



# AREA CRICKET PROGRAMME

## ETHOS:

- *Developing young cricketers in a healthy, **competitive** environment built on the Spirit of Cricket*
- *All decisions must be made with the best interests of the players as the focus*
- *The competition embodies the pillars of the Spirit of Cricket: Fairness, Honesty & Respect*

The Area Cricket Programme is the first step on the Kent Cricket Talent Pathway and is, at its heart, a competitive environment. Players should be allowed to develop in competitive matches that challenge them to reach their potential and teach them to win and lose respectfully.

## AREA CRICKET PROGRAMME (ACP) FORMAT:

- See Playing Conditions Matrix

## MINIMUM QUALITY STANDARDS:

### Trials

- Each Area must hold squad trials before the final squad is selected.
- All clubs and schools in each Area must be made aware that trials are taking place.
- Area trials are not only important to ensure that we get the best players, but also to demonstrate that we approach selection seriously and aim to include all.
- Advertising for the trials should have the highest possible profile to ensure equity.

### Squads

- Squads are to be selected from the best eligible players, boys or girls.
- Franchise holders are to provide a comprehensive training programme throughout the year to prepare squads for festivals taking place in the summer as per the SLA.

### Welfare and Safeguarding

- Area franchise holders must adhere to the “Area Safeguarding Booklet” document and “ECB Safe Hands”.
- Franchises must appoint a qualified Safeguarding Officer to be responsible for the welfare of the players within their Programme.
- Area should have their own Code of Conduct for Players / Coaches / Parents and other policies defined in the Area Safeguarding Booklet.
- Franchise holders must keep an up-to-date record of coach’s qualifications and certificates including ECB DBS / First Aid / SYC.

### Umpires and Scorers

- This is the responsibility of all Areas to appoint suitable officials for all matches unless told otherwise.
- The role of the official is to work collaboratively with the other official during the match and to help the development of the young cricketers involved.
- Players parents are not permitted to umpire matches but may score.



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## Play-Cricket - Match Results

- Please ask your Team Managers or assign one person within your Area to input the result.
- Play-Cricket is used by the County Age Group coaches and managers to keep an eye on performances.
- The Play-Cricket app is now available and free to use- We highly recommend all Areas use this.
- The **WINNING** team **MUST** enter the **SUMMARY RESULT** and **FULL SCORECARD** onto **Play-Cricket** **within 7 days following the match.**
- The Community Cricket team will update a results link on the Area Cricket page of our main website for all players / parents / managers / coaches to view.

## Helmets

- ECB guidance on the wearing of helmets is to be followed at all times.

## Opposing Team Managers

- Please note that we do not hold a full list of Area team managers centrally. If you are unsure of the opposition manager, please contact the respective Area lead contact.

## Clothing

- All players should wear the appropriate clothing aligned to their Area that they represent.
- Area logos should appear on the respected Area shirt.
- The Kent Cricket/Kent Cricket Community logo is not permitted to appear on any items.
- All playing shirts must be coloured tops with the Area badge.

## Recommendations for County Age Group Squad nominations

- Please recommend your best players (and those of other teams) for selection for the County Age Group Squads.
- It is important that we get this right if we are to make the flow of talented players work (see attached guidance for progression of talented players).

## Qualification

- Age U11 – U16 - players must be under the age group age at midnight on 31 August during the previous calendar year.
- Residence – players are to play for the Area in which they live, play club cricket, or attend school.
- If they live outside Kent, they may play for the local area in which they go to school or play club cricket.
- Once in the Area Cricket Programme, if they move to another Area, they then have the option to play with the new Area or the previous Area.



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## MATCH PLAY:

- See Playing Conditions Matrix.
- As talented individuals in the County Age Group Squads, these players are often subject to being over played / bowled at an overall combination of school, club, and representative cricket. Before selecting performance players, please make sure their burden of cricket has not been too high.
- Consultation with the Talent Pathway Manager is strongly encouraged.
- Where County Age Group Squad players are selected, please carefully consider the quality of the game and how they can be challenged without completely dominating the match.
- Playing a year up will be one way to challenge them, as may altering the role they play. Bowlers playing as batters, batters enjoying a bowl and captaining the side are suggested examples.



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## GUIDANCE ON TALENTED PLAYER IDENTIFICATION AND PROGRESSION:

### For Areas:

- The Area Cricket Programme forms the foundation of the Talent Pathway.
- The Area must be available to make an assessment on any player in the Area up to the Under 16 age group.
- The player need not take part in the Area Cricket Programme to be assessed (this can occur because of school or other (sporting) commitments).
- The Area must be receptive to club and school talented player nominations and work hard to maintain this relationship.

### For Clubs and Schools:

- Clubs and schools should rank their players.
- The ranking should be communicated to the Area, so they have an awareness of the club's or school's view.
- Any player that is thought likely to get into an Area squad should be put forward to the Area Cricket Programme.
- The club or school should ensure that they maintain contact with the Area lead contact – this relationship is vital.
- We recommend that following Area trials, clubs and schools receive feedback, about their nominees.
- Areas should be contacted for guidance on older players (e.g. for info on existing squads etc).

### For Parents / Players:

- Nominations to Area trials and squad programmes should, normally, be made through your child's cricket club or their school.
- The Area Cricket Programme forms the foundation of the Talent Pathway.
- It is strongly recommended that ambitious players take full part in the Area Cricket Programme.
- Players will develop quickly in the Area environment because it will stretch their ability.
- Ideally players should take part in Area programmes (both summer and winter) as an involvement would give the coaches a better opportunity for an appraisal of a player's ability.
- Areas will nominate players to the Talent Pathway if they feel strongly that the player is likely to get into a squad.