

# Recommended Formats – Pilot



# JUNIOR PARTICIPATION PATHWAY PROJECT OVERVIEW



On the back of 3 years of research and trialling, and the success of All Stars Cricket, the ECB are now moving into phase two of implementation of recommended formats for club and league cricket for kids aged 8-12. As part of this direction, the ECB are looking to more widely engage leagues in the adoption of the recommended junior participation pathway.

The recommendations will involve:

- Reduced number of players per team
- Shortened pitch lengths
- Smaller boundaries
- Reduced game length
- Modified ball size and equipment



# OBJECTIVES OF JUNIOR PARTICIPATION PATHWAY RECOMMENDATIONS



To provide kids with a world-class experience of cricket & one that more closely replicates the professional game



Increase junior player retention and ensure sustainable participation



Better develop the skills of the game that are needed for long term performance



Provide uniform pitch lengths for all junior cricket

# THE STORY SO FAR...



## NATIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUES ENGAGEMENT

Feedback from 400 Junior Leagues across England and Wales

## EXISTING BEST PRACTICE

Several junior leagues and CCB's have run successful modified programmes e.g. Charley's Cricket

## ECB KIDS INSIGHTS PROJECT

The ECB has invested in research to learn more about kids fandom, motivations and barriers to being more active



## SHORT PITCH STUDY

ECB & Loughborough University research to understand appropriate pitch lengths for underage players – Since 2014

## GLOBAL CRICKET INSIGHTS & OTHER SPORTS

We have worked with other NGO's to share insights regarding age and stage appropriate formats

# RESEARCH FINDINGS



The combined research has shown a number of factors that result from a modified format. These include:

- More accurate bowling
- A safer bowling technique
- Improved batting, bowling & fielding development
- Increases in playable balls, attempted shots & scoring zones
- A more engaging & active game for kids



## Key Research Findings For Modified Formats

“

87% of participants playing the modified format enjoyed this experience more than the previous format.

”

# Key Research Findings For Modified Formats

An infographic consisting of a blue circular ring with a white inner border, partially filled with orange to represent 89%. The percentage '89%' is written in blue text inside the orange area.

89%

## Coaches

Percentage of coaches that say they are more effectively able to coach the game

An infographic consisting of a blue circular ring with a white inner border, partially filled with orange to represent 76%. The percentage '76%' is written in blue text inside the orange area.

76%

## Parents

Percentage of parents believe their kids had more fun and develop better skills

An infographic consisting of a blue circular ring with a white inner border, partially filled with orange to represent 74%. The percentage '74%' is written in blue text inside the orange area.

74%

## Clubs

Agreed with the shorter game time and format

# PROPOSED FORMATS FOR 2018 PILOT

Indicative Age	Pitch Length	Game Type	Game Length	Ball Size	Boundary Size (max)	Players Per Side
U8 – U9	15 yards*	Modified on outfield	12 over per side (60-90 min)	Light rubber ball	30 yards	6 per side
U10 – U12 Softball	17 yards*	T20	16-20 overs (<2 hrs)	Incrediball	40 yards	8 per side
U10 – U12 Hardball	17 yards*	T20	16-20 overs (<2 hrs)	4¾ ounces	45 yards	8 per side



# SUPPORTING RULES



The following rules are suggestions aimed at supplementing the format aimed at enhancing the playing experience for children:

## **U8/U9**

- Pairs batting – 4 overs per pair. Bowlers bowl X2 overs each
  - Coaches to ensure batters share the strike
- Rotate fielders at the end of each over
- Dismissals is +5 runs to the bowling team (check with digital scoring)
- Double scoring zone straight down the ground – TBC
- No LBW's

## **U10 – U12 Softball & Hardball**

- Retire at 25 runs
- Batters have X2 lives
- Maiden over is a dismissal
- All players must bowl at least X2 overs – all overs bowled at one end (TBC)
- Rotate fielders – except wicket-keeper

# NEXT STEPS

## November – December

Junior league presentations

Express interest & feedback support requirements to ECB & CCB

## January

Rescheduled Roadshows

## February - May

Club / league support workshops e.g. coaching

## April – May

Junior cricket season begins



**LEAGUE EOI  
DISCUSSION,  
Q & A AND  
RESOURCE  
REQUIREMENTS**

# **SUPPORTING APPENDICES**

# RESEARCH FINDINGS – ECB JUNIOR LEAGUE SURVEY



The ECB engaged junior leagues across England and Wales to determine the current state of play in junior cricket.

