

# Somerset Cricket Board Boys Pathway Changes

We are delighted to communicate changes that we will be implementing to the boys pathway as of the 2018/2019 winter. All changes have seen an expansion in playing/development opportunities for players and aim to provide all players with the best experience possible. The changes align with 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 and 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) Somerset Pathway Centres - Under 10s & Under 11s

*Objective: To maximise the opportunities for young cricketers to access a progressive training and playing programme that is positive for their development*

Somerset Pathway Centres (SPC) will replace County Age Group & District cricket at Under 10s and Under 11s level. Players within these age groups will be able to access 20+ hours of group sessions at a local centre before joining up with their age group peers at a North or South SPC session in the summer. Each area will be headed up by the Somerset Area Lead with the same programme (devised by the Performance Department) being delivered across all centres.

In the summer players will take part in a progressive playing programme. All matches will be played using short pitches & appropriate sized boundaries to enhance player experience and development:

### Phase One: Development Days across the North & South of the county

All players who have taken part in SPC programme will be invited to take part in a minimum of four Development Days allowing a large group of players to implement skills learnt in the winter. This phase of the summer will focus solely on player

development with equal opportunity for all players to develop the appropriate 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 fixtures (minimum of four match days). The focus still remains on player development and opportunity however, equal opportunity across both players disciplines will not always be possible.

### **Phase Three: County Age Group Development fixtures against county opposition**

Once again, a selected group of players from Phase Two development games will be invited to take part in a minimum of six fixtures against counties with like-minded philosophies around the development of young cricketers. These fixtures will see a mixture of adjusted format games and conventional formats. A selected number of Phase Three players will also be invited to attend a festival week (TBC) at the end of the summer. Players within the Under 11 age group will be able to integrate with the County Age Group Under 12 squad should their performances through the winter or summer warrant involvement.

## **2) Changes to District Cricket, now Somerset Pathway Centres**

*Objective: To provide talented players, who currently sit outside of the County Age Group pathway, with the opportunity to access increased training and playing time throughout the year.*

Somerset Pathway Centres (SPC) will replace District cricket at the Under 12, 13 & 14 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 the County Age Group programme will allow for more fluid and regular player transition across the two groups.

In the summer players will have the opportunity to join up with their age group peers as part of the Pathway Centre summer programme. Each area will be headed up by the Somerset Area Lead with the same programme being delivered across all SPCs. These Pathway Centres will be split into Junior (Under 12 / Under 13) and Senior groups (Under 14 / Under 15):

The summer programme will run as follows:

### **Phase One: Development Days**

24 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 focuses 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 fixtures. At this

stage County players will be integrated into the programme to allow for County coaches to work with and Talent ID SPC cricketers in an appropriate context.

### **3) 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 the summer match play programme.*

#### **Under 12s & Under 13s**

##### **Phase One: Development Days**

A group of County Age Group winter squad players 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 40 over and Twenty20 matches against peers, neighbouring counties and schools. This phase of the summer focuses solely on player development with opportunity for all players to develop their appropriate cricket skills.

##### **Phase Two: County Age Group Playing Programme**

A smaller group of players from Phase One development days will be selected to take part in a minimum of eight County fixtures followed by a festival week. Invited players will receive a broad range of appropriate opportunities with the aim of developing and enhancing their experiences and learning.

##### **Phase Three: North v South Development Games**

Two sides will be selected from the County Age Group and Pathway Centres summer and will take part in a range of format matches. This phase will act as the key method of selection for the following winter's CAG squads.

#### **Under 14s & Under 15s**

##### **Phase One: School Fixtures and Development Days (U14 & U15 only)**

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 focuses solely on player development with opportunity for all players to develop their appropriate cricket skills.

##### **Phase Two: Half-Term Week Fixtures & Two Day Games (U14 & U15 only)**

A small group of players from Phase one will be selected for the County Summer Squad who will receive opportunities in Phases two & three. Phase two focuses the priority on players skill development & learning as opposed to narrowing opportunity to seek a positive result above all else.

##### **Phase Three: 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 their performances can influence the result of the game

#### **4) Additional Development Squad opportunities for a wider group of players**

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

The Somerset Development Squad programme is growing to allow selected players between the ages of Under 13 - Under 16 the opportunity to take part in a diverse playing programme in periods of the year that would otherwise have had limited cricketing opportunities.

Players 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 fixtures will be have one of two key focuses:

##### **Inter Squad Matches**

Players will play against their peers from Somerset (and neighbouring counties) in a series of independent fixtures across the following formats; Two-day, Twenty20 and 50-over. These fixtures focus on giving players appropriate opportunity to develop key skills that can be implemented across their summer playing programme. Each fixture will be focused at a specific age group or age range.

##### **County Matches**

Players will experience opportunity to play against like-minded counties across the three formats with a focus on the development of the players involved in the game.

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

Many thanks,

Matt Drakeley  
Head of Performance

If you have any queries please contact [matt.drakeley@somersetcricketboard.org](mailto:matt.drakeley@somersetcricketboard.org)