



**SOMERSET**  
CRICKET BOARD

**PLAYER PATHWAY PROFILES**  
**COUNTY AGE GROUP**

**2018**

## INTRODUCTION

Somerset Cricket Board is committed to identifying and developing home-grown cricketers to play for Somerset and England. To aid this process, Somerset CB has developed this Player Pathway Profile document to communicate the skills and attributes that we feel County Age Group (CAG) players between the ages of 9 and 17 should demonstrate. These basics will underpin the ability of the player, allowing the very best and those with the highest potential to progress into the elite programmes that Somerset CB and Somerset CCC run, for example the EPP, the Academy and then into competition for a place on the Somerset CCC professional staff.

Somerset CB defines talented CAG cricketers as:

“Children and young cricketers with skills and attributes developed, or have the potential to develop, to a level significantly ahead of their age group within the County.”

To add detail to this definition, a generic profile of a talented CAG cricketer includes and is not exhausted by:

- Plays a number of sports
- Has good foundations of athletic abilities
- Has good core cricket skills
- Relishes competition
- Works hard
- Enjoys learning new skills and wants to develop and improve
- Is tactically astute
- Finds a way to get the job done

The following information is designed to help players, parents and coaches/school teachers better understand the various criteria and elements of young cricketers that we take into account when assessing and selecting players into our CAG programmes.

It should be realised that not all of the following will be found in any one player. Anyone displaying a high amount of the attributes outlined below will be an outstanding player and individual. It is to be expected that a players profile will be high in some areas and lower in others.

It should also be realised that Somerset CB would not be expecting to see all of the below characteristics in an U9 cricketer, as well as in an U17 cricketer. Various characteristics listed will be more pertinent to a U17 cricketer and will take time to develop as a player matures as well as understands and realises their potential.

## **PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS**

As players move through the Player Pathway, performances do and will take on a more pertinent role in determining player selection. At the younger age groups (U10 to U14), potential is an often used term and it is frequently at the forefront of determining selection, with coaches using many of the criteria that follow in this document to establish whether that player does indeed have potential to develop through the Player Pathway.

It should be highlighted that, throughout the Pathway, performances do often highlight players that have both current performance levels and future potential and therefore, on entering a County Age Group Programme, a player would consistently:

- Perform very well at School, Club or District age group levels
- Out-perform his peers
- Take control and set the tone

The following characteristics highlight what Somerset CB are looking for in each of the various cricketing disciplines, as well as within players mental and physical characteristics.

### **BATTING**

A COUNTY AGE GROUP BATSMAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- Demonstrate an ability to score runs consistently within their age group (and/or above)
- Demonstrate an inner drive to score runs at all times and in all situations
- Demonstrate the fundamental skills of batting, including using both hands together in partnership
- Demonstrate control and understanding of their technique
- Demonstrate tactics/strategy to score runs in certain match situations
- Demonstrate current ability and/or potential to advance beyond their peers in terms of run scoring

THIS CAN INCLUDE AND IS NOT EXHAUSTED BY ABILITY TO:

- Strike the ball cleanly and consistently
- Identify line and length accurately
- Score runs on both side of the wicket
- Pull the fast bowlers
- Sweep and hit the spinners over the top
- Demonstrate speed between the wickets

## **PACE BOWLING**

A COUNTY AGE GROUP PACE BOWLER SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- Demonstrate an ability to bowl wicket taking deliveries within their age group (and/or above)
- Demonstrate two of three attributes: Pace, Bounce, Lateral Movement
- Demonstrate control of line, length, variations
- Demonstrate tactics/strategy to bowl successfully in certain match situations
- Demonstrate current ability and/or potential to advance beyond their peers in terms of pace bowling

## **SPIN BOWLING**

A COUNTY AGE GROUP SPIN BOWLER SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- Demonstrate an ability to bowl wicket taking deliveries within their age group (and/or above)
- Demonstrate an ability to spin the ball
- Demonstrate control of line, length, variations
- Demonstrate tactics/strategy to bowl successfully in certain match situations
- Demonstrate current ability and/or potential to advance beyond their peers in terms of spin bowling