The scope of the survey focused on:

- Existing junior formats being played across England & Wales
- Willingness and openness to pilot formats as recommended by the ECB
- Major barriers to change

# RESEARCH FINDINGS – ECB JUNIOR LEAGUE SURVEY

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## Formats

Percentage of leagues that have already made format changes to promote participation incl:

- pitch lengths
- players per side
- boundary sizes
- game length



## Readiness for Change

Percentage of leagues open to piloting junior playing formats as recommended by the ECB



## CCB Relationship

Percentage of leagues with positive relationships with their local County Cricket Board

# RESEARCH FINDINGS – ECB JUNIOR LEAGUE SURVEY

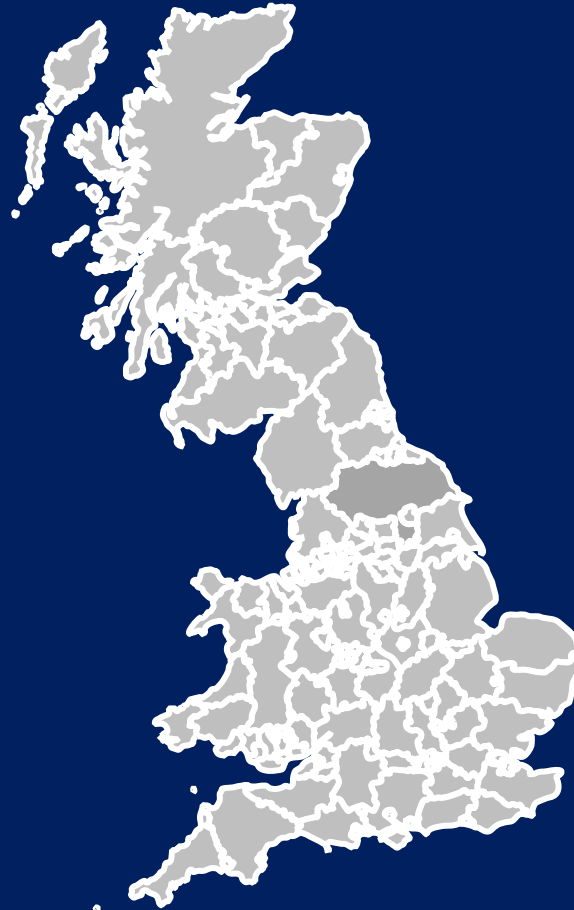


According to junior leagues, the major barriers to implementing recommended pilot formats would be:

- Ability to influence member clubs / 'Buy in' of member clubs – 69% of leagues require a majority vote from member clubs before implementing league changes
- Additional workload on volunteers to implement changes
- Additional operating costs such as equipment, ground marking changes & facility requirements

# Short Pitch Study – Loughborough University & ECB

Study was conducted at U10 & U11 age groups for club and County representative players



## Bowling Outcomes

**15%** Increase in playable deliveries to the batter.

A shorter pitch also enabled:

- More accurate bowling
- Safer technique
- Improved bowling experience

## Batting Outcomes

**56%** increase in shots played straight and on the offside. Batters were able to score in more zones

**39%**

Increase in running between the wickets



# RESEARCH FINDINGS – SHORT PITCH STUDY cont.



The three year study concluded a shortened pitch led to:

1. More accurate bowling
2. A safer bowling technique
3. Improved batting, bowling & fielding development
4. Increases in playable balls, attempted shots & scoring zones
5. A more engaging & active game for kids



# FINDINGS

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13%

More balls hit

43%

More runs off the bat

66%

More boundaries

35%

Less wides and no balls

53%

More balls bowled  
on a 'good' length

24%

Less dot balls