, FLEXIBILITY, AND CONDITIONING TO MINIMISE THE RISK OF INJURY AND MAINTAIN CONSISTENT PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING AND MATCHES.

CONSISTENCY IN REPEATING SKILLS: BUILDING THE STAMINA AND MUSCLE MEMORY REQUIRED TO PERFORM KEY CRICKET SKILLS REPEATEDLY UNDER VARYING CONDITIONS, MAINTAINING A HIGH STANDARD OF PLAY.

MAXIMISING TIME ON THE FIELD: ENSURING PHYSICAL RESILIENCE AND ROBUSTNESS, ALLOWING PLAYERS TO STAY INJURY-FREE AND AVAILABLE FOR SELECTION THROUGHOUT THE SEASON.

GOOD NUTRITION: ENHANCING PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE AND RECOVERY THROUGH BALANCED NUTRITION, FUELLING THE BODY FOR PEAK MATCH PERFORMANCE AND FASTER POST-MATCH RECOVERY.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
YOUNG CRICKETERS

PLAYER CHARACTERISTICS

MENTAL

THE KEY MENTAL CHARACTERISTICS INCLUDE:

HARWOOD'S 5C'S:

CONCENTRATION: MAINTAINING FOCUS THROUGHOUT THE GAME, PARTICULARLY DURING HIGH-PRESSURE SITUATIONS.

CONTROL: MANAGING EMOTIONS AND STAYING COMPOSED UNDER STRESS, ENSURING CONSISTENCY IN PERFORMANCE.

CONFIDENCE: BELIEVING IN ONE'S ABILITIES, WHICH DRIVES PERFORMANCE AND RESILIENCE DURING CHALLENGES.

COMMITMENT: DEMONSTRATING DEDICATION AND PERSEVERANCE TO TRAINING, IMPROVEMENT, AND TEAM GOALS.

COMMUNICATION: EFFECTIVELY INTERACTING WITH TEAMMATES AND COACHES, DEVELOPING STRONG COLLABORATION ON AND OFF THE FIELD.

PRESSURE MANAGEMENT: THE ABILITY TO STAY COMPOSED DURING CRITICAL MOMENTS, CONTROLLING EMOTIONAL RESPONSES AND MAINTAINING OPTIMAL AROUSAL LEVELS FOR PEAK PERFORMANCE.

SELF-AWARENESS OF STRENGTHS: UNDERSTANDING PERSONAL "SUPER STRENGTHS" AND USING SELF-AWARENESS TO PLAY TO THESE STRENGTHS IN KEY MOMENTS, WHILE CONTINUING TO ADDRESS AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT.

FOCUSED ATTENTION: MASTERING THE ABILITY TO CONCENTRATE FULLY ON EACH INDIVIDUAL DELIVERY OR BALL, OFTEN REFERRED TO AS "ONE-BALL FOCUS", ENSURING PRECISION AND EXECUTION AT CRUCIAL TIMES.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
YOUNG CRICKETERS

PLAYER CHARACTERISTICS

LIFESTYLE

THE KEY LIFESTYLE CHARACTERISTICS INCLUDE:

SLEEPAND RECOVERY (9HOURS):ADEQUATESLEEPISCRITICAL FORMAINTAININGOPTIMALPERFORMANCELEVELS. GETTING AT LEAST NINE HOURS OF SLEEP EACHNIGHT ALLOWSFORMENTALANDPHYSICALRECOVERY,ENHANCINGCONCENTRATION,STAMINA, AND INJURY PREVENTION. REST IS A CRUCIAL PART OF THEPLAYER'SPREPARATION,ENSURING THEYAREREFRESHEDANDREADYFORBOTHTRAINING AND COMPETITIVE MATCHES.

MINDFUL USE OF TECHNOLOGY: RESPONSIBLEPHONE USAGE IS IMPORTANTINMANAGINGDISTRACTIONSAND MAINTAINING FOCUS. PLAYERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO LIMIT SCREEN TIME, ESPECIALLY BEFORE SLEEPANDDURINGCRITICALTRAINING PERIODS, TO PROMOTE BETTER REST AND MENTAL CLARITY.

