

Herefordshire Cricket Pathway Plan 2021 - 2024

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Herefordshire Cricket Values

We are not looking for the best players, but the right ones.

To have players that are all of a 'county cricket standard'

Show a determination to succeed and improve.

Have a love of the game.

Are coachable.



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Introduction

Herefordshire Cricket has developed a vision and strategy for the development of players across our county. The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the pathway structure and to explain the vision and objectives which underpin the Herefordshire Cricket Pathway from U11 to First Class Cricket.

The intention of the new player pathway is to provide players with the best possible pathway experience, whilst ensuring that players are given the best opportunity to develop and challenge themselves.

All First-Class counties must have a direct link with a National County and Herefordshire Cricket is now partnered with Worcestershire Cricket. All players can now be dual registered and play for either county.

Following new England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) directives Herefordshire Cricket will run boys age groups at U11, U12, U14, U16 and U18's. Herefordshire Cricket will also run an Emerging Player Profile (EPP) for a selected group of players from the U14-U18 age groups. Herefordshire Cricket will also run girls age groups at U11, U13 and U15 where possible. Talented over age girls, will have the opportunity to be selected for the Worcestershire pathway.

Richard Skyrme

Performance and Coaching Manager



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Objectives, Strategy and Values

Objectives:

- To successfully identify, recruit and develop young cricketers to fulfil their potential.
- Maintain a clear pathway from U11 to the 1st team.
- To create an environment that allows young players to develop their cricket skills and challenge themselves to reach their highest possible potential.
- To encourage players to develop important personal and character skills.
- To totally respect the game, the Spirit of Cricket and its values
- To have players that are all of a 'county cricket standard'

Strategy:

- To develop a pathway that enables players to have a direct route from Herefordshire U11 to the Worcestershire 1st Team.
- Inspire young cricketers to be the bedrock for their club as players, coaches and volunteers.
- To have self-motivated players who are responsible, focus and respect all values of the game.
- **Values:**
 - Challenge for improvement
 - Achievement through focus and application
 - Invest in players as people



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Behaviour and Mental Attitude

- **Attitude / Desire:** Player consistently demonstrates:

- an enthusiasm and love for the game.
- a personal motivation to improve their all-round cricket ability through stretching themselves.
- an ability to be a team player.
- an ability to listen, discuss, act on self-reflection and coaching feedback.

- **Behaviour:** A talented 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.
- Demonstrate belief in their abilities to succeed as a cricketer.

- **Mental / Tactical :** Player consistently demonstrates the ability to:

- recognise critical moments in matches.
- make clear and effective decisions at that moment.
- successfully employ their skills to execute that decision.

- **Self Belief:** Player consistently demonstrates a belief in their own ability which allows them to:

- refocus quickly following mistakes
- bounce back emotionally after a performance failure
- demonstrate ability to remain confident when things are not going well
- have positive interpretations of all situations



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Skills

BATTING:

- **A talented 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 basic skills of batting, taking advantage of scoring opportunities.
 - 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.

Footwork: Player consistently demonstrates ability to play competently off both the front and back foot, when both attacking and defending.

Balance: Player consistently demonstrates excellent balance:

- in stance, at point of release and during shot execution..

Tactical/Mental:

- Players show an ability to perform under pressure.
- Players play with a positive intent.
- Players must have a confidence in their own ability and technique.
- Players must be able to adapt to all situations on all surfaces.



Skills

- **BOWLING**

- **A talented County Age Group 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 and variations.
- Demonstrate tactics/strategy to bowl successfully in different match situations.
- Demonstrate the ability to repeatedly 'hit the top of off stump'

- **Action:** Player bowls with an individual action that consistently repeats.

- Player consistently bowls with all momentum directed towards target.
- Player consistently demonstrates balance at point of release and an aggressive approach.

- **Outcome:** Player consistently demonstrates 2 of the following 3 criteria:

- high pace.
- generate bounce.
- lateral movement (off pitch or in air)

- Player consistently demonstrates ability to hit the top of off stump.
- Player consistently demonstrates ability to deliver variation in speed and lateral movement.

- **Tactical/Mental**

- Player consistently demonstrates appropriate tactics to bowl successfully in match situations.
- Player consistently demonstrates ability to set their own appropriate field positions.

- Player consistently demonstrates positive body language.

- **SPIN BOWLING**

- **A talented 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 ability to spin the ball

- Demonstrate control of line, length and variations
- Demonstrate tactics/strategy to bowl successfully in different match situations

- **Action:**

- Player bowls with an individual action that consistently repeats.
- Player consistently bowls with all momentum directed towards target.
- Player consistently demonstrates balance at point of release and an aggressive approach.

- **Outcome:**

- Player consistently demonstrates ability to deliver the ball with rotations and generate spin off the pitch.
- Player consistently demonstrates one or more of the following criteria: - curve in the air - bounce off the pitch - drop prior to pitching
- Player consistently demonstrates ability to deliver the ball to line and length of their choice.
- Player consistently demonstrates ability to deliver variation in speed and lateral movement.

- **Tactical / Mental :**

- Player consistently demonstrates appropriate tactics to bowl successfully in all match situations.
- Player consistently demonstrates ability to set their own appropriate field positions.
- Player consistently demonstrates positive body language.



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Skills

- **FIELDING:**
- **A talented County Age Group Fielder 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 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.
- **Throwing:** Player consistently demonstrates all of the following criteria in their throwing technique:
 - Powerful
 - Accurate
- Player consistently demonstrates the ability to 'hit the stumps' to effect a run-out.
- **Catching:** Player consistently takes both simple and difficult catches in all positions.
- **General:**
- Player consistently demonstrates an effective set position at ball strike.
- Player consistently demonstrates energy and intensity in the field.
- Player consistently demonstrates ability to anticipate the actions of the batsman.



