



DEVON CRICKET – NEW DEVELOPMENT CRICKET STRUCTURE FOR 2018

1st February 2018

Devon Cricket are delighted to communicate changes that we are proposing to our Cricket Pathway in which Development Cricket will replace District Cricket on 1st September 2018.

The ‘Devon Cricket Pathway’ steering group was established with guidance by the ECB, with a clear remit to shape the pathway for players in Devon over the short, medium and long term.

The steering group is made up of the following representation:

- Cricket Development Manager
- District Co-ordinators
- County Age Group Chair
- Devon Women
- Devon County Cricket Club
- Coaches Chair
- DCB Non-Exec Director
- County Age Group Coaches
- School Representative
- Pathway & Coaching Manager

Reasons for Change:

After a review and consultation process undertaken by the ECB and DCB, feedback obtained via player/parent survey, discussions with current District and County Coaches & Managers and through the Board’s experience, the main areas for consideration are:

- **Equality across the County (time, cost, delivery, facilities and matches).** - Feedback stated that there was inequality between different Districts and what players were able to access. It was felt that, irrelevant of geographical location, players should have the same opportunities.

- **Programme to be centrally managed**– it was felt that if the programme was managed centrally, equality would be easier to achieve and create greater levels of efficiency.
- **Consistent delivery and quality coaching** – The consensus was that there is a disparity in the quality and consistency of the coaching.
- **Clear and transparent selection criteria** – it was felt that there were inconsistent selection policies at the assessment days.

Process to agree a structure:

In reaching a new structure which is communicated below, we have gone through the following process:

1. Agreement was obtained from the steering group around the issues listed above. It was agreed that Devon Cricket would begin the process of change.
2. A meeting of the steering group was held to discuss numerous options around what a new programme might look like. Following this meeting, the proposed document was drafted.
3. This finalised proposal is being sent out to the wider cricketing public in Devon.
4. A final meeting of the steering group will be held to discuss feedback from this consultation paper and to agree the detail behind the new structure.

A New Structure – What might it look like?

Purpose

Development cricket is to provide a level of cricket that sits between **Club Cricket** and **County Age Group Cricket** with the aim:

“to identify talented players within a structured environment, where they are encouraged to develop as an individual and as a team”.

Vision

- Introduce junior players to the longer format of the game
- Provide an equality of training and playing opportunities across the County

- Embed a talent ID policy to identify talent & develop players & Coaches
- To provide a level of cricket between Club & County
- The chance for girls to play in all female teams

The Structure

- To be run centrally by the DCB office & Professional Staff.
- Supported by key volunteers & coaches in each region.

Boys

Age Group	No. of Players	No. of Teams
Under 10s	50	2-4
Under 11s	50	2-4
Under 12s	40	2-3
Under 13s	40	2-3
Under 14s	30	2

Girls

Age Group	No. of Players	No. of Teams
Under 11s	50	2-4
Under 13s	50	2-4
Under 15s	50	2-4

Rationale for the structure

- Where appropriate the U9's will be nominated for the U10's.
- The Development Programme will strengthen the club and County programmes respectively along with developing individuals in the pathway.
- A reduction in playing numbers at U14 level will give that age group a real focus, and will help to retain motivation of the players who may have been involved in the pathway since a young age.
- It was felt that introducing a U11s Girls group would help fill a void from club cricket to U13 representative cricket. This would encourage more girls to remain in the game and develop.

Winter Programme

- No County Age Group players will be included in the development programme.
- Up to 6 Development Centres situated around the County.
- Players to train at their local centre
- Players to train in numbers & abilities not age groups. This is aimed to challenge the better players but also take into account the relative age effect.
- Each player will receive 18 hours of contact time, 2-4 hours of which are held at the Devon Cricket Centre
- Availability of additional 1-2-1's run out of the Development centre for County & Development players at an additional cost.

Rationale for Winter Programme

- Removing County Age Group players from Development cricket will allow more players to access high quality coaching at the Development Centre.
- More training centres around the County should make the programme more accessible and reduce travel.
- The removal of Districts will mean the most appropriate players are selected onto the programme regardless of their location.
- The flexibility in the training sessions will allow each player to be challenged at their appropriate level.
- More contact time will allow the players to develop at a quicker rate.
- The additional 1-2-1 programme will add greater opportunity for everyone in the region to develop.

Summer Programme

- Play matches in pre-selected sides, e.g. Lions Vs Leopards at a neutral venue around the County.
- Development matches played during May half term & Summer holidays
- Festival days – 2 pitches at 1 ground and multiple matches and formats played on those days.
- The focus being development of players, no league, different formats, roaming coaches etc.
- Additional matches will be played during the season.