TIME MANAGEMENT: EFFECTIVE TIME MANAGEMENT IS ESSENTIAL FOR BALANCING THE DEMANDS OF CRICKET WITH OTHER ASPECTS OF LIFE, INCLUDING SCHOOL, CLUB COMMITMENTS, SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES. PLAYERS MUST LEARN TO ALLOCATE TIME EFFICIENTLY TO ENSURE THEY MEET THEIR CRICKET OBLIGATIONS WHILE MAINTAINING A HEALTHY BALANCE IN OTHER AREAS OF LIFE.

PRIORITISATION: PLAYERS MUST DEVELOP THE ABILITY TO PRIORITISE THEIR ACTIVITIES APPROPRIATELY, ENSURING THAT CRICKET AND ITS ASSOCIATED REQUIREMENTS (TRAINING, FITNESS, RECOVERY) ARE GIVEN THE NECESSARY ATTENTION WHILE STILL ATTENDING TO ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. UNDERSTANDING WHEN TO PRIORITISE CRICKET OVER SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS OR WHEN TO FOCUS ON RECOVERY INSTEAD OF OVER-TRAINING IS KEY TO SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS: STRONG COMMUNICATION IS ESSENTIAL BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD. PLAYERS MUST BE ABLE TO ARTICULATE THEIR THOUGHTS CLEARLY TO TEAMMATES AND COACHES, ENSURING ALIGNMENT ON STRATEGIES AND TACTICS. OFF THE FIELD, COMMUNICATION IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT IN MANAGING RELATIONSHIPS AND NAVIGATING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, CONTRIBUTING TO OVERALL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
YOUNG CRICKETERS

SKILLS FRAMEWORK: FOUNDATION (EEP)

BATTING

- ESTABLISHING A POSITION AT RELEASE THAT ALLOWS THEM TO BE BALANCED, ALIGNED AND READY TO MOVE TO DIFFERENT TYPES OF DELIVERY AGAINST PACE AND SPIN
- ESTABLISHING THE ABILITY TO IDENTIFY LENGTH AND ATTEMPT POSITIVE MOVEMENTS AGAINST PACE
- ESTABLISHING THE ABILITY TO IDENTIFY LENGTH AND ATTEMPT POSITIVE MOVEMENTS AGAINST SPIN
- 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

SEAM BOWLING

- ESTABLISHING AN AWARENESS OF AN EFFICIENT BOWLING ACTION AND WORKING IN A STRAIGHT LINE TOWARDS A TARGET
- DEMONSTRATES A DESIRE TO BOWL FAST AND TAKE WICKETS
- ESTABLISHING THE ABILITY TO REGULARLY CHALLENGE THE STUMPS
- RECOGNISING WHY VARYING DELIVERIES IN LINE, LENGTH, PACE, AND SHAPE ARE EFFECTIVE FOR TAKING WICKETS OR RESTRICTING RUNS
- BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHERE DIFFERENT DELIVERIES ARE LIKELY TO BE HIT AND HOW TO SET THE FIELD TO ATTACK, CONTAIN, OR DEFEND ACCORDINGLY

SPIN BOWLING

- DEVELOPING A GRIP THAT ENABLES EFFECTIVE SPIN ON THE BALL
- RECOGNISING WHY VARYING DELIVERIES IN LINE, LENGTH, PACE, AND SHAPE ARE EFFECTIVE FOR TAKING WICKETS OR RESTRICTING RUNS
- A DESIRE TO SPIN THE BALL HARD AND TAKE WICKETS
- BUILDING AN AWARENESS OF AN EFFICIENT BOWLING ACTION BY GENERATING ROTATIONAL ENERGY AND CHANNELLING IT EFFECTIVELY TOWARDS THE TARGET
- ESTABLISHING THE ABILITY TO REGULARLY CHALLENGE THE STUMPS

FIELDING

- A DETERMINATION TO KEEP THE BALL IN PLAY AT ALL TIMES, POSITIONING THEMSELVES WHERE THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE AND ENGAGE WITH THE GAME
- BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THE TECHNIQUE NEEDED TO CATCH AND STOP THE BALL FROM DIFFERENT POSITIONS ON THE FIELD
- AN AWARENESS OF THE TECHNIQUE NEEDED TO THROW QUICKLY AT A TARGET FROM DIFFERENT POSITIONS ON THE FIELD
- BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND HOW POSTURE AND POSITIONING IS USED DURING DIFFERENT DELIVERIES
- BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THE REQUIREMENTS OF ROLES WHILST FIELDING IN A DIFFERENT POSITIONS

