



Surrey County Cricket Club
The Kia Oval
Kennington
London SE11 5SS

T 020 7820 5700
F 020 7820 5601
surreyccricket.com

Surrey County Cricket Club Ltd
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Company Registration N° 27896R
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Performance Department, Surrey CCC

Note to all Clubs and individuals responsible for player nominations:

Following a review of our talent identification programme, we have made changes to the number of players being chosen into our Performance Cricket. We now operate so that our Performance squads have encompassed our Age Group County squads throughout the age ranges now from U10-U14. This will allow for a broader, more effective way of developing our talented players and allow more flexibility into selection into the pathway and deselection.

We will continue to operate an Elite Player coaching program for players who excel at Age group level and they will work on similar lines to our Academy players.

Part of our strategy is to develop our communications, contact and relationships with clubs so that our network of identifying talent can be enhanced by the contribution you as clubs make to developing cricketers. By making decisions to trim numbers at our County U12-U14 age range we would want to ensure that we are aware of the players outside of our talent pathway who may be late developers or who are currently under the radar of the talent pathway.

We are very proud of the development of the current professional county squad that currently boasts 15 home grown players who have represented Surrey at Age Group level. Our schools and clubs play a role in this success, and we are keen to enhance and improve the relationships we have in the identification of players throughout the pathway.

The plan is for our three key Performance Staff (Tom Bengel, Jeremy Greaves and Matthew Spriegel), who run the respective U12, U13 and U14 age group performance programmes to each take a group of key clubs and become their point of contact for Talent ID and player development.

In year 1 we have chosen approximately the top 30 clubs who provide most of our Performance Players (78%), and each club will have a full-time member of the Performance Department assigned to them to develop a relationship that will allow for discussion, communication and potential scouting of players in and out of our system.

We will want to roll this out further (to clubs outside of the top 30) in year 2 once we feel that the process is set up and working well for all concerned.

By developing these closer ties to the key individuals in your club who help develop your young players we will be able to monitor and be more aware of the cricketing development of young players with potential to develop further. The current process has been successful and is helping us develop future players for the county, but we are keen to take our program forward and improve further.

Yours sincerely,

Gareth Townsend
Academy Director