Rationale for Summer Programme

- The aim of playing matches in pre-selected sides will provide balanced matches where each player will play challenged.
- Matches during the May half-term and in the Summer holidays will provide an opportunity for the players to perform in better conditions. This will also free up Sundays where the players can play club cricket and develop locally.
- The removal of the District competition will enable each player to develop and be challenged irrespective of the outcome.

Formats

- 50, 40, 30, 20 over matches.
- Pairs Cricket.
- Extended pairs cricket.
- Red ball & Pink ball cricket.
- Formats to mirror the new ECB suggested formats and pitch regulations.

Rationale for formats

- Different formats will challenge and develop players in multiple situations.
- Encouraging some of the ECB formats will bridge the gap between club and County cricket.

Development Cricket Manpower:

- To be administrated centrally by the Devon Cricket Board office & Professional Staff.
- Supported by key volunteers & coaches in each region.
- Each Development Centre to have a Head Coach.
- Each session will have an Assistant Coach to work with the Head Coach
- Coach support and CPD will be provided. Coach Development twice a year.
- Manager/Volunteer support and guidance. Twice a yearly meeting to provide support around matches and training.
- The positions of Head Coach in Development Centres will be advertised in an open advert.

Rationale for manpower

- It is agreed that running the programme centrally was essential for attaining equality throughout the County. It is also agreed that the Devon Cricket Board were the ideal option due to the fact that they have professional staff and facilities to administer the programme.
- Coaches for the Head Coach role will have to declare their interest online to the DCB. The submissions will be narrowed down where the selected applicants will be asked to attend an interview.
- Coaches for the Assistant Coach role will have to declare their interest online to the DCB where their application will be considered by the DCB and Head Coach before being appointed.
- The Head Coach in each of the Development Centres would work closely with Devon's Pathway & Coaching manager to ensure all Centres are working on the same disciplines.
- It was agreed that the volunteers in each area were essential to the programme and it was important to ensure they were fully supported.
- Coaches and Managers would also be supported throughout the year with some continued personal development.

Finances – Based on:

- 18 hours of contact time (9 x 2 hour sessions)
- 1 Head Coach per session
- 1 Assistant Coach per session
- Cost per player = £85 = £4.70 per hour

Nominations and Assessment

- Clubs & Schools online nominations to be sent and received centrally mid-July 2018.
- Nominations to be sifted centrally by the Development Centre Coach & Manager, the CAG Coach and Manager and Pathway Manager.
- Assessments undertaken in August/September.
- Consistent selection personnel.
- Published selection criteria which is clear and transparent.

- Selection of County Age Group and Development players at the same assessment.

Rationale for Assessment

- It was felt that the assessment process should be clear and have greater transparency. Having a published selection criteria and a consistent selection panel will ensure this will be achieved.
- Assessment towards the end of the season will allow players to be assessed in the relevant conditions after a full season of playing.
- County Age Group players and Development players to be selected at the same assessment. This will allow the assessors to fairly select all players for the pathway and provides players with a level to aspire to.
- From the assessment day, the top 14 players will be selected for the County Age Group training squad. The next best (up to 50) players will be selected to train at their nearest Development Centre and be involved to development matches.

Implementation and Consultation

- March 31st implementation begins.
- DCB to arrange and run meetings around the County to discuss the proposed new structure.
- April & May, all bookings completed.
- Mid July online nomination forms sent out and nominations collated.
- August/September, assessment to take place.
- January – April, Indoor training for the Development Centres and the County Age Groups.

Conclusion

Devon Cricket would like to thank everybody who has provided input to help shape the development of this proposed new structure. This includes parents and players who have completed surveys in the past, County/District coaches and managers who have been very supportive with their feedback and also the steering group who have been very generous with their time providing feedback and attending meetings to discuss these changes.

Devon Cricket is very confident that we have created a structure that is really fit for purpose in terms of providing a robust new stage of the pathway between club and County cricket. With any change, we accept that year one is always going to be critical in terms of understanding whether the changes are having the impact we desire. Therefore, we will not be afraid to continuously review the new structure we have put in place and so on that note we continue to welcome any feedback from the whole cricket network in Devon with regards to our representative cricket structure and the pathway we deliver.

Devon Cricket Board Ltd

Ondaatje Devon Cricket Centre
University of Exeter, Stocker Road, Exeter, Devon EX4 4QN
T: 01392 262509 E: info@devoncricket.co.uk W: www.devoncricket.co.uk
Company registration number: 7024773