WICKET KEEPING

- STARTING TO DEMONSTRATE THE ABILITY TO INFLUENCE THE GAME, BEING INVOLVED AT ALL TIMES
- BEGINNING TO DISPLAY THE ABILITY TO ANTICIPATE THE BALL'S DIRECTION BASED ON THE BATTER'S MOVEMENTS
- BUILDING AN UNDERSTANDING OF TAKING DIFFERENT TYPES OF CATCHES WHEN BOTH STOOD UP AND BACK
- STARTING TO DEMONSTRATE CONFIDENCE WITHOUT FEAR WHEN STOOD UP TO THE STUMPS

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
YOUNG CRICKETERS

SKILLS FRAMEWORK: FOUNDATION (EEP)

MOVEMENT

Demonstrates agile movements with minimal injury risk	Demonstrates good mobility and coordination	Transfers practice gains to skill—stable base & powerful throws without strain
Developing good physical movement patterns	Exhibits elite youth athletic profile -speed, power, mobility	Maintains posture in repeated running
Performs most movements with agility and control	Maintains movement quality and physical intensity across sessions	Moves fluently and dynamically



GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
YOUNG CRICKETERS

COUNTY AGE GROUP (CAG)

THIS SECTION PROVIDES CLARITY ON WHAT SKILLS WE LOOK TO DEVELOP IN THE COUNTY AGE GROUP STAGE OF THE PATHWAY



GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
YOUNG CRICKETERS

SKILLS FRAMEWORK: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (U13-15)

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 THE FAST MOVING BALL AND THE SPINNING BALL
- DEVELOPING AN AWARENESS OF POSITIVE RUNNING BETWEEN THE WICKETS
- DEVELOPING THE ABILITY TO ADAPT APPROACH TO RUN SCORING BASED ON THE GAME SITUATION, ROLE, SURFACE AND CONDITIONS
- DEVELOPING THE ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY USE THEIR HANDS TO ADD, USE AND REMOVE PACE

SEAM BOWLING

- ESTABLISHING AN AWARENESS OF AN EFFICIENT BOWLING ACTION AND WORKING IN A STRAIGHT LINE TOWARDS A TARGET
- DEVELOPING THEIR BOWLING ACTION TO INCREASE PACE AND ACCURACY
- DEVELOPING AN UNDERSTANDING OF APPROPRIATE FIELDS; HOW THEY ARE INFLUENCED BY THE DELIVERIES BEING BOWLED, HOW THIS CAN INFLUENCE THE BATTER'S APPROACH
- DEVELOPING THE ABILITY TO GENERATE LATERAL MOVEMENT
- DEVELOPING THE ABILITY TO BOWL YORKERS AND BOUNCERS
- DEVELOPING VARIATIONS THAT DECEIVE THE BATTER IN THE AIR AND OFF THE PITCH

SPIN BOWLING

- DEVELOPING THE ABILITY TO CONSISTENTLY RELEASE THEIR STOCK BALL IN A WAY THAT MAXIMISES SPIN
- DEVELOPING THEIR BOWLING ACTION TO INCREASE SPIN AND ACCURACY WHILST BOWLING WITH INTENT AND ENERGY
- DEVELOPING VARIATIONS THAT DECEIVE BATTERS IN THE AIR AND OFF THE PITCH
- DEVELOPING AN AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF EFFECTIVE DELIVERIES TO BOWL BASED ON THE GAME SITUATION, THEIR ROLE, THE SURFACE, THE CONDITIONS AND THE BATTER'S APPROACH
- DEMONSTRATING A DESIRE TO SPIN THE BALL HARD AND TAKE WICKETS

FIELDING

- BEGINNING TO DISPLAY THE ABILITY TO ANTICIPATE THE BALL'S DIRECTION BASED ON THE BATTER'S MOVEMENTS
- DEVELOPING THE ABILITY TO ATTACK AND INTERCEPT THE BALL FROM A VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE FIELD
- DEVELOPING THE ABILITY AND TECHNIQUE NEEDED TO THROW QUICKLY AT A TARGET FROM DIFFERENT POSITIONS ON THE FIELD
- DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF VARIOUS FIELDING POSITIONS
- A DETERMINATION TO KEEP THE BALL IN PLAY AT ALL TIMES