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Skills

WICKETKEEPING:

- **A talented 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.
- **General:**
- Player consistently demonstrates a powerful posture at point of release.
- Players consistently demonstrates positive body language and consistently energises the team. Player consistently demonstrates bravery when stood up.
- **Physical:**
- A talented County Age Group Cricketer should be able to:
- Demonstrate a level of agility, balance, co-ordination, speed and strength which is relevant to a CAG cricketer.
- **Agility:**
- Player has consistent and excellent ability to change direction, move their body with great speed and control instantly.
- **Balance:**
- Player consistently demonstrates excellent balance, poise in all movements and actions. They can also maintain this through more complex movements.
- **Co - Ordination:**
- Player consistently demonstrates ability to coordinate their movements through simple and complex tasks.
- **Strength:**
- Player consistently demonstrates excellent control of their body and can perform all activities with powerful movements.



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Squad Characteristics

- **Under 11:**

- Friendlies of different formats.
- Instil a competitive mindset.
- Development is more important than winning.
- Different players will be given the opportunities to Captain.
- Recognise that players develop at different rates.
- Selection will guarantee game time, squads to be rotated during the season.
- Trials will be skill based.

- **Under 12:**

- Fixture type: Friendlies of different formats.
- Try hard to be successful.
- Players will experience different roles within the squad.
- Players starting to have more defined roles.
- Selection will guarantee game time, squads to be rotated during the season.
- Players to be observed for possible EPP nomination.
- Trials will be skill based and nets.



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Squad Characteristics

- **Under 14:**

- Fixture type: relevant standard of non ECB cup games.
- Selection is to compete and be extremely competitive.
- Squad selection does not guarantee game time.
- Player development is of paramount importance.
- Teams will start to demonstrate patterns of play that are recognisable at a more senior level.
- Player statistics and performances to become more relevant regarding EPP selection.
- A combination of U13 and 14s will make up the squad, Worcestershire players will also be invited to show an expression of interest in playing for Herefordshire.
- Three players from the age group above are allowed to be selected.
- Trials will involve nets and possibly an inter squad game (depending on numbers)
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- **Under 16:**

- Fixture type: relevant standard of non ECB cup games.
- Selection is to compete and be extremely competitive.
- Selection does not guarantee game time.
- Selection for each fixture will be game specific.
- Player development is of paramount importance.
- A combination of U15 and 16s will make up the squad, Worcestershire players will also be invited to show an expression of interest in playing for Herefordshire.
- Players will show they are able to execute clear game plans in specific roles.
- Players should be producing match winning performances.
- Players should be also looking to play U18 matches.
- Three players from the age group above are allowed to be selected.
- Trials will involve fielding, nets and fitness.



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Squad Characteristics

- **Under 18: (ECB cup age group)**

- Fixture type: ECB cup T20, 50 overs and two day games.
- Selection for matches is to compete and be extremely competitive.
- Selection for the squad does not guarantee game time.
- Selection for each fixture will be game specific.
- Player development is of paramount importance.
- A combination of U17s and 18s will make up the squad, Worcestershire players will also be invited to show an expression of interest in playing for Herefordshire.
- Players will show they are able to execute clear game plans in specific roles.
- Players should be producing match winning performances.
- Players should be also looking to play U18 and Academy/2nd team matches.
- Three players from the age group above are allowed to be selected.
- Trials will involve fielding, nets and fitness.



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Emerging Player Profile (EPP)

Outcomes from the EPP: The EPP is a prestigious one to one elite coaching programme for the most talented cricketers in Herefordshire between the ages of 13 and 17. Its aims are to augment the Herefordshire County Age-Grade playing programmes to provide young players of high potential with crucial early development to develop the core foundations of future performance, to provide a longitudinal opportunity for the assessment of future potential, and to inform selection and create better transitions into an Academy programme.

We want players to have shown steady progress throughout their involvement on the EPP, across the following areas:

- Technical ability
- Tactical awareness
- Mental strength: evidenced through resilience, awareness of own game (to drive self-reflection and self-learning) and confidence in own game
- Physical competency

A national outcome of the EPP is for players to be capable of competing for a place in the WCCC academy by 16 and play National Counties cricket by the time they are 19.

An EPP player's match play programme should provide the appropriate balance between high challenge matches and matches that serve to boost confidence and success levels.



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HCCC Development X1

HCCC Development XI

Fixture type: T20, 50 overs and two day.

- Selection is based around talented youngsters with a progression to the 1st X1 in mind.
- Selection is to compete and be extremely competitive.
- Selection does not guarantee game time.
- Selection for each fixture will be game specific.
- Player development is of paramount importance.
- Players will show they are able to execute clear game plans in specific roles.
- Players should be producing match winning performances.



HCCC 1st X1

HCCC 1st X1:

Fixture type: T20, 50 overs and three-day cricket.

- Selection criteria: In any selected team, eight players must be born, bred, schooled, played CAG cricket, on the Worcestershire Academy or play for any club in Herefordshire or Worcestershire.
- Eight players must have an average age of under 25.
- Three 'wild cards' are available, ie, any age, club or residence.
- Only one player with over 40 first class games can play.
- No overseas player is eligible.
- Selection is to compete and win games.
- Selection for each fixture will be game specific.
- Player development is of paramount importance.
- Players will show they are able to execute clear game plans in specific roles.
- Players should be producing match winning performances.
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Herefordshire Cricket Pathway