## **FIELDING**

A COUNTY AGE GROUP FIELFER SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- Demonstrate an ability to have an influence on the game through their fielding
- Demonstrate ability to catch and stop both simple and difficult chances and throw effectively from short and long distances
- Demonstrate a safe and effective diving technique to catch and stop cricket balls
- Demonstrate an intensity within their fielding, including an ability to anticipate the actions of the batsman
- Demonstrate current ability and/or potential to advance beyond their peers in terms of fielding

## **WICKET KEEPING**

A COUNTY AGE GROUP WICKET KEEPER SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- Demonstrate an ability to have an influence on the game through their wicket-keeping
- Demonstrate ability to take both simple and difficult chances when stood up and stood back to/from the wicket
- Demonstrate a safe and effective diving technique to successfully catch the ball
- Demonstrate ability to energise the fielding team in match situations
- Demonstrate current ability and/or potential to advance beyond their peers in terms of wicket-keeping

THIS CAN INCLUDE AND IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE BY ABILITY TO:

- Demonstrate good posture
- Appear to be natural and effortless when catching
- Have quick foot work
- Execute both off and leg side stumpings
- Show leadership qualities

## **MENTAL**

A COUNTY AGE GROUP CRICKETER SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- Demonstrate a personal motivation to improve, through listening, discussing and acting according to feedback given
- Demonstrate an ability to relish the battle that is currently and/or has potential to advance beyond their peers
- Demonstrate an ability to make clear and effective decisions under pressure that is currently and/or has potential to advance beyond their peers
- Demonstrate a belief in their abilities to succeed as a cricketer

THIS CAN INCLUDE AND IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE BY ABILITY TO:

FIGHT:

- Always want to test themselves in the toughest competition situations
- Embrace opportunities to compete on the big stage
- Really love a battle
- Thrive in hostile match situations

#### CRITICAL MOMENT CONTROL:

- Make excellent (rational/logical) decisions under pressure
- Deliver when the spotlight is on them
- Perform when everything depends on them
- Be able to be relied upon in match winning moments
- Display ability to weigh up facts and make effective decisions

#### RESILIENCE:

- Be able to bounce back emotionally after a performance failure
- Be able to remain confident when things are not going well
- Refocus quickly after mistakes or setbacks
- Be willing and able to adapt to game situations

#### INNER DRIVE

- Be motivated intrinsically with task goal orientation

### **PHYSICAL**

#### A COUNTY AGE GROUP CRICKETER SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- Demonstrate level of agility that is currently and/or has potential to advance beyond their peers
- Demonstrate level of balance that is currently and/or has potential to advance beyond their peers
- Demonstrate level of co-ordination that is currently and/or has potential to advance beyond their peers
- Demonstrate level of speed that is currently and/or has potential to advance beyond their peers
- Demonstrate level of strength that is currently and/or has potential to advance beyond their peers

#### THIS CAN INCLUDE BUT IS NOT EXHAUSTED BY ABILITY TO:

#### Display the following:

- Athleticism
- Controlled, co-ordinated movement skills

- Fast feet
- Endurance
- Injury resistant
- Flexibility

It is important to note that at the younger age groups within the CAG programme, focus is on the inclusion of a larger group of cricketers and that results/performances are not the sole or accurate predictor of ability as an adult and therefore will not be used as the sole criteria for selection into teams/squads. As players progress through the CAG programme and towards the top of the pathway, results and performances become more influential in selection and smaller groups of cricketers are involved.

Somerset Cricket Board understand and are sensitive to the fact that relative ability changes over time, therefore young cricketers may move up and down the Player Pathway with age. It should be noted that at no stage is selection fixed and movement into and out of squads is fluid, making use of the knowledge of how a young cricketer is developing at that moment.

#### **Somerset Cricket Board Key Contacts:**

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