WICKET KEEPING

- BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND HOW POSTURE AND POSITIONING IS USED DURING DIFFERENT DELIVERIES
- DEVELOPING THE ABILITY TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE GAME, PROVIDING RELEVANT INFORMATION TO FIELDERS, BOWLERS AND CAPTAINS
- DEVELOPING CONSISTENCY WITH POSTURE AND POSITION WHEN TAKING DIFFERENT TYPES OF CATCHES, WHEN BOTH STOOD UP AND BACK
- DEVELOPING AND IDENTIFYING WHEN IS APPROPRIATE TO STAND UP TO THE STUMPS

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SKILLS FRAMEWORK: SENIOR DEVELOPMENT (U15-18)

BATTING

- CONSISTENTLY HAS THE ABILITY TO ADAPT APPROACH TO RUN SCORING BASED ON THE GAME SITUATION, ROLE, SURFACE AND CONDITIONS
- DEMONSTRATES ADAPTATION TO RUN SCORING AND EXECUTES EFFECTIVE OPTIONS, CREATING MATCH INFLUENCING PERFORMANCES
- REGULARLY, CONSISTENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY USE THEIR HANDS TO ADD, USE AND REMOVE PACE
- REGULARLY AND CONSISTENTLY IDENTIFIES LENGTH SCORING RUNS OFF THE FRONT AND BACK FOOT AGAINST THE FAST MOVING BALL AND THE SPINNING BALL
- REGULARLY AND CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATES THE ABILITY TO RUN POSITIVELY BETWEEN THE WICKETS

SEAM BOWLING

- REGULARLY AND CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATES THE ABILITY TO GENERATE LATERAL MOVEMENT
- REGULARLY AND CONSISTENTLY SETTING APPROPRIATE FIELDS; AND EXECUTING INFLUENCING THE BATTER'S APPROACH, CREATING GAME CHANGING PERFORMANCES
- REGULARLY AND CONSISTENTLY PRODUCES BOWLING ACTION THAT DEMONSTRATES PACE AND ACCURACY
- REGULARLY DELIVERS YORKERS AND BOUNCERS, WHEN APPROPRIATE
- REGULARLY AND CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATES THE ABILITY TO GENERATE LATERAL MOVEMENT
- REGULARLY DEMONSTRATES THE ABILITY TO EXECUTE VARIATIONS THAT DECEIVE BATTERS IN THE AIR OR OFF THE PITCH

SPIN BOWLING

- CONSISTENTLY HAS THE ABILITY TO RELEASE THEIR STOCK BALL IN A WAY THAT MAXIMISES SPIN
- CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATING AN ACTION THAT INCREASES SPIN AND ACCURACY WHILST BOWLING WITH INTENT AND ENERGY
- CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATES THE ADAPTABILITY TO EXECUTE AN APPROPRIATE WICKET TAKING LENGTH
- CONSISTENTLY ADAPTS DELIVERIES BASED ON THE GAME SITUATION, THEIR ROLE, THE SURFACE, THE CONDITIONS AND THE BATTER'S APPROACH, CREATING GAME CHANGING SITUATIONS
- CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATES THE ABILITY TO SPIN THE BALL HARD AND TAKE WICKETS

FIELDING

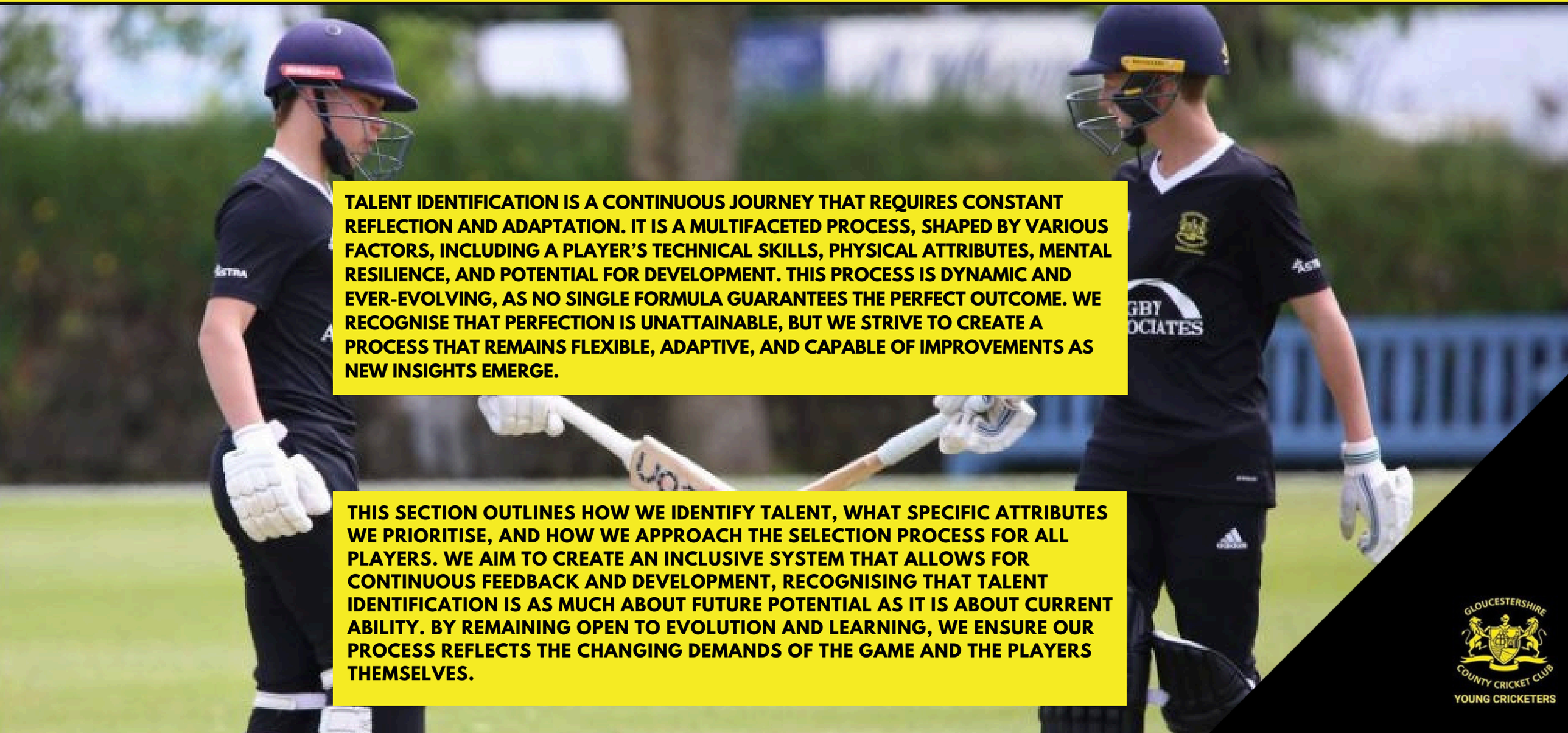
- CONSISTENTLY DISPLAYS THE ABILITY TO ANTICIPATE THE BALL'S DIRECTION BASED ON THE BATTER'S MOVEMENTS
- CONSISTENTLY DISPLAYS THE ABILITY TO ATTACK AND INTERCEPT THE BALL FROM A VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE FIELD
- CONSISTENTLY DISPLAYS THE ABILITY AND TECHNIQUE NEEDED TO THROW QUICKLY AT A TARGET FROM DIFFERENT POSITIONS ON THE FIELD
- HAS A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDS THE REQUIREMENTS OF ALL FIELDING POSITIONS
- A DETERMINATION TO KEEP THE BALL IN PLAY AT ALL TIMES

WICKET KEEPING

- CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATES THE ABILITY TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE GAME, PROVIDING RELEVANT INFORMATION TO FIELDERS, BOWLERS AND CAPTAINS
- CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATES THE ABILITY TO CONVERT CHANCES INTO WICKETS, STANDING UP AND BACK
- CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATES STRONG POSTURE AND POSITION WHEN TAKING DIFFERENT TYPES OF CATCHES WHEN BOTH STOOD UP AND BACK
- CONSISTENTLY IDENTIFIES WHEN IS APPROPRIATE TO STAND UP TO THE STUMPS, CHANGING THE GAME POSITIVELY

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SELECTION: HOW WE MAKE OUR DECISIONS



TALENT IDENTIFICATION IS A CONTINUOUS JOURNEY THAT REQUIRES CONSTANT REFLECTION AND ADAPTATION. IT IS A MULTIFACETED PROCESS, SHAPED BY VARIOUS FACTORS, INCLUDING A PLAYER'S TECHNICAL SKILLS, PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES, MENTAL RESILIENCE, AND POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT. THIS PROCESS IS DYNAMIC AND EVER-EVOLVING, AS NO SINGLE FORMULA GUARANTEES THE PERFECT OUTCOME. WE RECOGNISE THAT PERFECTION IS UNATTAINABLE, BUT WE STRIVE TO CREATE A PROCESS THAT REMAINS FLEXIBLE, ADAPTIVE, AND CAPABLE OF IMPROVEMENTS AS NEW INSIGHTS EMERGE.

THIS SECTION OUTLINES HOW WE IDENTIFY TALENT, WHAT SPECIFIC ATTRIBUTES WE PRIORITISE, AND HOW WE APPROACH THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR ALL PLAYERS. WE AIM TO CREATE AN INCLUSIVE SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS FOR CONTINUOUS FEEDBACK AND DEVELOPMENT, RECOGNISING THAT TALENT IDENTIFICATION IS AS MUCH ABOUT FUTURE POTENTIAL AS IT IS ABOUT CURRENT ABILITY. BY REMAINING OPEN TO EVOLUTION AND LEARNING, WE ENSURE OUR PROCESS REFLECTS THE CHANGING DEMANDS OF THE GAME AND THE PLAYERS THEMSELVES.

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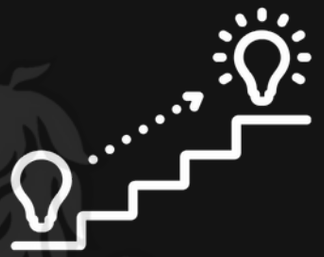
SELECTION: FACTORS INFLUENCING SELECTION



COACHES

THE COACHES ASSESSMENTPLAYSAPIVOTAL ROLE IN THE TALENT IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTIONPROCESS.COACHES DRAW ON THEIR EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE, INFORMED JUDGEMENT, OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE, PERSONAL OPINIONS, AND INTUITIVE INSIGHTS TO ASSESS A PLAYER'S POTENTIAL, STRENGTHS, AND OVERALL CAPABILITIES. THIS BLEND OF SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE EVALUATION ALLOWS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF A PLAYER'S CURRENT ABILITY AND FUTURE GROWTH. THEIR OBSERVATIONS GO BEYOND SURFACE-LEVEL PERFORMANCE, FOCUSING ON CORE ELEMENTS SUCH AS TECHNICAL SKILLS, TACTICAL DECISION-MAKING, GAME AWARENESS, AND THE PLAYER'S ABILITY TO THINK STRATEGICALLY UNDER PRESSURE. COACHES NOT ONLY ASSESS A PLAYER'S CURRENT EXECUTION BUT ALSO THEIR ADAPTABILITY, RESILIENCE, AND POTENTIAL TO MEET THE EVOLVING DEMANDS OF HIGHER LEVELS OF COMPETITION.

THIS MULTI-LAYERED EVALUATION PROCESS ALLOWS US TO IDENTIFY TALENT THAT MAY NOT ALWAYS BE EVIDENT IN RAW STATISTICS OR ISOLATED PERFORMANCES, ENSURING A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO SELECTION THAT CONSIDERS BOTH THE PLAYER’S PRESENT CAPABILITIES AND THEIR LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT.



POTENTIAL

PLAYER STATISTICSPLAYAMINIMAL ROLE, IF ANY,IN THE SELECTION PROCESS. INSTEAD, OURPRIMARYFOCUS IS ON A PLAYER’S POTENTIAL, AS THIS IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN PREDICTING FUTURE SUCCESS. RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE INDICATE THAT THERE IS LITTLE TO NO CORRELATION BETWEEN A PLAYER'S EARLY STATISTICAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND THEIR LONG-TERM SUCCESS AT THE SENIOR OR PROFESSIONAL LEVELS. THIS HAS SHIFTED OUR APPROACH TOWARDS A MORE FORWARD-THINKING MODEL OF TALENT IDENTIFICATION.

WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN PLAYERS WHO SHOW ADAPTABILITY, GAME AWARENESS, AND THE ABILITY TO EXECUTE UNDER PRESSURE, RATHER THAN THOSE WHO MAY EXCEL IN EARLY-STAGE METRICS BUT LACK THE BROADER SKILL SET NEEDED FOR FUTURE SUCCESS.

BY FOCUSING ON POTENTIAL AND READINESS TO DEVELOP, WE ENSURE THAT THE PLAYERS SELECTED FOR THE PATHWAY ARE THOSE WHO POSSESS THE ATTRIBUTES NECESSARY FOR SUSTAINED GROWTH AND SUCCESS IN THE EVOLVING AND DEMANDING WORLD OF HIGH-LEVEL CRICKET.

THIS APPROACH ALLOWS US TO CULTIVATE WELL-ROUNDED PLAYERS WHO ARE NOT JUST CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING SHORT-TERM RESULTS BUT ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE IMPROVING AND MEET THE CHALLENGES OF ELITE CRICKET AS THEY MATURE.

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SELECTION: OTHER INFLUENCES



PREVIOUS CRICKET EXPOSURE

FOR PLAYERS WHO ARENEWTOTHE SPORT OR HAVE HAD LIMITED EXPOSURE, THIS INFORMATION BECOMES ESPECIALLY VALUABLE. IT HELPS US IDENTIFY UNTAPPED POTENTIAL AND CONSIDER FACTORS THAT MAY HAVE INFLUENCED THEIR OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT, SUCH AS ACCESS TO QUALITY COACHING, FACILITIES, AND PLAYING TIME. BY RECOGNISING THE DIFFERENT STARTING POINTS AND PATHWAYS PLAYERS TAKE TO REACH THE PATHWAY, WE CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND THE POTENTIAL AND POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH.



MATURATION

DURING THE OBSERVATIONPHASE,WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT GROWTH AND MATURATION TO ENSURE THAT PLAYERS ARE COMPARED FAIRLY, PARTICULARLY WHEN ASSESSING THOSE OF A SIMILAR BIOLOGICAL AGE. THIS IS CRUCIAL FOR MAINTAINING OBJECTIVITY IN THE SELECTION PROCESS, ESPECIALLY FOR PLAYERS IN THE U13-U15 AGE RANGE, WHERE DIFFERENCES IN PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT CAN SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT PERFORMANCE.

EARLY-MATURING PLAYERS MAY HAVE TEMPORARY ADVANTAGES IN STRENGTH, SPEED, AND SIZE, WHICH CAN MAKE THEM APPEAR MORE ADVANCED THAN THEIR LATER-MATURING PEERS. HOWEVER, THESE PHYSICAL DIFFERENCES DO NOT NECESSARILY CORRELATE WITH LONG-TERM POTENTIAL. BY CONSIDERING BIOLOGICAL AGE, RATHER THAN JUST CHRONOLOGICAL AGE, WE CAN ACCOUNT FOR THESE DEVELOPMENTAL DISPARITIES AND PROVIDE A MORE ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF A PLAYER'S TRUE ABILITY AND FUTURE GROWTH POTENTIAL.



ATHLETISM

EVALUATING A PLAYER'S ATHLETICISM IS ESSENTIAL IN ASSESSING THEIR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE SPORT. WE CAREFULLY ASSESS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THEIR PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES, INCLUDING MOVEMENT SKILLS, AGILITY, SPEED, STRENGTH, AND OVERALL COORDINATION. THIS EVALUATION HELPS US UNDERSTAND HOW EFFECTIVELY A PLAYER CAN EXECUTE SPECIFIC SKILLS AND TASKS REQUIRED IN CRICKET. BY FOCUSING ON ATHLETICISM IN OUR ASSESSMENTS, WE AIM TO PROVIDE IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS WITH THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO EXCEL ON THE FIELD. THIS APPROACH TO OBSERVATIONS ENSURES THAT WE ARE IDENTIFYING WELL-ROUNDED ATHLETES, IN TURN BUILDING WELL ROUNDED CRICKETERS WHO CAN THRIVE IN THE DEMANDS OF HIGH-LEVEL COMPETITION.

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE PLAYER PATHWAY

PATHWAY HANDBOOK

